



World Dental Federation
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Welcome Ceremony

Orlando Monteiro da Silva

Honoured guests:

From the Ministry of Health of the People's Republic of China:

Minister of Health, Professor Chen Zhu,

Deputy Director-General, Department of International Cooperation, Dr Liji WANG,

Deputy Director-General, Department of Diseases Prevention and Control, Dr

Lingzhi KONG,

From the Ministry of Health of the Government of Special Administrative Region of Hong Kong: (names to be filled in)

From the Federal Republic of Nigeria

Mr Danjuma Sheni, consul general in Hong Kong,

Mrs Fatima Bamidele, Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Health,

Dr Mrs Adebimpe Adebisi, Chief Dental Surgeon of Nigeria

Dr Sigmund Leung and other members of the Local Organising Committee,

Esteemed delegates to the 100th FDI Annual World Dental Congress,

Ladies and gentlemen,

I inaugurated my presidency half a world away—over 14,000 km—in Mexico City, and I am delighted to be able to address you as FDI President today. It is gratifying to see so many of you here for this celebratory 100th anniversary Congress of our great federation: it is, as you are probably aware, one of the oldest federations of its kind in the world today.

This is the second time that an FDI Annual Congress has taken place in Hong Kong. The first time was in 1995. The world has changed a lot since then. FDI has had to change with it. But let us not look back: what is more important today is the future: where do we want to go, what direction do we want to move in?

I would say that this last year has been a perfect illustration of FDI's power to move forward: after over 100 years working within a specific model oral care that served both the profession and patients well, FDI found itself confronted by a new reality, a watershed moment for our relations with the health authorities, other medical professions and, most of all, the needs and demands for oral health care from peoples around the globe. In short: Oral health as a fundamental human right!

In response, following our meetings in Mexico City, we set up a task force to examine and respond to the opportunities and threats to the profession during the coming years.

The results of these deliberations are laid out in our Vision 2020 document, presented to our members at a special forum yesterday. It is a document to map the future of dental medicine and provide inspiration to the profession and prepare it for the new and exciting partnerships in leading the world to optimal oral health.

Vision 2020 demonstrates FDI's agility and determination to address issues such as the huge disparities in access to oral care between countries and within countries between urban rural areas.

Mr Minister, I am well informed of the steps you have taken and the contribution you have made to furthering the cause of oral health and increasing access in the People's Republic of China. It is a huge challenge. May we congratulate you for taking this initiative.

On the international level, FDI is taking up the same challenge at this landmark Congress under the theme 'Leading the world to a new century of oral health'.

I would like to thank our colleagues at the Hong Kong Dental Association—and in particular my friend Dr Sigmund Leung—for all your efforts in making this event here today possible.

Ladies and gentlemen, this is a very special occasion: today we are celebrating the 100th FDI Annual World Dental Congress. Welcome to Hong Kong, welcome to our 100th congress. Enjoy!