IDEM confirms role as major APAC meeting
Organiser announces plans for 2012/More variety in the scientific programme

Daniel Zimmermann

SINGAPORE/LEIPZIG, Germany: With final participation numbers having been announced, the International Dental Exhibition and Meeting (IDEM) confirmed its position as a major dental meeting for the Asia Pacific region. An improved scientific programme and a higher number of exhibitors again drew more than 6,000 dental professionals to Singapore. Exhibitors and the organiser said that they were satisfied with the number and type of visitors this year.

IDEM, which is organised by Koelnmesse Singapore Ltd, is held biannually in cooperation with the Singapore Dental Association and the FDI World Dental Federation.

This year’s scientific programme focused on implantology and aesthetics—two of the most successful sectors in the Asia Pacific dental market. Although sales figures were significantly affected by the global financial crisis in 2008/09, growth rates are expected to pick up once the economic recovery begins to recover, a May 2009 industry report stated.

According to the same report, sales figures of dental implants in the Asia Pacific region experienced double-digit growth rates back in 2008. Implantology was a significant part of this year’s trade exhibition, which saw increased numbers of dental surgical equipment and bone-grafting tools to aid dental implant procedures on display. Besides classical equipment like instruments, units or fillings, digital dentistry specialists also presented 3-D imaging systems that aim to streamline communication between dentists and laboratories, and thus improve long-term treatment outcomes.

For the first time, manufacturers from the republics of Slovenia and Colombia showcased their portfolios in Singapore. The British Dental Trade Association hosted their first national pavilion at the show alongside trade participations from Australia, Taiwan, Singapore, Korea, France and Switzerland. The Swiss/German dental industry were the most well represented, with more than 20 companies representing all sectors in dentistry.

Michael Dreyer, Vice-President Asia Pacific of Koelnmesse Pte Ltd, told Dental Tribune Asia Pacific that despite organisational changes and the economic downturn, IDEM 2010 was in line with IDEM 2008. He said that his company will aim to improve the meeting further in order to make it available to further professional groups like dental assistants.

Forensic dentistry falls short in India

At a national conference in India, members of the Indian Association of Forensic Odontology (IAFO) have called for new legislation to make the preservation of dental patient records mandatory for dentists in the country. They said that there is currently no legislation requiring dentists to retain those records that could help identify the victims of mass disasters like airplane crashes, bombings or tsunamis.

In addition, they could be used to confirm evidence of child abuse or homicides.

The organisation, which is based in Chennai in Southern India, also demanded the introduction of compulsory credits as well as the inclusion of Forensic Dentistry in curricula at dental schools nationwide in order to attract more students to this career option in the field of dentistry.

According to the IAFO’s own figures, there are currently less than 100 forensic odontologists in India.

SLActive implants show higher stability

Implants with SLActive surface technology (Straumann) have shown higher stability compared with five other commonly used implants in a new study, the results of which were presented at the 25th Anniversary Meeting of the Academy of Osseointegration, held in Orlando (USA) in March.

The study, which was conducted on rabbit bone, measured implant stability by removal torque evaluation at three and six weeks. It found significant differences between SLActive and the control implants. A histological evaluation of bone healing is currently being undertaken, the researchers said.

SLActive implants were launched in China and Korea in 2009. They are also available in all other major Asian markets.

Free service for Japan refugees

A Yokohama-based college has launched a free dental service for refugee applicants in Japan in collaboration with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees’ Japan office and other non-governmental organisations. The service will be available to eight people a day, aiming to see about a total of 500 patients a year.

Brain unable to trigger tooth pain

A new study from Germany has found that the human brain is not able to discriminate between a painful upper and lower tooth. According to the researchers, the results may help devise better treatments for acute tooth pain and more chronic conditions like “phantom pain” after a tooth has been removed.

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Dental Tribune Asia Pacific · No. 4 Vol. 8 · October 2010
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