



# English Newsletter of KDHA Provided by KDHA Newsletter Committees

## ISSUES

### Proud 50-year history, and greater future in the next 100 years Successful 50th anniversary celebration for Korean dental hygienist education Dental hygienists, taking pride in maintaining public health

The 37th Conference and Korean Dental Hygiene Exhibition (KDHEX) were held at COEX on July 11 and 12 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the commencement of dental hygienist education in Korea.

Despite the heat wave with temperatures rising above 30°C, the event, hosted by the Korean Dental Hygienists Association (KDHA: President Moon Kyung-sook), was a great success with some 50 guests from government agencies, the National Assembly, public healthcare sector and dentistry sector including KDHA President Moon Kyung-sook, Chairman Kim Chun-jin of the National Assembly Health and Welfare Committee (NAHWC), President JoAnn Gurenlian of the International Federation of Dental Hygienists (IFDH), President Noriko Takei and Advisor Noriko Kanazawa of the Japan Dental Hygienists Association (JDHA), President Choi Nam-seop of the Korean Dental Association (KDA), and President Choi Geum-suk of the Korean National Council of Women, as well as around 5,000 dental hygienists, and students and professors specializing in dental hygiene in attendance.

At the opening ceremony, KDHA President Moon said, "We have dedicated a half of a century to education, and we are undertaking a new challenge to make history by creating a greater future in the next 100 years, based on our proud history of 50 years. Oral health management will become the most important field in promoting the quality of life in

the future, and the solution lies in dental hygienists."

President Moon repeatedly extended her gratitude to Ji Heon-taek, an advisor to KDHA and the founder of dental hygienist education in Korea, which moved the attendees' hearts.

Following the opening address, Kim Chun-jin, the Chairman of NAHWC, gave the first congratulatory address stating, "I believe it is thanks to dental hygienists, who played an immense role in dental care and dental disease prevention, that Korea developed into an icon of longevity." He received a roaring applause when he said, "If dental hygienists gather in unison, with like-mindedness, they will be able to stand at the center of the world." Yang Yun-seon, the Head of Oral Health Department, spoke on behalf of Moon Hyung-pyo, the Minister of Health and Welfare: "The role of dental hygienists is highly important. I hope you stay committed to enhancing your expertise, as public oral health promoters."

JoAnn Gurenlian, the President of IFDH, took the stage amidst an enthusiastic applause from the audience. During her speech, she said, "It is a great pleasure to share this honorable moment with you. I sincerely hope that you can attend the International Symposium on Dental Hygiene to be held in Switzerland in 2016."

Noriko Takei, the President of JDHA, said, "I hope to strengthen the



Successful 50th anniversary celebration for Korean dental hygienist education

solidarity between our associations and promote mutual development so as to further contribute in our aging societies, with the competencies of dental hygienists."

## An enriching academic celebration filled with lectures and poster presentations

The academic conference was held at 7 lecture halls in COEX, Seoul on July 11 and 12 under the slogan, "50 Years of Dental Hygienist Education in Korea: Moving Forward to the Center of the World!" A wide variety of academic programs were in store for the participants to provide them with the latest trends and information related to dental hygiene education, research and clinical settings.

The academic conference was kicked off with a lecture given by IFDH President JoAnn Gurenlian under the theme of "Operability of CODA Dental Hygiene Program and Efficient Utilization of Dental Hygienists," and a total of 48 lectures were given.

What especially garnered people's attention was President Gurenlian's lecture, which touched upon the standards for dental hygienist education at vocational colleges and clinical practicum criteria set forth by the American Dental Hygienists Association (ADHA) under in relation to the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) program.

On the same day, keynote lectures were given by Kim Sook-hyang, the first President of KDHA and incumbent professor at Hanseo University, KDHA Advisor Kim Jong-yeol, who is also the Head of Dental Hygiene Department at Yonsei University Medical Technology Training Center, and Jeong Won-gyun, a professor at Yonsei University

who authored a book on the 50-year history of dental hygienist education in Korea. The keynote speakers shed light on the 50-year history of dental hygienist education and the future direction of the discipline.

On the second day, JDHA Advisor Noriko Kanazawa drew attention from the participants, with a presentation on the dental hygienist system of Japan and the oral health policy implemented for the aging society of Japan.

In addition, some 40 posters communicating the results of dental hygiene research as well as various other oral health education media exhibitions and table clinics caught everyone's eye. (Cont'd on Page 2)

## Moon Kyung-sook, appointed the 17th KDHA President Moon, wins 70% of the votes among 122 representatives In office for 3 years from March 1

The Korean Dental Hygienists Association (KDHA) held the 34th General Assembly of Representatives at Grand Hilton in Hongeundong, Seoul on February, and elected Mook Kyung-sook (age: 63) as the 17th President of KDHA. The president-elect earned 70% (86 votes) of the 122 valid votes after contending against candidate Kim Won-sook.

Moon has previously served as the 6th, 7th, 8th, 12th, 13th and 14th president of KDHA, and held positions as the President of the Korean Federation of Medical Technicians and board member of the Korean National Council of Women and the National Health Personnel Licensing Examination Board. She is currently the Chair of the Korean Dental Management Association.



Moon Kyung-sook, appointed the 17th KDHA President

## Based on Communication and Harmony

Prior to the election, the president-elect appealed to the representatives by making 7 pledges including creating "an association of communication and harmony" and "an association that pays heed to the grievances of the members," which won over the representatives with voting power.

During the campaign speech given prior to voting, Moon repeatedly stressed her determination to improve the election system and resolve the pending issues.

