I feel much obliged to present my maiden President’s message since taking office in September after the Annual General Meeting. Through this platform, I would like to highlight the commitments that I pledge to deliver in my term of office. Our indomitable courage will lead us through all the hurdles. The Council looks forward to your support and active participation in our initiatives that are conducive to the development of the profession.

Dr Tsang Hin Kei, Century

Proposed New Membership Categories, “Honorary Life Members Emeritus” and “Life Members Emeritus”

With regret, the special resolution for inclusion of the above two membership categories is not passed pursuant to section 564 of the Companies Ordinance at the AGM 2019 held on 17 September 2019.

The two new membership categories are proposed to include for expressing our due respect to respectable senior colleagues who have been rendering valuable contribution and unfailing support towards the development of the Association and were conferred upon Honorary Life Membership or Life Membership previously but no longer on the List of Registered Dentists under the General Register or Specialist Register after retirement or ceasing their renewal of practising certificates. The proposed membership categories will be conferred by invitation from the Association. They shall be entitled to all privileges of Honorary Life Members/ Life Members except rights to propose and/ or vote and/ or stand for any election at any general meeting of the Association or any meeting pertaining to the representativeness of the Association.

Considering the good intention of the proposed inclusion, we will move this special resolution again in the AGM 2020. I sincerely appeal for members’ support for this meaningful move.

Q-mark Scheme under the Private Healthcare Facilities Ordinance

Upon the enactment of the Private Healthcare Facilities Ordinance (the “Ordinance”) in November 2018, four types of private healthcare facilities will be subject to regulation, namely hospitals, day procedure centres, clinics and health services establishments. The regulatory regime is implemented in phases. The registration for private hospitals under the new Ordinance has commenced in July 2019, while registration for day care centres and clinics will be commenced in 2020 and 2021 respectively. As part of transitional arrangement, an operator of a day procedure centre or a clinic in operation on 30 November 2018 will be issued with a provisional licence upon application for a full licence, provided that certain conditions are met. The provisional licence allows the day procedure centre or clinic concerned to continue to operate before it is qualified for the full licence.

Arising from the implementation of the Ordinance, all premises where registered medical practitioners and/ or dentists practise are required to have either a licence or a letter of exemption from the Department of Health in 2021. Our Council plans to set up a Q-mark scheme under which HKDA Members can be accredited with a Q-mark after attending a series of lectures and after their premises setting has been evaluated and proved to be aligned with the Private Healthcare Facilities Ordinance. In preparing the rolling out of the scheme, a taskforce chaired by Dr Haston Liu has been set up by the HKDA Council to formulate the operational mode and procedural arrangement. We shall keep our members updated on this important subject.
Proposed Enhancement of Community Care Fund Elderly Dental Assistance Programme

HKDA Council representatives met with the officials of Food and Health Bureau on 24 September 2019, during which we presented HKDA’s proposed initiatives from two perspectives for the next course of programme enhancement. Firstly, we will study the feasibility of extending the programme to benefit another potential service target group and secondly, we will explore the need of including new treatment items based on past experience. We will continue to keep close ties with the Government Bureau for the furtherance of oral health among needy elders under the Programme.

Mediation

Mediation is a voluntary process with the objective to resolving disputes in an amicable, efficient and costs-effective manner. The Council is determined to introduce mediation service to address members’ needs in resolving disputes save and except questions relating to professional misconduct. In performing this mission, the Dispute Resolution Committee chaired by Dr Spencer Chan is tasked to establish a mechanism by defining the operational mode and service scope that can serve the purpose. The mediation system will be launched as soon as practicable. Meanwhile, viewpoints from stakeholders will be gathered during the course of system formulation.

Furtherance of HKDA Communication Platforms

On strengthening communication with members and the public, the Council will earmark necessary resources to modernize our tools for effective release of information and updates on activities by developing HKDA apps and renovating HKDA website. Preparatory work has already been kicked start. On that note, I would like to also highlight that after the rebirth of HKDA Directory by end 2018, the Council has decided to issue electronic version after this issue and onwards, for green concern and for provision of greater convenience to members in browsing the information any time on website. Detailed arrangement has been announced in our flyer to members recently.

Women Dentist Group

We are pleased to announce that Women Dentist Group, chaired by Dr Flora Chan, is newly formed to serve as a platform to promote fraternity, strengthen our service support targeting our female dental colleagues and encourage their voice and participation in oral health promotional activities.

During this term of office, I will join hands with the Council and different stakeholders for different kinds of collaboration and foster even stronger ties with our dental world. I will continue to share with our members updates on the development of our work progress through this column. Stay tuned.