FDI World Dental Congress
San Francisco, U.S.A. 2-8 September 2019

Dr Tin Chun Wong

The FDI is a federation of over 135 dental associations worldwide: the Hong Kong Dental Association has been a member of the FDI since 1950. Since the beginning, HKDA has consistently participated in FDI events of which the main one is the Annual World Dental Congress. Because of HKDA’s membership in the FDI, HKDA members can enjoy all the benefits of the FDI, from its continuing education programmes to participation at the Annual World Dental Congress. FDI Policy Statements on important dental topics are issued through wide-ranging consultations worldwide and passed by the General Assembly. The congress also provides a unique opportunity for individual associations to renew contacts and make new ones.
The 2019 Annual World Dental Congress of the FDI World Dental Federation was held in San Francisco, U.S.A. and the HKDA delegation was headed by the then President Haston Liu Wai Ming, the then Vice-President Century Tsang Hin Kei and the then Honorary Treasurer Ernest Foo Tai Chuen. HKDA members who attended the FDI Congress in San Francisco had duties in their various official capacities. Dr Liu was leader of the delegation and each member who attended had important roles to play. Under the leadership of Dr Liu, we were together in strength during the World Dental Parliament sessions and as only a small member of the FDI World Dental Federation, we made an important mark amongst all the participating nations. As the parliament and congress progressed, knowledge and new information are shared. HKDA developed good contacts and made new friends in the global dental world.

Hong Kong had the 4th largest number of speakers at this congress after U.S.A., UK and Germany. They are: Michael Bornstein, William Cheung, Lijian Jin, Edward Lo, Nikos Mattheos, Jukka Pekka Matinlinna and Edmund Pow.

Dr William Cheung was our HKDA candidate, nominated for re-election to the Education Committee (see separate article). Among those who hold positions at the FDI are: Prof Lijian Jin, FDI Councillor; Dr William Cheung, Member of FDI Education Committee; Dr Simon Ho, Continuing Education Director for FDI Asia Pacific Region and myself as FDI National Liaison Officer (NLO) for HKDA.

At Open Forum 1, general discussions concentrated on the FDI Policy Statements. The revised versions of these Statements, including amendments proposed by HKDA were discussed and passed. These statements would be presented at General Assembly B to the entire membership. As a nominated candidate Dr William Cheung made his presentations to the members of the General Assembly in Open Forum 2. All discussions on the FDI budget took place in Open Forum 3.
GENERAL ASSEMBLIES A & B
They were the meetings of the Dental Parliament. Business discussions took place during these one and a half day. Hong Kong was entitled to one vote because of our member size. General Assembly B was the concluding event of the congress. When time came for elections, Dr William Cheung led the votes from the beginning and was proudly elected. Dr Liu Yi from the Chinese Stomatological Association was elected in General Assembly to the Membership Liaison and Support Committee. We wish them great success.

WOMEN DENTISTS WORLDWIDE
This half-day forum was dedicated to women dentists, primarily aimed at global issues related to the practice of dentistry. A gathering of women dentists from member associations were gathered and excellent presentations were given from different regions. There was an election for members of the board; the new Chairman is Dr Julian Hoyningen-Huene from Germany, and Vice-Chairman is Dr Jina Lee Linton from South Korea.

NATIONAL LIAISON OFFICERS FORUM
All National Liaison Officers from FDI member associations around the world attended this meeting held once a year. An interesting presentation is a report on the Minamata Convention developments in Ireland made by Dr Nuala Carney. The meeting went on to discuss the policy statements and later broke up into small groups representing the five different regional organisations. This forum was followed by the National Liaison Officers’ Lunch.

WORLD ORAL HEALTH DAY LAUNCH
(20 MARCH 2020)
This was an important promotion of the FDI oral health awareness message. Toothpie, the mascot of the FDI World Oral Health Day was present to promote the awareness social media activation and online tools. 2019 has been a very important year with record-breaking numbers of populations reached. We hope 2020 will mark another milestone in this important outreach.

ASIA PACIFIC REGIONAL ORGANISATION DELEGATES MEETING
Dr Liu, Dr Foo and myself attended this event. The APDF/ APRO policy on strategic development by APDF/ APRO President, Dr Kim Cheol-Soo was discussed. Many associations supported his strategy.

SHANGHAI 2020
The Chinese Stomatological Association, as host for the 2020 FDI Congress, received the FDI flag from the American Dental Association.
We offer a hearty congratulations to Dr William Cheung who was re-elected a member of the Education Committee of the FDI World Dental Federation when the World Dental Parliament convened in San Francisco in September this year. Furthermore, he has also been elected Vice Chairman of the Education Committee. The Education Committee is responsible for putting together the scientific programme of the World Dental Congress each year and monitoring the regional CE programmes globally.

Dr Cheung has served the FDI for more than 13 years with the first 10 years being appointed the Continuing Education (CE) Programme Director for Asia Pacific from 2007 to 2016. During the 10-year period, he helped to organize more than 120 CE programmes with over 350 speakers from all over the world and raised all the necessary funding. After he stepped down from that position, he was elected a member of the Education Committee during the World Dental Parliament in Poznan, Poland in 2016. For the past three years, he was heavily involved in a number of projects for the FDI. He is a member of the Task Force on Vision 2030 with a focus on education. He also serves as an expert in a special project on “Managing the Partially Dentate Patients” and helped to produce a White Paper, a Chairside Guide for the Dentists and a Patient Pamphlet for the project. He also authored a FDI Policy Statement on “Continuing Education via eLearning” and helped to put together a document on “Guidelines on Quality Education Programme”.

Here at home, Dr Cheung has been a long-standing member of the Professional Education Committee of HKDA helping to organize the scientific programme of our monthly meetings. He also has served on the Scientific Committee and the Organizing Committee of HKIDEAS since its inception. He was the Founding Chairman of the Patient Complaints Mediation Committee (PCMC) in the past and now serves as a member of the Dispute Resolution Committee. The HKDA is proud to support Dr Cheung and his work for the FDI and is looking forward to a cordial and meaningful collaboration in the next few years.