Moon said, "This year marks the half-century anniversary of the sowing of the 'seeds of dental hygienists' on this land, KDHA, which will soon have 100,000 registered members, faces major issues including the Medical Device Act. This is a time when consolidation of the power of members nationwide is essential. It is time for KDHA to move forward with an individual with strong leadership skills through communication and harmony."

Kang Bu-wol (Dongnam Health College), Kang Myeong-suk

(Misarang Dental Clinic), Jeong Jae-yeon (Hanyang Women's University) and Kim Min-jeong (Brainspec), candidates who ran for office with President-Elect Moon, will be serving as vice presidents.

The new president and vice presidents will be leading KDHA for the next 3 years until February 2018, alongside the executives who will be appointed at a later date.

## KDHA President Moon Kyung-sook, features on Yonhap News TV PR for the dental hygiene profession in prime time to heighten public interest



KDHA President Moon Kyung-sook, features on Yonhap News TV

Moon Kyung-sook, the President of Korean Dental Hygienists Association (KDHA), promoted the dental hygiene profession on live TV.

KDHA President Moon was featured on "Yonhap News 20," a live show on YTN that aired at 8:20 p.m. on July 14. During a 10-minute appear-

ance, President Moon discussed the achievements and significance of dental hygienist education in Korea over the past 50 years as well as the roles of and education and training requirements for hygienists.

She said, "With the recognition of dental hygienist as a specialized profession in oral health care, there have been a growing number of male applicants for dental hygienist education programs in schools. Dental hygienist education can lead to increased job opportunities compared to other fields." She also asserted that there are an increased number of dentist offices displaying their dental hygienists' licenses, in addition to those of the dentists, in order to gain patient trust, noting the growing prominence and influence of dental hygienists.

She also stressed the importance of utilizing dental hygienists at the state level as a measure to promote public oral health, similar to other advanced countries.

President Moon further added, "Prevention of cavity and gum disease is possible with a bit of interest, so education and preventive care could be provided for people across the ages as a preventive measure. There

should be an oral health care office in all of the elementary schools, and dental hygienists, who are specialized oral health care professionals, should be assigned to the offices as a mandatory requirement."

Near the end of the program, Moon emphasized the need for oral health care to be readily accessible to the general public and asked for active support from the government.

She stated, "The state needs to expand the support, budget and policies for oral health care. Dental hygienists, with specialized expertise and skills, can promote public oral health care."

She also informed the viewers of the conference to be held on July 11 and 12 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of dental hygienist education in Korea, and the International Symposium on Dental Hygiene (ISDH) set to be held in Seoul in 2019.

The interview was met with rave reviews, with dental hygienists voicing favorable comments: "This was an immense opportunity to promote the dental hygienist profession," "I was proud to be dental hygienist. Thank you," etc.

## KDHA, preparing for ISDH 2019 A meeting with IFDH President JoAnn Gurenlian

The presidents of the Korean Dental Hygienists Association (KDHA; President Moon Kyung-sook) and the International Federation of Dental Hygienists (IFDH; President JoAnn Gurenlian) consulted on matters related to the International Symposium on Dental Hygiene (ISDH), set to be held in Seoul in 2019.

IFDH President JoAnn Gurenlian paid a visit to Korea for 6 days from July 8 to 13, with a special invitation from KDHA in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the beginning of dental hygienist education in Korea. Under the guidance of KDHA, Gurenlian toured the dental clinics and hospitals as well as dental hygienist education facilities.

On July 10, Gurenlian visited the Dental Hygienists Building for a

meeting regarding the 2019 ISDH. Moon Kyung-sook, the President of KDHA, vice presidents Kang Bu-wol, Jeong Jae-yeon and Kim Min-jeong and International Director Cheon Se-hee were present at the meeting for an in-depth discussion of interchanges between IFDH and KDHA as well as the support measures for the 2019 ISDH.

At the meeting, Moon introduced the matters related to the preparation for the 2019 ISDH and requested cooperation for public relations purposes and to ensure the successful hosting of the symposium. In response, Gurenlian promised to provide full-fledged support.

Gurenlian said, "Korea is an appealing host country, and I expected there will be numerous participants. IFDH will cooperate and communi-



KDHA, preparing for ISDH 2019

cate with KDHA to ensure the success of the event."

KDHA is set to announce the matters related to the preparation of the 2019 ISDH at the meeting of the ISDH House of Delegates (HoD) held in Switzerland in 2016.

## Successful 50th anniversary celebration for Korean dental hygienist education (Cont'd from Page 1) 50-year history of dental hygienist education for public oral health

The conference shed light on the 50-year history of dental hygienist education in Korea through back-to-back events and programs including keynote lectures, history hall opening ceremony, commemorative ceremony and special events.

On the first day, the commemorative ceremony was kicked off with 대북시타, an event organized to celebrate the 50-year history of dental hygienist education and to wish for further advances in the next 100 years. It was followed by a sand art presentation depicting the 50-year history, screening of a special film and meeting with the first generation of veterans of dental hygienist education.

The 50-year history hall, which was open throughout the conference, served as the venue for various exhibitions, providing a glimpse into the transformation of dental hygienist education, featuring photographs and posters of dental hygienists, presenting history videos on high-resolution LCD screens, and displaying academic journals and 50-year history pamphlet. On display were the latest dental equipment and instruments and oral health care items from major dental equipment manufacturers including Shinhung, Osstem Implant and Philips, and special sale and discount events, volunteer consultation booths and ISDH PR booth were also in store for the participants.



