Premier Asian dental meeting opens at Suntec

Sixth IDEM Singapore to present latest dental research and cutting-edge technology

International Convention and Exhibition Centre in the presence of high-ranking officials from the Singapore Dental Association, FDI World Dental Federation and Koelnmesse, as well as the country’s Minister for Health, Gan Kim Yong.

The 54-year-old former Minister for Manpower, who took over the Ministry of Health from People’s Action Party colleague Khaw Boon Wan after last year’s national elections, recently introduced a list of measures to further improve the country’s dental infrastructure, which will include increasing the intake of students by the National University of Singapore’s dental school. He also announced the establishment of a working group to strategise the development and implementation of a new specialty focusing on geriatric and special needs dentistry, as well as to better support dental training and the provision of clinical services and research.

Singapore currently has a dental workforce of slightly over 1,500 dentists, of which two-thirds are employed in the public sector.

Stronger industry participation

According to Koelnmesse, more than 410 dental companies and dealers operating in Singapore and abroad are participating in the 2012 edition of IDEM, with many showcasing for the first time. Joint participation by national dental industries, including Germany, the US and Australia, among others, has also increased, they said. In addition to new dental instruments and materials, dentists can expect to find a number of solutions on display that are aimed at simplifying the workflow in and between dental practices and laboratories.

First launched in 2000, IDEM is held in Singapore every two years. The 2010 edition drew over 4,000 visitors to the Suntec Exhibition Centre, of which a significant number came from neighbouring countries and from overseas.

“Our aim is also to connect professionals from across the globe to facilitate the exchange of ideas and information,” President of the Singapore Dental Association and IDEM Co-Chairman Dr Philip Och told today international in Singapore. “We have seen promising development in the scientific conference in that the range of topics addressed has also been varied throughout the years in order to address not only clinical issues that dentists currently face but also the future of dentistry in the region.”

IDEM’s conference programme opens today with presentations by dental health researcher Dr Nigel Pitts from the University of Dundee in the UK on caries prevention and management (read our interview on pages 6 & 7) and by the Clinicians Report Foundation’s Chief Operating Officer, Derek Hein from the US.

Dental Tribune Study Club Symposium

Live education sessions will be held daily through the Dental Tribune Study Club Symposium at booth E29 in the exhibition hall, between 11:00 and 15:00. There, participants will have the opportunity to learn about clinical issues like caries management, smile design or the use of CBCT in dentistry. According to Dental Tribune Study Club representatives, visitors who join the free sessions will be able to earn CE credits.

For more news from this year’s IDEM Singapore please scan the QR code at the bottom left or visit www.dental-tribune.com/idem2012

Caries prevention

An exclusive interview with clinical expert and conference presenter Dr Nigel Pitts, University of Dundee, UK.

CAD/CAM conference

Dr Dobrina Mollova, CAPP Asia, on the 7th CAD/CAM & Computerized Dentistry International Conference in Singapore.

Dental products in focus

IDEM will be an excellent opportunity to see state of the art technologies and achievements in the field of dental medicine.