Rise in surgical exports

KARACHI, Pakistan: Exports of surgical and dental instruments from Pakistan have almost quadrupled in the last three years. Latest figures released by the Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry indicate that manufacturers sold US$867.6 million worth of instruments worldwide in 2012–2015, a significant increase compared with the US$250 million generated in 2008–2009.

A total of 14,687 dental professionals from abroad have obtained permit to work in Australia, outside the country received permission to work in Australia but also to dental professionals from abroad.

Starting salaries for dentists make the profession attractive not only to young people in engineering and medicine, which regularly exceed those of other high-skilled occupations, such as dentistry, as well as restricting graduates from abroad to practice in Australia by removing the profession from the Skilled Occupation List and Consolidated Sponsored Occupation List maintained by the Department of Immigration and Border Protection.

“The decision of the previous government to allow international students to obtain a visa, remain and work in Australia for between two and four years following completion of their degree has made it even more competitive for domestic graduates to obtain full-time work,” the letter states. “The ADA believes there are more than sufficient numbers of Australian graduates currently entering the workforce and urges the Australian government to put in place a number of initiatives to bring this workforce back into balance.”

According to Alexander, of the approximately 950 dentists entering the workforce in Australia annually, less than 60 per cent are required in order to meet the demand for dental services. She also said that her organisation had found that the number of graduates in full-time employment four months after graduation dropped from 95 per cent in 2011 to less than 84 per cent last year, increasingly forcing young dentists to work part time or take up another occupation to avoid unemployment.

A total of 14,687 dental professionals were registered with the Australian Dental Council in 2012, according to recent figures from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare in Canberra, which ranks the country high above the ideal dentist–patient ratio of 1:5,508 recommended by the World Health Organisation. Starting salaries for dentists regularly exceed those of other high-skilled occupations, such as engineering and medicine, which makes the profession attractive not only to young people in Australia but also to dental professionals from abroad.

Last year, over 250 dentists with dental qualifications obtained outside the country received permission to work in Australia, a significant increase from only 57 who applied for assessment by the Australian Dental Council a decade ago.