Successful 50th anniversary celebration for Korean dental hygienist education



Presenting the 50-year history of dental hygienist education

## Presenting the 50-year history of dental hygienist education Official issuance of "The 50-Year History of Dental Hygienist Education in Korea"



Presenting the 50-year history of dental hygienist education

A book has been published to shed light on the 50-year history of dental hygienist education in Korea, from the first dental hygienist education and training program conducted at Severance Hospital of Yonsei University School of Medicine starting in 1965 to the establishment of dental hygiene departments and doctorate programs at 82 schools in 2015.

Titled, "The 50-Year History of Dental Hygienist Education in Korea," the book was officially published to

commemorate the 50th anniversary of the beginning of dental hygienist education in Korea by the Korean Dental Hygienists Association (KDHA; President Moon Kyung-sook) and Korean Association of Dental Hygiene Professors.

The 285-page book provides information on the transformation of dental hygienist education in Korea throughout the years from the 1960s until the 2000s in chronological order. Various administrative, clinical and healthcare events in the dental hygiene industry as well as the trends in dental hygienist education and research are introduced along with photographs. In the beginning of the book, a chronological list and summarized history provide a glimpse into the 50-year history of dental hygienist education in Korea, while the appendices in the back of the book provide information on the dental hygienist education programs at schools, national license examinations for dental hygienists, and academic society programs and events.

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## Urgent need for long-term employment of dental hygienists A forum for sound employment of women in the dental workforce



A forum for sound employment of women in the dental workforce

The need for practical measures for long-term employment of dental hygienists was recognized by the dental industry to improve the quality of dental service and ease financial difficulties in the industry.

The Korean Dental Association (KDA; President Choi Nam-seop) hosted a forum at the main conference room on the fourth floor of the Dental Hygienists Building under the theme of "Sound Employment of Women in the Dental Workforce."

Moon Kyung-sook, the President of the Korean Dental Hygienists Association, said, "In order for the dental industry to promote public oral health, there is a need to create a work environment where dental hygienists feel pride in their profession. I hope that this forum serves as an impetus for those in the dental industry to engage in mutual cooperation to fulfill their responsibility for promoting public health, and for the government to provide active support to this end."

### Increased idle manpower caused by childbirth and child-rearing

At the forum, Kang Jeong-hun, the Dental Affairs Director of KDA, Yun Mi-suk, the Training Director of KDHA, Choi Jong-hyeon, a member of the Expert Committee of the Korean Licensed Practical Nurses Association, and others gave presentations on the work environment of professionals in the dental industry, challenges and policy directions, and proposals for long-term employment of dental hygienists.

All of the presenters noted that women in the dental workforce had their careers suspended due to marriage, childbirth and child-rearing, and pointed out that this has led to increased idle manpower. From this aspect, propositions were made for KDA's policy direction: improve and promote the part-time employment policy; expand education programs for idle manpower and the substitute manpower

banking program; improve policies concerning dental hygienists and practical nurses; and secure manpower for dental clinics and hospitals in the rural areas.

KDA Director Kang drew attention by proposing measures to divide the roles and responsibilities among different professions to relieve the manpower shortages in the rural areas. He said, "In order to provide the necessary dental services, within the legal boundaries, we need to allow clinics that only have practical nurses on their staff to perform dental work by improving the relevant statutes. Similarly, I believe it is possible for dental hygienists to perform a certain type of work in cases where dentists are absent."

### A need to think together

For long-term employment of dental hygienists, KDHA Training Director Yun proposed standardization of duties and responsibilities at dental clinics and hospitals, joint development of education and training programs tailored to the required roles and responsibilities, and operation of substitute manpower pooling system (manpower pool network).

She also stressed the need to seek long-term employment measures such as promotion of re-employment at the government and industry levels, systematic measures to create a career disruption prevention system, and review of the SBC plan. Yun said, "Creating sound job opportunities for dental hygienists is fundamental for providing reliable dental services to the public. It is important that we prepare long-term employment measures to prevent dental hygienists from leaving the dental industry, and government support and industry efforts, taking into consideration the social characteristics of the dental industry and women, are necessary."

KDA Vice President Park Yeong-seop, who served as the presenter at the forum, said, "The average age of dental hygienists in the U.S.A. is 45 years old, whereas it is 24.7 years old in Korea. I hope that those in the dental industry work together to solve this problem to ensure long-term employment of women, whose careers may come to a halt due to childbirth and child-rearing."

## KDA and KDHA cooperating to ensure re-employment after career disruption

The Korean Dental Hygienists Association (KDHA) and the Korean Dental Association (KDA) joined forces to provide assistance to dental hygienists, whose careers have been suspended, to return to the workforce. The partnership agreement was concluded to conduct training and re-employment assistance programs for dental hygienists seeking re-employment after career disruptions, thereby easing the mental burden on dental hygienists returning to the workforce and mitigating the issue of employee shortages in the dental industry. KDHA, KDA and Career Net held the Business Agreement Ceremony for Substitute Manpower Banking Program at the Palace Hotel Seoul on ( 월 필요) 13th and agreed to provide assistance to new and idle dental hygienists searching for jobs. The three parties

agreed to provide support for idle manpower to find re-employment as a measure to ensure a stable supply of manpower to the dental industry and to collaborate in conducting job training programs.

Based on the partnership established by the two organizations, education and training was provided to dental hygienists seeking re-employment after career disruptions in October and November. The first education session was conducted under the theme of "Dental Health Insurance Claims" at the Dental Hygienist Education Center of KDHA on October 24 and 25, and the second education session was conducted under the theme of "Clinical Dental Work (Scaling, Implant, etc.," at the Dentists Center on November 14 and 15.



