International Section XX Making History Inducting over One Hundred New Fellows

In widely separated Regions of the International College of Dentists, interest in ICD Fellowship and global collaboration is pushing The College higher and higher.

Region 34 West Africa: Off and Running

A VERY SUCCESSFUL INAUGURAL INITIATION CEREMONY was conducted for the new ICD Region 34 West Africa in Accra, Ghana on January 21, 2011. ICD Councilor Christopher Ogunsalu (Jamaica), who is originally from Nigeria, and Fellow Ambrose Obiechina (Nigeria) sponsored the 39 candidates who submitted Candidate Information Forms and were welcomed into Fellowship with an elaborate ceremony and rousing reception. ICD Secretary General Jack Hinterman met with candidates for local ICD leadership, created
a Region 34 organizational plan and installed Regional leaders for its two Districts, Ghana and Nigeria. Job descriptions and terms of office were part of the sendoff efforts. It is expected that this plan will serve as a model for other new and existing Regions.

For the first time in ICD’s 80 year history, a Councilor for ICD Section XX African Sector was designated for installation by The International Council in October. She is Dr. Gbemisola Agbelusi of Lagos, Nigeria. Councilor-designate Agbelusi has created a Facebook page for the Region and is already talking to Fellows in other parts of Africa about extending the reach of the College. Together with their Councilor, Regent Ebenezer Nyako (Ghana) and Vice Regent Ambrose Obiechina are now organizing plans for meetings and projects that will help the Region and its Fellows fulfill the mission and goals of the ICD. Welcome, Africa, to the ICD worldwide family!

A Stunning Return for Region 31 Viet Nam

HAVING LOST CONTACT WITH THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL in recent years, ICD Region 31 Viet Nam returned to The College with great numbers and enthusiasm on April 6, 2012 in Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam. Ten years after being originally initiated, nineteen of the original 24 founding Fellows proudly brought along the next generation of ICD Fellows with an additional 58 new Fellows being initiated in ceremonies sponsored by their dental school, The Faculty of Odonto-Stomatology. The wonderful reception and banquet which followed celebrated both the past and future of ICD in Viet Nam. Associate Professor Le DucLahn, Dean, Ho Chi Minh City, was installed as Regent. The
Vice Regent is Associate Professor Trinh DinhHai, Director, Hanoi National Hospital of Odonto-Stomatology and President of the Viet Nam Association of Odoto-Stomatology.

Dr. Hoang Trong Hung organized the local events and will stay on as Secretary. Dr. AhnLahn was installed as Treasurer and Dr. Hoang Tu Hung, the founding Regent was named Region 31 Viet Nam Editor. Secretary General Jack Hinterman presented a new Charter and flag to the Region which was granted by The International Council. These events occurred in great part due to the activism of ICD Past President Manfred Seidemann who works diligently from his home in Chile and also by travel to Viet Nam to achieve this great new beginning.

A Start for ICD in Kazakhstan

ICD VICE PRESIDENT WOONG YANG (KOREA) REPORTED that a successful initiation of 17 Fellows occurred in February in Kazakhstan as well as the granting of the ICD Charter to new ICD Region 39, Kazakhstan. Dr. Yang will host two dentists from Kazakhstan in Korea this year for additional ICD assistance in organizing the Region. It will take Region 39 some time to organize because of the difficulty of doing business there. For example, it will take months for the Region to complete the process of opening a bank account. Language is also a barrier. The country has its own language and its own alphabet. Interpreters are not able to successfully convey meaning. Dr. Yang financially sponsored the effort and traveled to Kazakhstan to conduct the Initiation ceremonies.
Leading the Way: Dental Educators

It should be noted that the highest ranking dental school administrators and educators are at the forefront of the new and reactivating ICD Regions. Secretary General Hinterman was asked to give a lecture during a faculty continuing education program in Viet Nam on international affairs pertaining to dentistry. There is great interest by these academic communities in international collaboration and ICD is seen as a facilitator in this regard. The Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) has adopted reciprocity for dentists and dental schools and requires Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs) between the dental schools of these nations.

There is now growing interest by dental schools there in all things international. International relationships are one of the measures by which they are ranked. Most have an officer assigned to international affairs. Specific requests are often mentioned, for example in Viet Nam educators expressed the desire to learn more about e-education. In Africa there was great interest in implantology training. The International College of Dentists is well positioned to facilitate international collaboration between dental schools worldwide. Dental education was one of the original goals of ICD at its founding. It would seem that globalization presents The College with new ways to pursue its original mission.