FDI releases second edition of Oral Health Atlas

The FDI World Dental Federation has released the second edition of its Oral Health Atlas at the Annual World Dental Congress (AWDC) in Bangkok in Thailand.

BANGKOK, Thailand: The FDI World Dental Federation has released the second edition of its Oral Health Atlas at the Annual World Dental Congress (AWDC) in Bangkok in Thailand. Titled The Challenge of Oral Disease — A Call for Global Action, it aims to serve as an advocacy resource for all oral health care professionals and recommends strategies to address the global challenge of oral disease.

At the launch event held at the Bangkok International Trade and Exhibition Centre, Dr Habib Benzian and Prof. David Williams, the publication’s editors-in-chief, presented the new edition of the Atlas and spoke with FDI group editor Daniel Zimmermann about the contents of the book and the global challenge of oral disease. The second edition of the atlas provides an update of the global health challenge of oral disease, such as tooth decay, periodontal disease and oral cancer, Benzian pointed out.

The first edition of the Oral Health Atlas, titled Mapping a Neglected Global Health Issue, was released at the FDI 2009 AWDC in Singapore and highlighted the extent of the problem of oral disease worldwide. The second edition of the atlas provides an update of the global health challenge and reflects on policies and strategies that address the burden of oral disease, such as tooth decay, periodontal disease and oral cancer, Benzian pointed out.

The book summarises the key oral health issues based on the latest available information from various international sources. Benzian and Williams explained, including the impact of oral disease, major risk factors and inequalities in oral health, as well as oral disease prevention and management. Moreover, it aims to ensure that oral health is granted higher priority on the global health and development agendas. Written for national dental associations, health organisations, industry professionals and the general public, the atlas provides them with the means to address policymakers, governments and local authorities based on sound facts so that they can better advocate for change in oral health-related policies, Williams said.

According to the atlas, only about two-thirds of the world’s population have access to adequate oral health care, even though oral disease, particularly tooth decay, is among the most common human diseases. “Untreated tooth decay is one of the most common health conditions of childhood,” said Williams. Therefore, the two editors-in-chief hope that the second edition of the Oral Health Atlas will most of all serve as an advocacy tool for institutions, policymakers and dental associations in their effort to improve access to oral health care worldwide.

The compilation of the new edition of the Oral Health Atlas was supported by the Hong Kong Dental Association and the FDI’s Vision 2020 oral health initiative. The book content includes chapters and data from 30 contributors, and was reviewed and edited by the two editors-in-chief.

The atlas can be downloaded free of charge from the FDI website and will be translated into the FDI’s official languages of French and Spanish. These versions will be available electronically by early 2016.

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New dental school opens in Malaysia

By DTI

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia: With the completion of the new dental faculty building on Sungai Buloh Campus, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) is now operating the largest dental centre in the country. The RM73.8 million (US$17.1 million) project, which was launched seven years ago, houses Malaysia’s first sterilisation and dental supply centre and will allow treatment of up to 500 patients per day.

The new building unites academic, clinical and administrative facilities for both undergraduate and postgraduate dentistry students. The faculty’s state-of-the-art facilities are expected to deliver high-quality education and training for staff and students alike.

During a press event held to celebrate the completion of the new facilities on 1 September, UiTM Vice Chancellor Tan Sri Prof. Sahol Hamid Abu Bakar stressed that the faculty’s clinics will offer dental care services to people from all walks of life. “When fully operational, we estimate some 205 patients can be treated at any one time, with 400 to 500 patients per day,” he said.

He further expressed his hope that the new campus will produce more competent and professional dentistry graduates to allow for the provision of the best services to the community.

The UiTM’s Faculty of Dentistry was founded in 2006. Collectively, the university offers more than 300 academic programmes and has over 40,000 students on its main campus and 80,000 throughout the country. English is the sole language of teaching.

2016 WOHD campaign launched

By DTI

BANGKOK, Thailand: Since 2013, World Oral Health Day (WOHD) has sought to spread the key message of good oral health being relevant to general health among the public worldwide. The new campaign, launched last month at the National Liaison Officers’ Forum at the FDI Annual World Dental Congress (AWDC) in Bangkok, will offer more tools and applications than ever to help dental associations around the world to promote this important event, FDI Executive Director Enzo Bondioni said.

In addition to the customisable poster application first introduced in February, this year’s campaign will be supported by a promotional video featuring individually recorded messages from dental professionals around the world explaining why they think good oral health is important. For this, attendees of the AWDC in Bangkok were invited to visit the WOHD stand on the second floor in the Bangkok International Trade and Exhibition Centre to have their message recorded. Individual messages can also be sent to the organisation via e-mail. The best of these will be included in the final product.

Furthermore, a smartphone game is in development that will be available for iPhone and Android platforms later this year, Bondioni said.

Originally held in September, WOHD is now celebrated on 20 March every year. In addition to public awareness campaigns and sponsored oral health-related events, the FDI’s member national dental associations, schools, companies and other groups worldwide celebrate the day with individually organised events to inform people everywhere in the world about oral health issues and the importance of oral hygiene. Last year saw over 100 countries around the world participating in the effort. As a highlight, the campaign’s key message was broadcast to the world via the giant NASDAQ screen in Times Square in New York in the US.