KDA and KDHA cooperating to ensure re-employment after career disruption

## Reinforcing communication in the dental industry Official meeting of representative dental organizations incl. KDHA



Official meeting of representative dental organizations incl. KDHA

Representative organizations of the dental industry gathered together for an official meeting for mutual development and cooperation purposes. The Korean Dental Hygienists Association (KDHA), Korean Dental Technologist Association (KDTA) and Korea Dental Industry Association (KDIA) held a meeting at Luxing, a Chinese restaurant on the basement floor of Seoul Square Building on November 2 for a in-depth discussion of the issues concerning the dental industry.

At the meeting, KDHA President Moon Kyung-sook stressed the importance of communication in building win-win relationships in the dental industry and proposed regular meetings for advancement of the dental industry. She also proposed that a joint event be held

once every three years as a means to build public trust in the dental industry.

Moon also asked the attendees for their interest and cooperation in the International Symposium on Dental Hygiene (ISDH), which is set to be held in Seoul for the first time in 2019. She explained that the successful hosting of the symposium will widely promote the excellence of the domestic dental hygienists and dental industry and further enhance the international prestige of the Korean dental industry.

In line with Moon's proposals, KDIA President Lee Yong-sik stated, "We should co-host academic and press conferences and develop them into a brand."

## KDHA MOVEMENTS

# KDHA, hosts the National Executive Training Program Promoting unison and solidarity in the dental hygienist community

Leaders of the dental hygienist community of Korea came together in unison at the 2015 Executives Training Program at the KT HR Development Center in Daejeon held by the Korean Dental Hygienists Association (KDHA; President Moon Kyung-sook) from April 4 to 5. The attendees discussed the current issues related to upholding the rights and interests of dental hygienists and raising their prestige as well as the direction of advancing the field of dental hygiene.

The Executive Training Program is a triennial event held on a national scale, with the participation of the executives of the central branch of KDHA as well as 13 municipal and provisional offices and 3 affiliated organizations.

The 2015 Executive Training Program was conducted a month after the inauguration of Moon Kyung-sook as the new head of the executive branch of KDHA. About 150 executives of the central and regional branches attended the event, and took part in a wide range of programs that boosted their sense of pride and responsibility. The opening ceremony held on April 4 included the presentation of executive badges, special lectures and a group photo shoot.

During the welcoming address, KDHA President Moon said, "This event was organized to heed the opinions of our members nationwide. This is a place where you can share your valuable opinions and insights with candor, and design the future of dental hygienists based on the results of your discussions. For this purpose, I propose the theme of the Executive Training Program to be 'Free Talking.' Please feel free to discuss various issues from minor to major issues including legislation to gain fruitful results."

The executives who came from across the country voice their opinions regarding a number of issues to further advance the field of dental hygiene: using mobile messengers and social media for communication purposes, encouraging membership registration to raise funds for the association, building an instructor pool for quality education, reinforcing the PR measures for the license registration system, organizing an overseas volunteer corps centering on the central branch of KDHA, creating a volunteer database and cooperation system, sharing nationwide PR ideas, and discovering fluent foreign language speakers for the International Symposium on Dental Hygiene (ISDH).



KDHA, hosts the National Executive Training Program

## Youth Work Experience Program Reinforcing the recognition of dental hygienists as professionals

The Korean Dental Hygienists Association (KDHA; President Moon Kyung-sook) will be conducting a youth work experience program in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, with the aim of reinforcing the recognition of dental hygienists as professionals.

KDHA concluded an agreement with the Ministry of Education and Korea Research Institute for Vocational Education and Training (KRIVET) at LW Convention Center in Jung-gu, Seoul on December 22 to jointly develop and conduct a youth work experience program and to run a liberal school term system for middle schools. Present at the agreement ceremony hosted by the Ministry of Education were representatives of seven associations including KDHA, Korea Institute of Registered Architects, Korea Coffee Association, Incheon District Bar Association, Korea Broadcasting Technology Association, Korea Internet Newspaper Association and Korea Independent Productions Association.

According to the business agreement, the Ministry of Education and KRIVET will be creating an environment to allow the career exploration programs implemented by the associations concerned to contribute to the liberal school term system. Of particular note, KDHA will be collaborating with 13 municipal and provincial branches to develop various programs for those working in the field of public oral health care, and conduct a wide range of oral health experience programs including fluoride application and tooth-brushing education.

KDHA President Moon said, "The career experience program will motivate and instill the spirit of service and pride among the students, thereby equipping them with a proper mindset toward jobs and careers."



Youth Work Experience Program

## KDHA, forms a council of dental hygienist society presidents Song Eun-ju, the Manager of KDHA Daejeon-Chungnam Branch, appointed as the first Chair



KDHA, forms a council of dental hygienist society presidents

The 17th executive branch of the Korean Dental Hygienists Association (KDHA; President Moon Kyung-sook) has organized a council of dental hygienist society presidents to fulfill one of its election pledges. Anticipation is high for further advancing the dental hygiene field through reinforced communication and win-win relationships.

At the Executive Training Program conducted on April 5, KDHA announced that the Council of Dental Hygienist Society Presidents (tentative name) has been formed with the managers of municipal and provincial branches nationwide. According to the announcement, the council will be responsible for collecting opinions from the presidents of dental hygienist societies and the public and presenting a direction for the association. A body of society presidents will be formed to collect and communicate opinions, with Song Eun-ju, the President of Daejeon-Chungnam Dental Hygienist Society, and Oh Bo-gyeong, the President of Seoul Dental Hygienist Society, as the Chairperson and Assistant Administrator, respectively.

