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## Malaysia hosting dental congress

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KUALA LUMPUR, Fri - Malaysia is hosting the 89th FDI World Dental Congress 2001 from Sept 22 to Oct 1 - the first developing country to do so.

More than 10,000 dentists, dental auxiliaries and members of the dental industry from over 100 countries are expected to participate in the congress themed "Dentistry in the New Millennium - A High Tech Revolution" jointly organised by the FDI World Dental Federation and Malaysian Dental Association.

It will be opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at Putra Stadium, National Sports Complex, Bukit Jalil on Sept 27.

Congress local organising committee chairman Datuk Dr A. Ratnanesan said the congress would touch on three aspects - business meetings, scientific programmes and the world dental exhibition.

"The main objective of the congress is to feature the progress that dentistry has made over the years besides the presentation of state-of-the-art dentistry, both in the scientific programmes and exhibition," he told the New Straits Times today.

The business meetings are scheduled for Sept 22 to Sept 27 and the scientific programmes and world dental exhibition from Sept 28 to Oct 1 at Putra World Trade Centre.

Dr Ratnanesan, said top experts in various specialities would speak on advances in dentistry.

The dental exhibition, he added, would feature the latest state-of-the-art technology in equipment, materials and allied sciences, while the business meetings would discuss political developments in dentistry and the future direction of the FDI.

Dr Ratnanesan, who is also the Malaysian Dental Association chairman said the focus of the congress is on oral health care.

He said the outcome of all deliberation at the congress would all be documented and be circulated to all National Dental Associations.

FDI Executive director Dr Perake Zillen who arrived in Malaysia from London today to do the final inspection of arrangements for the congress said the FDI was an old organisation which represented some 750,000 dentists worldwide.

"We work closely with the World Health Organisation and United Nations and their different bodies, and our goal together is to have the best oral care for the people in the world," Dr Zillen said.

"We are pleased with the arrangements made by the Malaysian Dental Association and other organisations for the forthcoming congress.

"The FDI is also happy to announce that Dr Ratnanesan would be the first person from a developing country to take over the presidency of the FDI World Dental Federation, starting Sept 27," he added.

Dr Ratnanesan is scheduled to hold the presidency post for a period of two years.

Dr Zillen said some 200 international speakers and presenters are scheduled to give talks during the congress. Also, 400 exhibitors, mostly from overseas, will display their products - dental-related equipment and materials at the exhibition.

The hosting of the congress was made a reality through the support and encouragement of Dr Mahathir and Health Minister Datuk Chua Jui Meng.

The key officials to the congress are scheduled to arrive in Malaysia on Sept 19 onwards while the main delegates will arrive by Sept 24.

The 2000 congress was held in Paris.