Economic downturn affects adoption of CAD/CAM in Asia-Pacific region

VANCOUVER, Canada: The latest report by international market research and consulting group iData Research shows that the Asia-Pacific market for dental prostheses and CAD/CAM devices is currently valued at over US$10 billion. According to the report, the penetration rate of CAD/CAM prostheses has been limited, however, by difficult economic circumstances in Japan, South Korea, Australia and China, among other countries.

In particular, the report showed that the economic recession slowed unit sales growth and that dental laboratories faced budget constraints.

“We are seeing less investment in CAD/CAM systems in many Asia-Pacific countries due to preference for porcelain-fused-to-metal, as opposed to all-ceramic restorations. Dental laboratories increasingly prefer standalone scanner systems as a more affordable option than higher-priced milling systems,” explained iData CEO Dr. Kamran Zamanian. “Standalone scanners will be a large driver for growth in this market, as many companies in the Asia-Pacific region seek to expand their networks of scanners to support their full-in-lab CAD/CAM systems.”

Other growth factors will be pricing pressure owing to more manufacturers entering the market and demographic factors owing to an aging population worldwide, with the resulting demand for dental prostheses.

According to the report, dental company Sirona holds a majority share in the Asia-Pacific CAD/CAM systems market, followed by competitors E4D Technologies, 3M ESPE, SShape, Nobel Biocare, KaVo, Wieland and Roland.

The full report, titled “Asia-Pacific Markets for Dental Prosthetics and CAD/CAM Devices,” can be accessed on iData’s website.

More teeth, longer life

A number of studies have shown a link between tooth loss and mortality. Now, an analysis of almost 600 elderly participants from Japan has provided new evidence that retaining good oral health and having more teeth at an older age could be an indicator of longevity. The study showed that the risk of mortality was associated with the number of remaining teeth.

In order to assess the possible role of the number of teeth as a predictor of mortality in the elderly, researchers at the Niigata University examined the oral cavities of 569 healthy 70-year-olds.

During a follow-up period of five years, 25 (4.4 per cent) participants died. The researchers observed that individuals with 20 teeth or more had a significantly lower mortality rate (2.5 per cent) compared with those with 19 teeth or fewer (6.1 per cent). Overall, the data indicated that there was a 4 per cent point increase in the five-year survival rate per additional tooth retained at the age of 70, the researchers reported.

Market player reorganises

KaVo Kerr Group has announced that it will be reorganising three of its five professional consumables brands. After the internal restructuring Kerr, Kerr TotalCare and Axis|SybronEndo will be operated under four core identities: Kerr Restoratives, Kerr Endodontics, Kerr Rotary and Kerr TotalCare.

Gum helps with earworms

A study from the UK has found that people who chewed gum after hearing catchy songs thought less often about the song than in two control conditions in which they did not chew gum or tapped with each of the fingers of their dominant hand in turn. Chewing gum also reduced the frequency with which they “heard” the song by one-third.

Eat your curry

New research has demonstrated that curcumin, one of the primary components of turmeric and curry powders, has a quelling effect on the activity of the human papillomavirus (HPV), which has been increasingly associated with the development of oral cancer over the past several decades.

The scientists found that the natural antioxidant curcumin slows the expression of HPV, suggesting that it could help control the extent of HPV-related oral cancers.

Oral squamous cell carcinoma is the sixth most common cancer worldwide. The World Health Organization states that the incidence of oral cancer ranges from one to ten cases per 100,000 people in most countries.

Distinguished by innovation

Healthy teeth produce a radiant smile. We strive to achieve this goal on a daily basis. It inspires us to search for innovative, economic and esthetic solutions for direct filling procedures and the fabrication of inlays, fixed or removable restorations, so that you have quality products at your disposal to help people regain a beautiful smile.
AP prominent in global dental schools list

LONDON, UK: According to the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2015, Swedish dental schools are among the best in the world. With the Karolinska Institute leading the list of top dental schools and the University of Gothenburg following closely in third place, the country claims two of the world’s best three dentistry faculties.

In second position, the University of Hong Kong is located in the midst of the Swedish leaders. The list of top ten dentistry schools further includes the University of Michigan in the US at number four, KU Leuven in Belgium in fifth place, Tokyo Medical and Dental University in Japan ranked sixth, King’s College London in the UK at number seven and the University of Otago in New Zealand at number eight.

The QS World University Rankings are published annually by Quacquarelli Symonds (QS), a British company specialised in education and study abroad. Its list comprises an overall university ranking and a variety of subject rankings. Dentistry is one of the six new additions to the individual subject rankings, bringing the total number of academic disciplines the report covers as of 2015 to 56.

The rankings are based on major global surveys of academics and graduate employers, as well as research citations data from the literature database Scopus. For the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2015, 85,982 academics and 11,910 graduate employers from 60 countries and 894 universities were asked to list up ten domestic and 50 international institutions they consider excellent in categories such as academic reputation, citations per faculty and employer reputation.

In one of the worst earthquakes in over 80 years, more than 10,000 people are believed to have died in the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal. Living in and practicing dentistry in the capital of Kathmandu, dentist Dr Sushil Koirala has been directly affected by the disaster. Dental Tribune Asia Pacific had the opportunity to talk to him briefly about the situation in the country and how the international community can help it to overcome the humanitarian crisis.

Dental Tribune Asia Pacific: The earthquake on 25 April had a devastating effect on your country’s infrastructure and its people. What is the situation currently in Kathmandu, and how have you been affected personally?

Dr Sushil Koirala: The situation in Kathmandu at present remains very difficult owing to the extensive damage to many public buildings, government offices and schools. Nearly 7,500 lives have been lost and 14,500 people have been injured. Those who survived the earthquake are traumatised.

While physically my family and I are fine, we are still pretty much in shock. My children are very distressed because they were alone at home during the first episode of the earthquake. Some of my staff from the hospitals and clinics lost their houses unfortunately and have to stay with relatives for the moment. Those who survived the earthquake are traumatised.

Have you heard from colleagues in other parts of the country, and if so what is their situation?

Most of my dental colleagues are unharmed, but many of them are facing problems with their damaged clinics. Most of the dental hospitals in Kathmandu are still closed owing to the damage and employees not being able to work because they are busy rebuilding their lives.

Various agencies have estimated that more than eight million people across 59 of the country’s 75 districts have been affected by the earthquake. The most

“We are still pretty much in shock”

An interview with Nepalese dentist Dr Sushil Koirala

Monk looking at destruction caused by the 25 April earthquake in the Nepalese capital Kathmandu. Damages are estimated at US$200 million. (Photo Narindra Shrestha/EPA)