

Ma assalaama Dubai, God dag Stockholm DGZI draws a positive balance on FDI world conference

author_ Daniel Zimmermann & Claudia Salwiczek, Germany



_Understanding oral hygiene as a component of general preventative health care—this is how FDI President Michèle Aerden summarised the recently ended World Dental Congress in Dubai. This is an essential understanding if one hopes to lastingly improve and promote oral health, Aerden told the international press on the last day of the congress. The Belgian-born president also passed on her post to the newly elected Canadian Dr Burton Conrod, who will preside over the world federation for the next two years. Dr Conrod announced that continuity can be expected during his term, as well as structural changes to improve communication between the world federation and its member associations. The World Dental Federation (FDI) has been in existence

since 1900 and holds its conference each year in a different city. Recent locations include Montreal and Shenzhen, China. This year, in Dubai, the conference was held for the first time in an Arab country. The United Arab Emirates and Dubai, in particular, boast extremely modern medical facilities. Statistically, however, only one attending dentist is available for every 4,900 inhabitants, whereas in Germany this ratio is currently closer to 1 dentist for every 1,200 inhabitants, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). The organisers were successful in creating an interesting and diversified scientific programme. Seventy-five local and international professionals held lectures under the title 'Dental Diversity in the Land of Tomorrow'. Among the speakers