

100th Annual FDI congress celebrated in Hong Kong

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HONG KONG 2012



100th CONGRESS

The Grand Hall of the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre saw its latest highlight on 29th August, when the FDI World Dental Federation officially opened its centennial congress with an eye-catching traditional performance featuring a 100-foot long dragon dancing among a sea of lions and flags.

The ceremony was attended by high-ranking officials from the Hong Kong Dental Association, the University of Hong Kong, among other institutions, as well as the Chinese and Hong Kong SAR governments, including China's Minister of Health Zhu Chen, who also received the FDI World Oral Health Recognition Award, which was handed over by FDI President Dr Orlando Monteiro da Silva.

Chen, who has served in this position since 2007, is the first person ever to have received this award. According to the FDI, he was selected for his contributions to the development of dentistry in China, as well as his leadership in the education of new dentists and the establishment of new dental schools.

In his welcome speech, da Silva congratulated Chen, saying that the challenges the minister has had to overcome in the People's Republic of China are a good example of the challenges his own organisation is confronted with in its goal to improve oral health globally. With its "Vision 2020" document (see also page 6 of this edition), introduced at a special forum during the World Dental Parliament on Tuesday, da Silva said that the FDI is able to provide not only a roadmap for the future of dental medicine, but also inspiration to the profession, preparing it for new and exciting partnerships in leading the world to optimal oral health.

"Vision 2020 demonstrates the FDI's agility and determination to address issues such as the huge disparities in access to oral care between countries and within countries between urban and rural areas," he commented.

Available for download from the FDI's website, the document focuses on significantly improving access to oral health care worldwide by 2020 by expanding the role of oral health professionals and developing a responsive model for future dental education, among other things. In addition, the federation has launched two new websites in Hong Kong, both for its Global Caries Initiative, developed jointly with Dental Tribune International, and for its noncommunicable diseases campaign with the World Health Professions Alliance. The latter aims to help professionals, including dentists, to respond to the epidemic of noncommunicable diseases, such as cancer and respiratory disease.

This year marks the 100th time that the FDI has invited dental professionals to its Annual World Dental Congress and it is the second time that it is being held in Hong Kong. Thousands of dental professionals from the region and around the globe are expected to attend the event from Wednesday to Saturday, which has been organised in collaboration with the Hong Kong Dental Association.

Besides a comprehensive scientific programme, including a presentation on oral health in China by Dr Lingzhi Kong, Deputy Director-General of the PRC's Center for Disease Control and Prevention, in a special session, the latest dental materials and equipment were on display at the World Dental Exhibition in the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre.