The 2009 FDI Annual World Dental Congress (AWDC) in Singapore has come to a close for another year. This year's event ran seamlessly thanks to the tireless efforts of the Local Organising Committee (LOC) and volunteers, I would like to make a special mention of the FDI staff, which has been working in collaboration with the LOC in addition to relocating the FDI head office from Ferney-Voltaire, France, to Geneva, Switzerland.

The AWDC brought together 107 speakers from many disciplines of the dental profession to share breakthroughs and best practices on treatment advances with colleagues from around the world. Congress participants were dazzled with the latest developments in products and equipment at the Exhibition, which featured more than 150 international vendors. During the week, important business meetings designed to ensure the future of global health advocacy took place, as well as the 2009 FDI Elections. Congratulations to Council and Committee members who were appointed during the General Assembly B and Council C meetings (see 2009 FDI Elections).

The Welcome Ceremony speech, I affirmed my commitment to the continuation of these and other FDI activities. Later we enjoyed a colourful performance that took the audience through Singapore’s history, represented through dance and music.

Looking at the year ahead, we are excited about projects on the horizon, including the publication of the Oral Health Atlas and its presentations to the Global Caries Initiative and the FDI Regional Continuing Education Programme. I feel proud to have been given this opportunity to serve as FDI President, particularly at a time when next year’s AWDC will be in my home country. The 2010 AWDC Local Organising Committee has been working steadily towards welcoming us all in Salvador da Bahia next year and I look forward to seeing you there!

Dr Roberto Vianna
FDI President

The FDI Policy Statements

The FDI General Assembly adopted three new and nine revised FDI Policy Statements at the 2009 Annual World Dental Congress.

New Policy Statements
- Dentin Hypersensitivity
- Endodontal and General Health Problems of the Elderly
- Use of Academic, Professional and Honorary Titles

Revised Policy Statements
- The Association between Oral Health and General Health
- Dental Bleaching Materials


FDI launches new Oral Health sourcebook

The congress provided an ideal forum to further strengthen FDI’s relationships with member associations, corporate partners and contributing specialists. During the National Liaison Officer (NLO) Luncheon on September 23, three of four contributing authors to ‘The Oral Health Atlas’ made a brief presentation about the research involved in compiling this new FDI advocacy tool, which was officially released later that day. I was delighted to learn as well about the University announcement: University has renewed its partnership with FDI on the Live.Learn.Laugh programme for another three years, to continue developing oral health projects for communities in need.

The Welcome Ceremony this year was a special evening for me, Singapore’s Health Minister, Mr Khaw Boon Wan, delivered an inspiring account of the positive improvements to oral health in his country, as well as the need to continue working in collaboration across the region. I will forever cherish the moment I received the presidential chain from my distinguished colleague, Past-President, Dr Burton Conrod, in a symbolic change of FDI presidency. During his term as president, Dr Conrod has supported important FDI initiatives to increase global awareness about oral health issues, including Live.Learn.Laugh, the publication of ‘The Oral Health Atlas’ and the Global Caries Initiative. In my Welcome Ceremony speech, I affirmed my commitment to the continuation of these and other FDI activities. Later we enjoyed a colourful performance that took the audience through Singapore’s history, represented through dance and music.

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Dr Roberto Vianna, FDI President

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FDI head office relocates to Switzerland

The FDI has relocated its global headquarters to Geneva, Switzerland, completing the final stage of a plan that has been several years in the making. The driving forces for the move were logistical and financial: the FDI sought to be in a country where it could conduct business as a single entity—versus the current structure of 63 national associations of which the FDI was admissible and liable to prosecution.

FDI communications coordinator/Managing editor

Aimée DuBrûle
Managing editor FDI Communications Coordinator/Managing Editor

FDI/World Dental Federation
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New FDI head office in Geneva, Switzerland. (DTI/FDI)

What makes dental professionals smile

The WM. Wrigley Jr. Company has partnered with the FDI World Dental Federation in the second consecutive edition of the FDI/Wrigley Photographic Award.

Earlier this year, dental professionals from 65 countries around the world submitted photographs to the 2009 FDI/Wrigley Photographic Award competition, which ran from 16 March to 8 July. The photographs were reviewed by a panel of judges and winners were selected based on their creativity in addressing “what makes you smile”.

The other five regional winners of the 2009 FDI/Wrigley Photographic Award are:

- Africa region: Sandy from Gauteng, South Africa
- Asia-Oceania region: Pujaan from Singapore
- Europe region: Jan Eric from Altstätten, SG, Switzerland
- Latin America region: Gunther from Cartago, Costa Rica
- Middle East region: Neda from Tehran, Iran

Each regional winner received the same regional prize noted above. Also, in addition to the regional winners this year, 50 other names were chosen at random from the remaining entries to receive a year’s supply of Wrigley’s sugarfree chewing gum.

Meeting of the Section Defence Forces Dental Services (SDF(S)) in Singapore

On 51 August, Brigadier General (Dr) Benjamin Seet, Chief of the Singapore Armed Forces Medical Corps, officiated at the Opening Ceremony of the Military Programme for the 2009 FDI Annual World Dental Congress. The meeting, which attracted more than 50 military dentists from 18 countries, provided a forum for military dental officers to discuss scientific and military dental issues.

In his opening address, Brig. Gen. (Dr) Benjamin Seet emphasised the relevance of this year’s theme: “Dentists for the Next Generation of Armed Forces. With healthcare services of many armed forces transforming to meet a wider spectrum of geopolitical and military challenges, this meeting offered participants an opportunity to network and share knowledge about advancing military dentistry and providing better oral care for soldiers and servicemen.

Among the speakers present ing at the congress were Colonel (Dr) Tuan Hui, Commander of the Singapore Armed Forces Military Medicine Institute; Major General Zhao Yimin, Vice-Dean of the School of Stomatology, China Fourth Military Medical University; Colonel Robert Halle of the US Army Institute of Surgical Research, and Police Colonel Peter Sahlenhake. A wide range of topics were discussed during the two-day Military Programme, including facial trauma care, forensic remains identification, field dentistry and dental fitness of soldiers.