m The Greater New York Dental Meeting (GNYDM) welcomes international attendees from more than 120 countries.

As a world-renowned venue in dentistry, the GNYDM organizers understand the importance of creating a comfortable and welcoming environment for all its visitors; therefore, the GNYDM offers courses in Spanish, Portuguese and French.

In addition, the GNYDM continues to build a special relationship with the members of all 21 countries that make up the Federación Odontológica Latinoamericana (FOLA), representing more than 350,000 dentists in Latin America.

Educators and clinicians from Mexico, Central America and South America are regular visitors at each annual event.

Business center

As a special feature of the meeting, the international business center meets the needs of manufacturers and dealers who are interested in exporting their products. It is located in the registration area of the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center and is open during registration hours.

The business center provides international attendees with an ideal location to interact with U.S. exporters to discuss business. The center also provides such support services as meeting rooms, on-site government trade representatives, multilingual interpreters and export counselors.

Export seminar

On Monday, through the Commercial Service Export Seminar, exhibitors learned about the various markets represented by International Commercial Specialists.

For the first time, the seminar took the form of an open forum with international commercial specialists dialoging back-and-forth between each other, the moderator and the audience.

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Showtime

Exhibitors were able to participate in “Showtime,” one-on-one appointments between the delegation leaders from the embassy network and the exhibitor. Together, they are exploring export opportunities and discussing the latest market information on individual countries. At past GNYDM shows, these commercial service efforts have led to numerous export successes.

Hospitality center

The GNYDM’s hospitality center is also available for relaxing from the busy pace of the exhibition or for joining colleagues in a casual conversation. The hospitality center is open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. today and Wednesday.

As the demographics of our country continue to change faster than predicted just a few years ago, we are a company committed to fostering diversity and cultural competency within our own organization and the health-care professions we serve,” Bergman said.

In addition, Bergman explained that those gathered for the breakfast were uniquely positioned to “help health happen throughout the world” via their cultural competency and by fostering diversity. This is in keeping with the Henry Schein Cares (HSC) initiative, a global corporate social responsibility program, which has the motto “Help Health Happen.”

The HSC program includes disaster-response efforts, which targeted tragedies such as the earthquake in Haiti and Hurricane Katrina in the United States. The Henry Schein REACH program supports the growth and development of culturally specific professional associations, including Hispanic communities, across the United States.

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DVI celebrates 30th anniversary

By Fred Michmershuizen, Dental Tribune

Dental Volunteers of Israel (DVI), an organization that provides oral health care services to the children of Jerusalem regardless of background, celebrated its 30th anniversary Sunday night with a gala celebration at the Museum of Jewish Heritage in Lower Manhattan.

Dr. Nedal Alayyan was named DVI Volunteer of the Year. During his remarks, Alayyan recounted his experience as a child growing up in Jerusalem and being treated at the DVI clinic. Inspired by that early experience, Alayyan became a dentist himself and now gives back to today’s children of Jerusalem through DVI.

Stanley M. Bergman, chairman and CEO of Henry Schein, delivered the evening’s keynote address. In remembering the late Trudi Birger, founder of DVI, Bergman said: “Trudi was a humanitarian, a visionary and an entrepreneur. She realized that a healthy smile enables a child to eat, sleep, study and grow up without the distraction of pain associated with poor oral health.

“Now in its 30th year, the energy of the DVI program continues to grow, as evidenced by the letters of praise and support the organization receives every day from volunteers of all walks of life, in every dental specialty, and from all over the world,” Bergman said.

Ambassador Meron Reuben, Israel’s ambassador to the United Nations and to Columbia, also offered remarks to gala attendees.

Steve Kess, vice president of global professional relations for Henry Schein, Dr. Allen Helfer, president of the American Friends of DVI, and Ran Tuttnauer, CEO of Tuttnauer Ltd. and a member of the DVI board, were also honored.

Since its founding in 1980, DVI has been providing free dental care to Jerusalem’s most underprivileged children. At the state-of-the-art Trudi Birger Dental Clinic, children of all faiths referred by the Department of Social Welfare are treated by dentists from around the world.