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 busy during 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 share model for collaborating with our host National Dental Associations. The 2012 AWDC with the Hong Kong Dental Association marks the beginning of this transition, which has been fully applied with the Korean Dental Association for the 2011 Congress. Additionally, we have established a new venue 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 our two recent success 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 HKDA are also pleased by the high level of support shown by the Chinese Ministry of Health and the Chinese National Health who are both committed to international scientific exchange and will help encourage and facilitate the attendance of Chinese dentists at our 2010 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, so 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 not only offers 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 reach of the journal by about 5,000 additional libraries worldwide, as well as over 6,000 institutions in developing countries via philanthropic arrangements such as Research4Life (UNAB, 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 or your Association 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 Estignard,
Interim Executive Director

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

FDI World Dental Federation (FDI) African Regional Organisation (ARO) invited to Durban, South Africa

The FDI World Dental Federation recognizes that its global presence needs to be relevant both at regional and country levels. In this context, the FDI is looking closely at how regional organisations to translate its global strategy into regionally specific networks 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 and national officers of ARO participated in the two-day workshop, collating and assessing current FDI policy and programmes, along with those of Inter-Governmental Organisations (IGO’s), other NGO’s active in oral health in Africa. ARO assisted in surveying African national dental associations on their needs. The aim of the workshop was to develop a roadmap to guide FDI and focus FDI and ARO activities in Africa.
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 invited Dr Roberto Vianna, the President of FDI, to speak at the opening ceremony where, in excellent French, he emphasized the important role the ADF and francophone dentists have played throughout the FDI’s 100 year history, including hosting the first FDI Congress and founding the organisation.

Dr Patrick Hescot 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.

Further details on the FDI ARO Oral Health Strategy for Africa will be posted on the FDI website shortly.