FDI “official relations” status with World Health Organization

Renewed at 126th Executive Board Meeting

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

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 Nongovernmental 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. FDI 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.