## POLICY ISSUES

## A need to expand the operation of oral health care offices in schools KDHA and National Assemblyman Lee Mok-hee holds a policy discussion session



A need to expand the operation of oral health care offices in schools



The National Assembly of Korea has pointed out the need for compulsory establishment and operation of oral health care offices in elementary schools. The Korean Dental Hygienists Association (KDHA; President Moon Kyung-sook) and National Assemblyman Lee Mok-hee (Geumcheon-gu, Seoul) held a policy discussion session under the theme of "utilization of oral health care offices in schools for oral health care of children" at the conference room of the National Assembly Members' Office Building on October 7. The meeting was organized to seek measures to actively operate school oral health care offices, the effectiveness of which on oral health care including cavity prevention has been proven, to help children lead healthier lives.

During a presentation, Lee Sun-mi, a Professor of Dental Hygiene at Dongnam Health College, said "Multiple domestic and overseas studies have shown the positive effects of running oral health care offices in schools. An oral health care office establishment project has been implemented for elementary schools in Korea since 1999, but such offices are operated in only 7% of all elementary schools."

According to Lee, the oral health care offices in elementary schools are operated with public health dentists and dental hygienists being dispatched on a weekly basis. However, the dispatched professionals perform a limited scope of work such as oral health care education and tooth-brushing lessons, due to the reduced number of dentists on the staff and absence of full-time staff, and this renders "continuous oral health care," which is the ultimate objective of the program, impossible. Accordingly, she claimed there is a need to expand the operation of oral health care offices in schools at the national and regional levels.

**Absence of full-time staff disrupting the continuity of the program**

**A need to amend the law to allow indirect**

### instructions from dentists

Professor Lee asserted that there is a need to manage the school oral health care offices on a periodic basis to ensure efficient operation, to allow dental hygienists to be indirectly instructed by public health dentists, and to assign full-time dental hygienist staff to the offices. Other panel members taking part in the discussion supported her claims stating the need to create a legal framework to support a school oral health care office system where dentists provide indirect instructions to dental hygienists.

Lee Geun-yu, the Head of the Oral Health Team at Asan Healthcare Center, said, "It is difficult to dispatch public health dentists to the school oral health care offices on a weekly basis due to their reduced number, but it is impossible for dental hygienists to perform the work alone due to the legal restrictions. In some of the regions, oral health-care professionals are being hired as part-time or contractual workers, and this is hindering the continuity of the school oral health care program."

Kim Jin-beom, a Professor of Preventive Dentistry at Pusan National University School of Dentistry, said, "The 2014 public health insurance reimbursement reports have shown that cavity treatment costs accounted for 292,6 billion KRW per year. This excludes visible light-activated composite resin and artificial crown treatments, so the treatment costs borne by the public are actually much higher. There is a massive financial burden on the public and those in the economically vulnerable classes chew with their gums, but the Ministry of Health and Welfare has done very little to promote the oral health of the public."

According to Professor Kim, dental prosthesis treatment costs are entirely borne by individuals under the age of 70, who cannot receive any support from the National Health Insurance Service, and the annual dental care costs are estimated to exceed 10 trillion KRW.

On behalf of the parents of school children, Choi Jong-wan, the Head of External Cooperation Committee of the Federation of Korea School Governing Committees, said, "It is shocking that there is only one elementary school with an oral health care office in Seoul, the iconic city of Korea. With the declining number of public health dentists, we cannot alleviate the inequality among children in terms of oral health care just by relying on dispatching professionals to these offices."

Yang Yun-seon, the Head of Oral Health Department of the Ministry of Health and Welfare, promised that MHW will dedicate its efforts toward the operation of oral health care offices in schools by conducting as-is surveys on manpower and facilities.

Jeong Jae-yeon, a vice president of KDHA, who chaired the discussion, said in a concluding comment, "The school oral health care office program is to promote the oral health of children, and not to employ dental hygienists. Thus, the government, the Korean Dentist Association, the Korean Dental Hygienists Association, and beneficiaries must collaborate together in searching for measures to run this program more efficiently."

Present at the opening ceremony held prior to the meeting included members of National Assembly such as Lee Mok-hee and Kim Young-hwan (Sangnok-gu, Ansan-si, Gyeonggi-do), who attended the ceremony despite their frenetic schedules, as well as KDHA President Moon Kyung-sook, KDA Vice President Park Yeong-seop, Korean Nurses Association President Kim Ok-su, Korean Licensed Practical Nurses Association President Hong Ok-nyeo, and Korea Physical Therapy Association President Jeon Beom-su.

National Assemblyman Lee Mok-hee, who hosted the discussion session, drew attention for stating that he will make sure the legislation for compulsory establishment of oral health care offices in schools gets passed at the regular National Assembly meeting.

## 8 medical organizations including KDHA, dedicated to create a health promotion culture Conclusion of a business agreement with the Korea Health Promotion Foundation

Eight affiliated organizations of the Korean Federation of Medical Technician Organizations (KFMTO) including the Korean Dental Hygienists Association concluded a business agreement with the Korea Health Promotion Foundation (KHPPF) to create a health promotion culture.

The agreement signing ceremony was held at the international conference hall of KHPPF on November 30, in the presence of KFMTO Chairman Yang Man-gil, KDHA President Moon Kyung-sook as well as the representatives of the affiliated organizations, Jang Seok-il, the President of KHPPF Development Center, and An Mun-yeong, the President of the National Tobacco Control Center.

