Message of the FDI Interim Executive Director

Dear FDI Members and friends,

I would like to take this opportunity to update you on the progress of the FDI since our last meeting in Brazil. We have been very busy over the last two months and have some important accomplishments to share with you.

Firstly, with regards to the Annual World Dental Congress, I am pleased to announce that we have successfully transitioned to a new revenue sharing model for collaborating with our host National Dental Associations. The 2012 AWDC with the Hong Kong SAR Dental Association marks the beginning of this transition, which has been fully applied with the Korean Dental Association for the 2015 Congress. Additionally, we have established a new revenue selection process for the FDI Annual World Dental Congresses. 2014 AWDC bid consideration will prioritize locations of interest to dentists and our industry partners. Believe that these two complementary changes to the Congress model and the selection process will be beneficial for Congress attendees, the host NDAs and the FDI.

While on the topic of FDI Congresses, I would like to share with you two recent successes for the 2011 and 2012 AWDCs in Mexico and Hong Kong, SAR China. For the first time ever, FDI has pre-booked 95% of the 2011 exhibition space before the official opening of sales! This shows the excitement and commitment of our industry partners and provides a strong indication that the Mexican Congress will be a success for everyone involved. The FDI and the HKDHA are also pleased by the high level of support shown by the Chinese stomatological organisation and the Chinese Ministry of Health who are both committed to international scientific exchange and will help encourage and facilitate the attendance of Chinese dentists at our 2012 AWDC in Hong Kong, SAR China.

Another exciting development that we are working on here at the Head Office is a plan to webcast the Annual World Dental Congress. This will allow colleagues all around the world to benefit from and participate in the AWDC for a discounted price and from the comfort of their own homes or offices. Evidence suggests that the market for such webcasts is distinct from that of in-person congress attendance, and we are confident that webcasting the Congress will increase revenue and exposure for both FDI and our partner NDAs while simultaneously furthering the FDI mission by providing low-cost access to the highest quality continuing education and cutting edge research to those who are not able to attend FDI Congresses in person. We plan to pilot this project by webcasting some sessions of the 2012 AWDC.

Another recent achievement I would like to highlight is our new partnership with Wiley-Blackwell to publish the International Dental Journal. Wiley-Blackwell is the premier publisher in scholarly dentistry journals worldwide and the ideal partner to help grow the IDJ. This new partnership will not only offer FDI more financial stability but will also allow us to further our mission of promoting optimal oral health by extending the reach of our flagship publication. The IDJ will be made available electronically via the Wiley Online Library which hosts one of the world’s broadest and deepest multidisciplinary collections of online resources. Additionally, starting in 2012, the International Dental Journal will be included in Wiley-Blackwell’s consortia collection which is expected to increase the circulation of the by about 5,000 additional libraries worldwide, as well as over 6,000 institutions in developing countries via philanthropic arrangements such as ResearchGate (HUBAR, AGORA and OARE), INASP and the Chinese Academy of Science.

It is my hope that you have all heard about VOX, our new membership communications platform, which was launched at the AWDC in Brazil. VOX is specifically designed to facilitate communications between FDI and its Members, as well as between Members. I would like to share two examples of how we plan to leverage VOX to improve communications. Firstly, we want to encourage NDAs to use VOX to share information about their projects and upcoming events. The second way we will use VOX is by having FDI elected and staff regularly publish short summaries of the meetings and events they attend. VOX will provide a platform to communicate about these events and keep FDI Members abreast of the current trends in international public health. If you are not already using VOX, I urge you to sign up today. Please do not hesitate to contact the head office if you need any assistance.

In summary, the FDI is moving forward and innovating despite the global economic crisis and recent staff turnover. We are working hard to improve the AWDC communication and the reach of FDI so that we can better serve our Members and do more to promote optimal oral health in future. Finally, I wish you all a joyful holiday season and I am looking forward to our continued collaboration in 2012.

Yours sincerely,
Jerome Estigard,
Interim Executive Director

Oral Health Strategy for Africa Workshop on 29th & 30th October 2010

The FDI World Dental Federation recognises that its global strategy needs to be relevant both at regional and country levels. In this context, the FDI is looking at ways of working with national organisations to translate its global strategy into regionally suitable approaches for controlling and preventing oral disease and promoting health so as to achieve its vision of leading the world to optimal oral health.

Representatives of FDI Council, FDI elected officers, ARO Executive Committee members and regional vice presidents of ARO participated in the two-day workshop, collating and assessing current FDI policy and programmes, along with those of Inter-Governmental Organisations (IGOs), other NGO’s active in oral health in Africa, FDI assisted in surveying African national dental associations about their needs. The aim of the workshop was to develop a strategy that will focus FDI and ARO activities in Africa.

UN Environmental Programme Inter-Governmental Negotiating Committee


The FDI World Dental Federation (FDI) acknowledged its responsibilities with regards to human health and the environment and became actively involved with UNEP, joining the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership (GMP) in 2009.

At the 2009 FIDI Annual World Dental Congress in Singapore, the FDI Council moved to form a Dental Amalgam Task Team (DATT) to ensure that the international dental community and the issues regarding dental amalgam were properly and accurately represented in UNEP discussions regarding mercury and would be based on best available science to ensure public health and patient oral health care are not compromised.

The DATT has been very active, participating in the various meetings, including INC 1 (http:// hphen.unep.org/hazardoussub substances/Mercury/UNEP/tabid/3234/Default.aspx), as well as collaborating and co-operating with FDI member associations and international stakeholders (eg IADR, ISDA, IFADCA, ISO, WHO) to comprehensively address the issue of dental restorative materials, in particular dental amalgam. The second session of the INC2 to prepare a global legally binding instrument on Mercury (INC 2) will be held in Chiba, Japan, from 24 to 28 January, 2011. http:// hphen.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/Mercury/UNEP/tabid/ 434/Default.aspx)

The FDI will be well represented at INC 2, with the capability of attending briefings and breakout sessions relevant to dental amalgam. In preparation for the development of a global legally binding instrument on dental amalgam and associated health promotion programmes, this should be linked to preventive disease management, which will result in the phase down of use of current restorative materials, including dental amalgam. These measures will ensure optimal oral health, particularly for those most disadvantaged and in need of treatment.

The shift to a preventive model of oral health care and associated health promotion programmes is goal of the FDI Global Caries Initiative (www.dentaldent al.org/content/global-caries-initiative), a profession led initiative to establish a new paradigm for caries management.
The French Dental Association (ADF)—40 years of contribution to oral health

The French Dental Association (ADF) celebrated its 40th birthday during its Annual Congress which was held from 25 to 27 November in Paris, France.

The ADF took the opportunity to meet with key stakeholders from around the world, spreading the word about the FDI mission of promoting optimal oral health, including the Annual World Dental Congresses.

The ADF President, Dr. Joël Trouillet, and Dr. Patrick Hescot, Dr. Roberto Vianna, respectively, provide a good example of the synergies between the FDI Education Committee and the organisational leadership of the ADF and francophone dentists founding the organisation.

Dr. Patrick Heslot and Dr. Joël Trouillet who are both the Secretaries General of ADF and also an FDI Councilor and Member of the FDI Education Committee respectively, provide a good example of the synergies between FDI and ADF.

The FDI invites the ADF to host a workshop on the FDI congress website. Further details on the FDI ARO Oral Health Strategy for Africa will be posted on the FDI website shortly.