Singapore’s new Minister of Health Gan Kim Yong has called on dentists in Singapore to improve the transparency of dental treatment for the general public. Speaking at the official opening ceremony of this year’s International Dental Exhibition & Meeting (IDEM) at the Suntec Singapore International Convention & Exhibition Centre, which was attended by high-ranking officials from local and international dental associations, he encouraged the profession to develop means to provide patients with detailed and unbiased information about treatment options and the risk of various dental procedures.

Yong pointed out that the government is aiming to ensure that all Singaporeans, elderly people in particular, will have access to good dental health care through programmes like the Community Health Assist Scheme, which was introduced earlier this year by the ministry to provide adult older than 40 with better access to primary health-care services, including dental care.

The scheme subsidises treatment in private dental practices, including crowns, bridges, dentures and root-canal treatment.

“To meet the demands of a rapidly ageing population in Singapore, care and the provision of both medical and dental treatment will become more complex and there will be a greater need for our dental professionals to update and upgrade themselves regarding the management of our elderly,” Yong commented.

Referring to IDEM, he congratulated the organiser Koelnmesse and the Singapore Dental Association on putting together an impressive trade exhibition and world-class scientific conference this year. He said that the meeting provides a good opportunity for dentists to keep up with the latest technological advances that shape and improve the delivery and practice of dentistry.

Being held for the sixth time since 2000, IDEM is expected to give dental professionals from Singapore and across the Asia Pacific region an overview of the latest advances in dental materials and equipment. Over 410 companies and dealers are showcasing their latest products and technologies in the exhibition hall on level 4.

“The strong participation from the industry has enabled IDEM Singapore to continue to present an extensive showcase of the latest innovations in clinical dentistry, dental technology and patient care that cut across every segment of the dental market,” Koelnmesse’s Asia Pacific Vice-President, Michael Dreyer, said.

Besides an extensive trade show, visitors will have the chance to learn about new methods in areas like implant dentistry, periodontology and endodontics during today’s conference programme. In addition, Kevin Lewis, Dental Director of Dental Protection, and dento-legal adviser Dr Jane Merivel will discuss the legal issues that may arise from orthodontic treatment.

Live education sessions presented by the Dental Tribune Study Club will also continue, with presentations on the evaluation of clinical and diagnostic aspects in volume tomography, the management of dentine hypersensitivity and the use of precision dental instruments. The symposium is free of charge and being held daily from 11:00 to 15:00 at booth E29 in the exhibition hall.

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