KHPPF and the affiliated organizations of KFMTO agreed to fulfill their social responsibilities for improving public health and spreading a health promotion culture, share knowledge and information on health promotion and disease prevention, and conduct nationwide promotion activities.



8 medical organizations including KDHA, dedicated to create a health promotion culture

## A unified voice for the need to introduce a compulsory registration system for medical technicians

### National Assembly policy discussion meeting held with KDHA, etc.



A unified voice for the need to introduce a compulsory registration system for medical technicians

Despite the license registration system in place to register the employment status of medical technicians once every 3 years, only 30% of medical technicians in the workforce have been registered in the system. This is deemed to be due to the absence of a legal clause requiring medical technicians to register with their respective associations, preventing the associations from gaining information on the medical technicians working in their fields. There is an urgent need to mitigate this situation as it can have a negative impact on both the licensed professionals as well as the general public. For this reason, there is strong support for an introduction of a “compulsory association registration system” to ensure the effectiveness of the medical technician license registration system adopted to improve the quality of healthcare services and public trust in the healthcare sector.

National Assemblyman Lee Mok-hee and the Korean Federation of Medical Technician Organizations (KFMTO; Chairman Yang Man-gil) met at the conference room of the National Assembly Members’ Office Building on October 26 to seek measures to manage licensed medical technicians under the theme “Systematic Measures for Managing Licensed Medical Technicians, etc.” Representatives attending the meeting voiced the need to legislate a law on compulsory registration of licensed medical technicians with associations, in unison.

**National Assembly, KMA and KNA, agree on the need for compulsory registration**

The members of the National Assembly attending the discussion session agreed on the need to legislate such law, and supported the claims of medical technician organizations. National Assemblyman Lee Mok-hee, who hosted the meeting, said, “The license registration rate among medical technicians is merely 27% due to the arbitrary registration policy, and this may lead to illegal practices without a license. I will do my utmost so that the legislation on the compulsory registration with medical technician organizations is passed. [...] While the registration will be compulsory, I propose that the government performs thorough audits. We should enact an independent law for each type of medical technician so that they can contribute to the promotion of public health as healthcare professionals.”

The Korean Medical Association and Korean Nurses Association, which are already enforcing a compulsory registration system for doctors and nurses, also agreed on the need.

However, Park Jong-seong, Deputy Director of Healthcare Resource Policy Dept. of the Ministry of Health and Welfare, said, “The government regulations are becoming less stringent these days, and it is difficult to amend the laws to adopt a compulsory registration system for medical technicians at this point. Instead of immediate legal amendments, we hope you review the strengths and weaknesses of the current laws, and consult on the need to amend the laws with the Ministry of Health and Welfare.”

## KDHA, uses diverse social media channels to reinforce communication

The Korean Dental Hygienists Association (KDHA; President Moon Kyung-sook) is communicating closely with its members through diverse social media channels including an official blog, Instagram, Facebook, Twitter and KakaoStory.

The Information and Communications Committee of KDHA opened smartphone and social media accounts on May 29 in order to better communicate with the members.

Each of the social media pages is operated under a differentiated concept. For instance, overseas dental hygiene news and dentistry-related videos and issues are shared on Facebook, while legal matters related to dentistry and the changes in dental insurance are shared on Twitter and refresher training information is mainly provided through KakaoStory.

Ryu Eun-ha, the Director of Information and Communications at KDHA, said, “With the widespread use of smartphones, we will be providing tailored information services to our members and fulfill their needs, which have become more diverse with increased membership. We hope our members take advantage of our services on the social media platforms.”

### ■ KDHA social media pages

- Twitter(www.twitter.com): ID:kreadha
- Facebook(www.facebook.co.kr): ID:kdha@kdha.or.kr
- KakaoStory: kdha@kdha.or.kr
- Blog: dentalhygiene.tistory.com
- Instagram: krdfa77



KDHA, rebuilds its website and establishes a call center

## KDHA, rebuilds its website and establishes a call center

The Korean Dental Hygienists Association (KDHA; President Moon Kyung-sook) has reconstructed its website and established a call center for the purpose of enhancing member convenience and accessibility to the association and boosting the efficiency of administrative services.

KDHA constructed the website in September and opened the new website following the testing and stabilization stages.

The newly constructed KDHA website (www.kdha.or.kr) has improved user interface for simpler information search and for the members to leave their inquiries and obtain quick feedback and responses.

On the other hand, members can contact the call center to have consultants at the Secretariat Office of the Dental Hygienists Center connect them to the relevant departments for their inquiries.

## SEMINARS



Building clinical experience with training in Japan

## Building clinical experience with training in Japan KDHA's SDA training in Japan receiving an explosive response from participants



The Swiss Dental Academy (SDA) Korea's training program in Japan was successfully concluded amid rave reviews from the participants.

The Dental Hygiene Education Center of the Korean Dental Hygienists Association (KDHA; President Moon Kyung-sook) conducted the "SDA in Japan Advanced Course: Dental Hygiene Care Program" for a 4-day period from June 23 to 26.

The training program, jointly hosted by the Education and Training Committee of KDHA and

EMS, comprised of diverse lectures on periodontal treatment, oral prophylaxis practice and use of periodontal instruments, with the participation of 9 dental hygienists including clinicians and professors.

The training program was mainly focused on building practical skills. First, Dr. Yauko Takuchi (representative of SDA Japan) gave a lecture on periodontal care using EMS Piezon air-flow under the theme of "Prophylaxis and the Role of Dental Hygienists."

