Message from the president

Since 12 January, the world’s attention has been focused on Haiti and the devastation that ravaged the country when an earthquake with a magnitude of 7.0 hit. Messages from members of FDI World Dental Federation around the world have been pouring in, with an expression of condolences for the loss of all people affected by the event, concern for the welfare of fellow members of the Haitian Dental Association, and questions about how to help. As recovery efforts continue, it is clear from the images emerging from Haiti that in addition to an immediate, desperate need for food, water and shelter, many thousands of people fortunate enough to have survived are suffering from severe dental and facial injuries, in addition to previous struggles with dental pain and untreated disease.

FDI World Dental Federation has joined a campaign with its Regional Organisation in Latin America, FADO/FOFA, and the Dental Tribune International to help both the general population and dental professionals of Haiti. FOLAs are leading the campaign, inviting dental manufacturers and professionals alike to donate dental instruments, materials and equipment to support the long-term rebuilding effort in Haiti. I call on FDI members and dentists everywhere to support the effort to restore dental services in Haiti. Further information about this campaign can be obtained from Dr Adolfo Rodriguez, President of LABO/FOFA (arod@odere.net).

Registration opens for 2010 Congress in Salvador da Bahia, Brazil

Registration for the 2010 FDI Annual World Dental Congress in Salvador, Brazil opened on 25 January. Co-hosted by FDI World Dental Federation and the Brazilian Dental Association (ABO), one of FDI’s 320 branches, Brazil represents a significant region for oral health. Salvador da Bahia is located on the northeastern coast of Brazil and is the country’s third-largest city. In addition to its role as one of Brazil’s culturally-enriching Social Programme that will close each day with a taste of traditional Bahian dance, music and cuisine.

Salvador da Bahia is located on the northeastern coast of Brazil and is the country’s third-largest city. In addition to its role as one of Brazil’s financial centres, Salvador is abuzz with cultural activities throughout the year. Home of the Carnival, Rio de Janeiro and the world’s largest Carnival celebration, this former capital of Brazil — set within a developing economic region — offers an appropriate stage for this year’s FIDI Congress, entitled Oral Health for All: Local Challenges, Global Solutions.

To learn more about the 2010 Scientific Programme and to register for this year’s FDI Congress, visit the FDI World Dental Federation website at www.fdiworldental.org.

FDI “official relations” status with World Health Organization

The Executive Board of the World Health Organization (WHO) renewed FDI’s status as a “non-governmental organisation (NGO) in official relations” during its 126th session in Geneva, Switzerland, from January 18-23. FIDIs incoming Associate Director and Head of Public Health, Dr. S.D. Shantisnath, and Manager of Public Health and Advocacy Projects, Jose Chair, attended the meeting, together with representatives from the World Health Professions Alliance (WHIPA).

The Executive Board session opened with a report by Director-General, Dr Margaret Chan, highlighting key issues for discussion throughout the week-long series of meetings, including an update on relief efforts in Haiti, the accomplishments and ongoing challenges towards achieving the WHO Millennium Development Goals, and acknowledgement of the effective international response in containing the new H1N1 virus to date. (A complete version of Dr Chan’s report is available on the WHO website: www.who.int).

The decision by the Executive Board Standing Committee on Non-governmental Organisations to renew the status of FDI World Dental Federation as an NGO in “official relations” was based upon reports submitted by FDI outlining previous and current work plans related to public health. Notably, the Committee recommended recognising the contributions and continued support of FDI in the achievement of WHO’s objectives. FIDI representatives followed discussions on a number of other agenda items relevant to oral health and dental practice, including the drafting of a global code of practice for the international recruitment of health professionals, implementing a strategy for preventing and controlling non-communicable diseases (of which oral health-related illness is the most common chronic disease), and ongoing monitoring of the progress towards WHO’s Millennium Development Goals.

FDI Events schedule 2010

Continuing Education

In 2010 is another busy year for FDI Continuing Education (CE): a total of 28 programmes on a range of topics have been scheduled in regions around the world. Upcoming sessions include Prevention: Basic Periodontal Therapy, Prevention and Care, Treatment Planning (Professor Nikos Lang) and Periodontal-Endodontic Interrelationship, both in Bucharest, Romania (27 February and the 15th International Congress of the Romanian Dental Association, from 11-15 March, in Bucharest. The complete 2010 FDI Continuing Education Programme calendar is available for viewing online.

Goverdance

Members of the FDI World Dental Federation Executive and Standing Committees were in Geneva, Switzerland for mid-year meetings from 16-20 February.

For a complete listing of the FDI World Dental Federation meetings in 2010, visit the website: www.fdiworldental.org.

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