

# Saudi Arabia—Tradition and modern times!

20<sup>th</sup> Saudi Dental Society and 2<sup>nd</sup> National Guard “New Dental Era” International Conference 2009, organized in cooperation with the German Association of Dental Implantology (DGZI)

**author**\_Rolf Vollmer, Germany

Prince Miteb bin Abdullah bin Abdulaziz, Deputy Commander of the National Guard for Military Affairs, patronized the 20<sup>th</sup> Saudi Dental Society and Second National Guard Conference and a Workshop themed ‘New Dental Era’ from April 20 to 22 in Riyadh.

Internationally renowned speakers with topics on Orthodontics, Dental Aesthetics, Dental Implants and Endodontics were the highlights of the scientific sessions. A special award was given to the best research project conducted by undergraduate and postgraduate students and another award for the best presentation in the poster session. Workshops were conducted by local and international speakers. International manufacturing dental and medical companies participated in the exhibition. A compilation of approved abstracts is published in the Journal of Dental Research under the IADR Saudi Arabian Section.

“The remarkable success of the last conference held in Jeddah of March 2008 is promised to be repeated, if not, paralleled as I invite you once again for this year’s conferences.

This conference is accredited by the Saudi Commission for Health Specialties”, said Prof Yousef F. Talic, President of the Saudi Dental Society. Through this outcome the National Guard Health Affairs and the Saudi Dental Society continued to contemplate the interest of the growing population of dentists in the Kingdom. The international conference was organized to keep our colleagues well-informed of the advances and challenges in the global society for this particular field of speciality. It offers a unique and dynamic experience for educational career advancement where topics of interest from various dental specialties were presented and discussed, Prof Yousef F. Talic summarized.





Dr Ali Al Ehaideb, Chairman, Dental Services—Central Region, National Guard Health Affairs pointed out:

The scientific lectures and continuing education (CE) courses are designed to widen and enhance our knowledge through the shared ideas and experiences of our distinguished international and local invited speakers who are well-respected and pioneers in their field of speciality. New approach, different techniques utilizing the state of the art modern technology waits for our colleagues. It will also highlight the display of modern instruments, supplies and equipment by internationally known participating dental & medical companies.

Thus, it is our privilege to encourage your participation for the success of this meaningful scientific event.

The German Association of Dental Implantology (DGZI) was invited as an cooperation partner and was represented by its 1. Vice-president and Treasurer Dr Rolf Vollmer as well as Dr Mazen Tamimi, the international representative of DGZI. Almost 1,500 dentist

participated in the meeting and agreed on the high level of education in Saudi Arabia.

### Information Saudi-Arabia

70 years ago the Kingdom of Saudi-Arabia was founded. On 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 1932, King Abd Al Asis III. Ibn Saud unified his Kingdoms Nejd and Hejaz to one big state. The constitution is based on the Quran.

Saudi Arabia is located on the Arabian Peninsula, and borders with Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Yemen, the Red Sea, and the Persian Gulf. It is a desert country with extreme temperatures. From the middle of April until the middle of October daily temperatures of 45 °C and more can be reached. Whereas in the winter months January and February temperatures of 15 °C and less can be expected. At night the temperature in the desert can even be below the freezing point. The coastal zones have humid climate. Saudi Arabia is six times larger than Germany. Its size is approximately 2,15 million







square kilometres. Approximately 80 per cent of the Arabian Peninsula belongs to the kingdom, though only 20 million inhabitants live there, i.e. a quarter of the total German population. Colleagues from over 85 countries work as dentists. Education and training programs are highly ranked in Saudi Arabia. Every dentist has to prove his/her CME points regularly. A dentist is only allowed to place dental implants when he/she has obtained a so called license issued by the Ministry of Health.

Saudi Arabia is governed by an Islamic authoritarian monarchy under the reign of King Fahd bin Abd al-Aziz Al Saud, who is also the Prime Minister. The King and his widely ramified family stand at the top of the pyramid, followed by the tribal leaders and urban salesmen. The capital is the ancient Nejd capital Riyadh.

Women have to wear long, black garments, and they have to wear a veil over their face. Driving is forbidden for women. It is also forbidden to eat pork and drink alcohol throughout Saudi Arabia. The import of drugs is strictly forbidden, and will be punished with draconian penalty.

The prosperity of the country is due to its oil production since 1933. In 1960 Saudi Arabia founded the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries

(OPEC), together with Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, and Venezuela. The aim of the coalition of the five most important oil exporting countries was a joint oil policy, and the stabilization of the world market price. Later on more oil producing countries joined this association. In the meantime Saudi Arabia has become the most important oil producing country in the world, and it controls approximately 26 per cent of all known oil reserves. Riyadh (Arabic "the gardens") is the capital of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and its same-named province. The city counts 4,6 million inhabitants. The city is the economic, administrative, and cultural center of the country. It hosts numerous universities, museums, and monuments. Riyadh is the seat of the Saudi Arabian government, the parliament, all national boards, and numerous diplomatic missions.

Riyadh has been the capital of Saudi Arabia since 1932 when the country gained its independence. From the historical point of view the capital is an important transit city for the Arabian area, the pilgrim routes to Mecca and Medina, which are the most significant Islamic pilgrimage sites. The main palace of the royal dynasty has been located in Riyadh since 1824.