Students had a chance to experience the job duties of dental hygienists in Japan, who perform probing, BOP and plaque probing, unlike in Korea where dental hygienists' duties are limited to "exploration" in the case of subgingival probing. Students practiced these methods under the guidance of four EMS educators and Dr. Takeuchi.

The Education and Training Committee of KDHA is planning to conduct another overseas training program in the next summer.

## KDHA, forms a refresher training evaluation group Field inspection of refresher training for dental hygienists



KDHA, forms a refresher training evaluation group

The Korean Dental Hygienists Association (KDHA; President Moon Kyung-sook) has organized a refresher training evaluation group to qualitatively improve the refresher training provided to dental hygienists and evaluate the commissioned training centers.

The refresher training evaluation group aims to perform thorough supervision and management of refresher training for dental hygienists required by the Ministry of Health and Welfare.

The evaluation group, chaired by KDHA

President Moon and vice-chaired by Vice President Kim Min-jeong, is comprised of Training Director Yun Mi-suk, Kim Eun-jae (outside professor at Yonsei Univ.), Park Jeong-yi and Kang Jeong-mi (dept. heads at Miso Dental Clinic), Kim Su-yeon (dental hygienist at Jukjeon Dental Hospital of Dankook Univ.) and Jeong Ui-seok (former Vice Dept. Head at Natural Dental Clinic).

KDHA held a member appointment ceremony at the Dental Hygienists Center on April 18 and discussed the direction of activities for the evaluation group.

The refresher training evaluation group will be in charge of conducting field inspections of refresher training provided by the organizations under KDHA and play a central role in improving direction and environment of refresher training.

## Education fervor among dental hygienists Some 1,200 members taking part in the refresher and supplementary training

The education fervor among dental hygienists was observed when more than 1,200 members of the Korean Dental Hygienists Association (KDHA; President Moon Kyung-sook) took part in the 2015 Field Supplementary and Refresher Training Program held at COEX in Seoul on November 29.

The supplementary and refresher training program was organized for members who were unable to complete the required training to maintain their licenses.

There were a wide variety of lectures geared toward practical clinical skills for dental hygienists who had few opportunities to complete the refresher training as necessary due to their busy work schedules.

The first part of the morning lectures included "Dental Medicine: Stories for Improving Listening Skills and Empathy (Park Yeong-guk, Professor of Dentistry at Kyung Hee Univ.)," "Role of and Outlook on Dental Hygienists in Oral Health Care for Seniors and at Nursing Facilities (Kim Nam-hee, Professor of Dental Hygiene at Yonsei Univ.)," "Prevention of Sexual Harassment in the Workplace (Kim Mi-yeong, Head of Yeosu Domestic and Sexual Assault Counseling Center)," "Necrosis of Jawbones Caused by Osteoporosis Treatment Drugs (Hwang Su-jeong, Professor of Dental Hygiene at Konyang Univ.)."

The lectures that followed included "Shedding a New Light on the 50-Year History of Dental Hygienist Education in Korea (Jeong Won-gyun, Professor of Dental Hygiene at Yonsei Univ.)," "Direction of Dental Hygienists' Work (Hwang Yun-suk, Professor of Dental Hygiene at Hanyang Women's Univ.)," "The Latest Trends in Clinical Preventive Dental Care (Kim Baek-il, Professor at Yonsei Univ. School of Dentistry)," and "Infection Control at the Dental Hospital of the 8th US Army Forces Korea (Park Dong-su, Colonel at the US



Some 1,200 members taking part in the refresher and supplementary training

Carius Dental Clinic."

The first part of the afternoon lectures included "Understanding of Successful Conservation Treatment (Lee Seung-jun, Seoul High An Dental Clinic)," "Aesthetic Prosthetic Treatment for Adult Patients: Understanding of Treatment and Role of Dental Hygienists (Im Jung-gi, Director of Yon Dental Clinic)," "Labor Act for Employees (from Recruitment to Resignation) (Park Jong-cheon, certified labor attorney at Cheongdam Labor Law Firm)," "Future of Dentistry 2: Digital Innovation - Understanding of Intra-Oral Scanners (Namsung Yuna, Head of Oral Scan Team at CK Dental Hospital)," "Future of Dentistry: Digital Innovation ? Digital Data Transmission and Software Design (Jeong Min-su, Director of Caredent Korea)."

The lectures in the last hour included "Smoking Cessation Guidance at Dental Care Offices (No Hee-jin, Professor of Oral Hygiene at Yonsei Univ.)," "Ultrasonic Scaling Using the Electromagnetic Field (Im Eun-hee, dental hygienist at Dentsply)," "Changes in the Dental Health Insurance in 2015 (Lee Su-jeong, dental hygienist at Osstem Implant)," and "Image Consulting for Successful Leaders (Kang Jin-ju, Director of Personal Image Research Center)."

KDHA will also be providing its members a chance to fulfill the refresher training requirements through an online refresher training program.

## A workshop for KDHA executives and employees Major business plans of the sub-committees inspected

The Korean Dental Hygienists Association (KDHA; President Moon Kyung-sook) held a workshop for its executives and employees at the Sinheung Yangji Training Center in Yongin, Gyeonggi-do from December 18 to 19 for the purpose of establishing a business plan for 2016.

The workshop was organized for an in-depth review of the business plan and budget proposal for the year 2016 and to reinforce solidarity and communication among the sub-committees.

