The 2019 Asia Pacific Dental Congress (APDC) was special in that it was held in Seoul, which had not hosted an APDC for over 15 years. The President of the Korean Dental Association, Dr Kim Cheol-Soo organized a spectacular APDC with SIDEX, the hugely popular and successful dental exhibition at the COEX, Seoul.

The agenda items were numerous and long but full of information and references to the recent developments in the work of the APDF on oral health. Dr William Cheung made an excellent presentation at this meeting for election in the FDI San Francisco for Education Committee.

The HKDA delegation, led by Dr Haston Liu, travelled to Seoul to reach there in time for the APDF Council Meeting at 09:00 to 17:00 on 8 May 2019. All business meetings were conducted in the Hotel Intercontinental.

At the First Delegates Meeting was the HKDA delegation:
Dr Haston Liu, the then President
Dr Century Tsang, the then Vice President
Dr Ernest Foo, the then Honorary Treasurer
Dr Andrew Chan, the then Honorary Secretary
Dr Michael Mui, the then Council Member

In attendance were myself, Dr Tin Chun Wong as National Liaison Officer for FDI, and Dr William Cheung, FDI Education Committee Member.
The Sri Lankan Dental Association hosted a luncheon for all the delegates. The promotion of their APDC 2020 with a video of their country and what they have to offer. It is really an attractive place to go to. Let us hope that the recent sad event which took place in Colombo will be dealt with swiftly and that the APDC 2020 will be well-attended.

A formal meeting took place at the invitation of the Seoul Dental Association (SDA) with Hong Kong Dental Association hosted by Dr Lee Sang-Bok, President of the Seoul Dental Association. In attendance was also Dr Choi Dae-Young, Chairman of SIDEX Seoul International Exhibition. It was a friendly but formal meeting where we discussed mutual situations and plans for the future. It ended with an exchange of gifts between the Presidents.

A formal meeting took place at the invitation of the Korean Dental Association headed by Dr Kim Cheol-Soo. Dr Liu congratulated Dr Kim of his assumption to the Presidency of the APDF/ APRO and both discussed organizational incentives and developmental paths for the associations. This meeting also ended with an exchange of gifts between the Presidents.

ICCDE Meetings were held between 09:00 and 17:00 where academic exchanges on different topics were followed by discussions.

SIDEX 2019 Opening Ceremony
This was a sumptuous affair when the President of Korean Dental Associations were joined by VIPs in the ribbon-cutting ceremony. This was followed by a VIP luncheon hosted by the Seoul Dental Association.
APDC 2019 Opening Ceremony
A glamorous and exciting event took place for the opening ceremony at the COEX Ballroom. All attendees attended this event and representatives from all countries participated. Everyone enjoyed the event which finished with song and dance representing the Korean culture.

Seoul Night
The dinner evening was kindly hosted by the Seoul Dental Association and took place in the COEX Ballroom. Everyone invited was treated to a delicious meal and entertained by professional musicians.

Women Dentists Asia Pacific Forum
This is the first time that a forum on Women Dentists had been organized within the framework of APDC and was very much welcomed and appreciated. Over 100 women dentists attended. Dr Kathryn Kell, FDI President, gave an opening speech and this was followed by a congratulatory message by Dr Tin Chun Wong of Hong Kong. The forum concluded with a proposal to the APDF/ APRO to make this forum a permanent meeting at APDC. We would have to wait for the APDF/ APRO Council to evaluate this and hope that the outcome is favourable.
Gala Night
Another glamorous evening event, hosted by the Korean Dental Association took place in the Vista Hall at the Grand Walkerhill Hotel. Invited guests were taken by bus to the very beautiful venue. The dinner was delicious and guests were entertained by famous singers and musicians in Korea. Everyone had a great time.

The Second Delegates Meeting took place to discuss the remaining items on the agenda. Everyone was pleased with the outcome of the meetings and it ended at 12:00 noon.

Members of the HKDA delegation had a very fruitful attendance at the APDC 2019. We look forward to APDC 2020.