



PERSATUAN DOKTOR PERGIGIAN MALAYSIA MALAYSIAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION

*Promoting the Art and Science of Dentistry
For the Benefit of the Public*

Patron: The Most Honourable Prime Minister of Malaysia

President's Message - December 2025

Dear Esteemed MDA Members,

As we come to the close of 2025, I would like to reflect on a year defined not by events alone, but by **representation, advocacy, and responsibility**—the core purpose of the Malaysian Dental Association (MDA) as the professional body representing dentists in Malaysia.

Our foremost role is to **represent the profession**, safeguard professional standards, advocate for fair and practical policies, and work constructively with stakeholders in the interest of dentists and the public we serve.

Strengthening Membership Value & Giving Back to Loyal Members

I am pleased to report that **MDA has expanded its membership privileges by leaps and bounds in 2025**. This has been a deliberate effort to ensure that membership delivers **real, tangible, and practical value**, particularly to those who have supported the Association over many years.

As part of this commitment to **giving back to our loyal members**, MDA has introduced **special preferential registration rates for SCATE 2026**, specifically recognising long-standing contribution and loyalty:

- **MDA Life Members** – *Special registration fee: RM 50*
- **MDA Members (10 years & above)** – *Special registration fee: RM 350*

These rates are not promotions, but **recognition**—a clear signal that loyalty and continuity matter, and that MDA is committed to returning value to those who stand with the Association.

Representation & Advocacy: Radiation Protection Officer (Medical)

MDA has been **actively involved since September 2019** in the *Jawatankuasa Pemandu Program Persijilan Pegawai Perlindungan Sinaran (Perubatan)* under the Bahagian Kawalselia Radiasi Perubatan (BKRP), Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia.

Our representative, **Past President Dr. Leong Kei Joe**, has consistently and firmly represented the profession's position—that dentists undergo **rigorous and structured training in dental**

radiology from undergraduate level. MDA has therefore advocated for **proportionate certification requirements** that reflect the true scope and risk profile of dental radiography.

In 2025, MDA took proactive steps to support members in navigating regulatory changes under the Atomic Energy Licensing Act 1984 (Act 304). We successfully organised our **first engagement session with the Bahagian Kawalselia Radiasi Perubatan (BKRP), Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM)** on the certification of Radiation Protection Officers (Medical).

The hybrid session held on **21 October 2025** provided practical guidance to clinic owners and practitioners, followed by the circulation of an FAQ to ensure members who could not attend were equally informed.

Recognising that this mandatory regulation affects all dental practices operating X-ray equipment, MDA further secured a dedicated session in conjunction with the **33rd MDA Scientific Convention and Trade Exhibition (SCATE)** in January 2026. This session is open to all dentists—members and non-members alike—reflecting MDA’s commitment to public interest, patient safety, and regulatory compliance across the profession at no charge.

We have also continuously appealed for the certification process to be **accessible and practical**, including allowing **virtual or hybrid attendance as well as keeping the number of credit hours to the minimum**, so dentists are not unnecessarily burdened or forced to sacrifice essential clinical time. MDA remains committed to continued engagement and follow-up with BKRP and the Ministry.

Engagement with the Ministry of Health & Public–Private Collaboration

On **12 November 2025**, MDA leadership paid a **courtesy visit** to the **Deputy Director General of Health (Oral Health), Dr. Fauziah binti Ahmad**, accompanied by a delegation of ten MDA representatives.

Discussions focused on:

- Strengthening collaboration between **KKM and MDA**
- Addressing issues affecting dental practitioners nationwide
- Exploring **public–private partnership (PPP)** models

In alignment with the **Oral Health Strategic Plan 2022–2030**, MDA was recognised as a key stakeholder representing the collective voice of dentists. Importantly, discussions explored **win–win PPP solutions**—to help ease patient overload in the public dental system, while enabling private clinics to contribute meaningfully through **structured CSR initiatives**. MDA believes this collaborative approach is essential for a sustainable and equitable oral healthcare system.



Professional Integrity & Governance: Court Decision

I wish to address the recent court judgment concerning the eligibility of Dr. Mahendran a/l V. Ponnudurai for the position of President-Elect.

On **14 November 2025**, the Shah Alam High Court declared that Dr. Mahendran did not fulfil the constitutional requirement under Article 7, Section 2(d) of the MDA Constitution, which requires a candidate to have served **two full terms on the MDA Council** prior to eligibility. This decision followed full submissions from both parties and is consistent with the MDA Elections Committee's determination in 2024.

MDA respects and abides by the Court's decision, reaffirming our commitment to upholding the Constitution, due process, and the integrity of our electoral system. Strong institutions are built on clear rules, fairness, and respect for governance.

International Standing & Professional Recognition

The year 2025 also marked a strengthening of MDA's presence on the international stage.