KDHA President Moon said, "This is meaningful for the executives and employees to gather together and wrap up the year 2015. I hope that the workshop serves as a impetus for building unity and promoting communication among the committees. Everyone has a lot to bear on their shoulders. I believe the 17th executive branch of KDHA has set the necessary vision this past year. The 2 remaining years of our tenure will be especially important. I ask that you fulfill your duties with a strong sense of responsibility."

KDHA plans to dedicate its efforts toward research and development activities for the pur-



A workshop for KDHA executives and employees

pose of improving the welfare of dental hygienists as well as the government policy adjustment project. In addition, they decided to make full-fledged preparations for the International Symposium on Dental Hygiene (ISDH), scheduled to be held in Seoul in 2019, by participating in ISDH Switzerland next year and reconstructing the English version of the KDHA website.

KDHA will also aggressively conduct its projects, in collaboration with the branch offices, and perform digitization of the clerical work and historical documents and resources.

## SOCIAL CONTRIBUTION

# KDHA members, contributing to the oral health care of military officers KDHA wraps up the military oral health care program for the year 2015



KDHA members, contributing to the oral health care of military officers

The Korean Dental Hygienists Association (KDHA; President Moon Kyung-sook) successfully wrapped up the 2015 Oral Health Care Program for Military Officers.

Representatives of KDHA visited the First Air Cavalry Brigade of the Special Operations Command on December 10 to provide oral health care services for military officers for one last time.

With the participation of the Seoul Dental Hygienist Society (President Oh Bo-gyeong), diverse oral health care programs were provided to some 130 military officers.

Oral bacteria exam was performed using a surface coloring agent, and oral health education was provided in relation to proper tooth-brushing techniques and use of oral hygiene products.

A representative of KDHA noted, "There were many military officers who failed to take proper care of their oral health, and the education program was met with a favorable response. We hope dental hygienists, who are experts in oral health care, contribute to the oral health management activities next year as well."

KDHA initiated the 2015 Oral Health Care Program for Military Officers on March 16 with a visit to the Third Air Cavalry Brigade and provided oral care services and education through 6 sessions in total.

Dental hygienists participating in the program gave presentations on the occupation and role of dental hygienists, causes and symptoms of periodontal diseases and preventive measures, and actual dental patient cases.

KDHA has been conducting an oral health program since last year to improve the dental care environment in the military, in collaboration with the municipal and provincial dental hygienist societies and the military medical officers. Due to a substantial increase in demand for oral health care services among the military units, KDHA expanded the program to include the Special Operations Command starting in March.

## Dental hygienists, leading the promotion of oral health of the disabled

Dental hygienists took part in an oral health event conducted for people with disabilities in time for the "Day of Changing Toothbrushes with Dental Hygienists" in March.

The "Day of Changing Toothbrushes with Dental Hygienists" is a public campaign initiated by the Korean Dental Hygienists Association (KDHA) that is conducted on the second day of March, June September and December every year. It was launched in 2009 for the purpose of raising awareness of the importance of oral health care.

This campaign conducted in collaboration with 13 municipal and provincial dental hygienist societies across the country took place at welfare facilities and centers for the disabled recently. KDHA successfully held a nationwide event to promote the oral health of the disabled in particular last

year in September, thereby promoting the importance of oral health care and the status of dental hygienists.



## Dental hygienists, visit multicultural families at the end of the year

Dental hygienists visited multicultural families for oral health programs in time for the year-end holidays.

The Korean Dental Hygienists Association (KDHA; President Moon Kyung-sook) initiated oral health care activities to assist multicultural families who are vulnerable to oral health issues, in time for the "Day of Changing Toothbrushes with Dental Hygienists" in December.

Dental hygienists visited the branch offices of

the Multicultural Family Support Center and other facilities to conduct various oral health care programs, in collaboration with the municipal and provincial dental hygienist societies, for the purpose of promoting health for multicultural families.

They provided useful health care information including scaling, tooth gap filling and health insurance coverage, which attracted much attention from the program beneficiaries.



## Dental hygienists, bringing smiles to seniors' faces

The Korean Dental Hygienists Association (KDHA; President Moon Kyung-sook) held a nationwide oral health care event for seniors in time for the "Day of Changing Toothbrushes with Dental Hygienists" in September.

The campaign conducted in multiple regions of the country, in collaboration with the municipal

and provincial societies under KDHA, targeted seniors aged 65 and over. It was praised for contributing to the enhancement of quality of life for seniors.

The executives and members of the municipal and provincial societies under KDHA visited senior centers, senior welfare centers and nursing facilities in their respective regions to provide oral health education for the purpose of raising awareness of the importance of oral health and helped seniors better understand how to take care of their teeth and dentures.

Staff at the facilities including social workers and nursing assistants were also provided with education so that they could better assist seniors, who face difficulties in performing oral care on their own.



## Seamless operation of the oral health program at the Kaesong Industrial Complex in North Korea

The South-North Korea Oral Health Association (SNKOHA), concerning the entire dental industry including the Korean Dental Hygienists Association, visited the Kaesong Industrial Complex 7 times this year to provide oral health care services for workers from South Korea. SNKOHA is a consultative organization formed by the Korean Dental Association, KDHA, Korean Dental Technologist Association (KDTA) and Korea Dental Industry Association (KDIA) and Dentist Society for Healthy Society (DSHS) for cooperation

and exchanges between North and South Korea. It is currently serving as a window for North Korea support, on behalf of the dental industry of Korea.

This year, SNKOHA provided scaling, cavity treatment and implant treatment services to workers inside a dental clinic bus and at the dental office of the Kaesong Industrial Complex Medical Center. Participating dental hygienists provided scaling services and TBI education as preventive measures, and further promoted the prestige of their profession.