With great humility, I would like to humbly report that I have been elected as **Councillor of the International College of Dentists (ICD) Section XV** and appointed as **Regent for Malaysia & Brunei (Region 33)**.

Further appointments as **Advisor to the Dental South China International Expo 2026**, and **Co-Organiser and Rotating Joint Chairman of the 2026 Belt and Road Stomatology Conference**, reflect growing international recognition of Malaysian dentistry and reinforce MDA's role as a respected professional voice globally.

Platforms That Support Our Mission: MIDEDEC & SCATE

While MDA is not an event organiser by nature, platforms such as **MIDEDEC** and **SCATE** remain important tools to support our broader mission—professional development, stakeholder engagement, and representation.

MIDEDEC 2025 – A Resounding Success

The Malaysia International Dental Exhibition and Conference (MIDEDEC) 2025 marked a new high point for our profession and for MDA. The event was met with overwhelming support and participation from both the local and international dental community.

We recorded a total of **2,887 visitors** and **2,738 registered delegates**, reflecting strong engagement across all sectors. The exhibition achieved a **complete booth sell-out**, comprising **254 exhibition booths**, **123 exhibiting companies**, and an impressive **52,804 square feet of exhibition space**.



This success would not have been possible without the generous support of our sponsors. MDA extends its sincere appreciation to **Haleon (Platinum Sponsor)**, **Colgate (Gold Sponsor)**, and **Southern Lion** and **X Health (Silver Sponsors)**, whose partnership contributed significantly to the vibrancy and impact of MIDEDEC 2025.

National Dental Associations (NDA) Forum & Consensus on Free Sugar Reduction

Held in conjunction with MIDEDEC 2025, the National Dental Associations Forum on 10 August 2025 brought together representatives from 14 National Dental Associations across the region, with MDA honoured to serve as host.

The Forum culminated in the **Consensus Statement on Reduction of Free Sugar Intake for Better Oral and General Health – Policy and Implementation**, aligning closely with World Health Organization (WHO) and FDI recommendations. Collectively, the participating associations recognised excessive free sugar consumption as a major public health concern contributing to non-communicable diseases.

Key agreements included:

- The need for a **whole-of-nation, multi-stakeholder approach** to raise awareness on reducing free sugar intake across all age groups, including early childhood, and through clearer food and beverage labelling.
- The importance of **culturally sensitive and locally tailored strategies** to gradually transform entrenched dietary habits, enabling healthier taste preferences over the long term.
- The value of **health-inclusive public policies** across governmental ministries, supported by measurable outcomes through appropriate monitoring and surveys.

This consensus represents a strong, unified regional voice advocating for healthier dietary practices, reinforcing dentistry's vital role beyond oral health and into broader public health leadership.

This National Dental Associations Forum was attended by representatives from:

1. Cambodian Dental Association
2. Chinese Stomatological Association
3. Chinese Taipei Association for Dental Sciences (CTADS)
4. Gyeonggi Dental Association
5. Hong Kong Dental Association
6. Indonesian Dental Association
7. Korean Dental Association



8. Myanmar Dental Association
9. Philippine Dental Association
10. Seoul Dental Association
11. Singapore Dental Association
12. Taipei Dental Association
13. The Dental Association of Thailand
14. Malaysian Dental Association (Host)

Invited VIPs/ Guests

- 1 Prof. Young Guk Park—FDI Treasurer and he represented Korean Dental Association and Gyeonggi Dental Association in the Forum
2. Prof. Chun Pin Lin—APDF IPP
3. Dr. Fernando Fernandez—APDF Secretary General
4. Prof. Wei Jen Chang—APDF Vice President.
5. Prof. Kenko Jian-Hong Yu--- President Elect of CTADS

Invitation to SCATE 2026

In closing, I invite members to attend the **33rd MDA Scientific Convention and Trade Exhibition (SCATE)**, taking place from **19–21 January 2026** at the **Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre (KLCC)**.

SCATE supports our professional mission by offering:

- **20 CPD points** approved by MDC
- **HRDF-claimable** scientific programme
- The **mandatory BKRPP Radiation Protection Officer (Medical) briefing**
- Opportunities for learning, dialogue, and professional networking



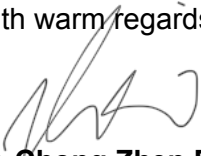
Closing Reflections

2025 has been a year of **representation over rhetoric, engagement over reaction, and substance over spectacle**. MDA remains focused on its core purpose—to represent dentists professionally, responsibly, and credibly.

As we move into 2026, we will continue to place **members first**, advocate constructively, and ensure that loyalty to MDA is met with meaningful value in return.

Thank you for your continued trust and support.

With warm regards,



Dr. Chong Zhen Feng

President

Malaysian Dental Association

December 2025

