



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

6th May 2026

President's Anniversary Message - May 2026

Dear MDA members,

Today marks one year and two days since I was entrusted with the responsibility of serving as your President.

I remember, just a week ago, boarding a flight to Kuching for the 14th Borneo Dental Congress. A member came up to me and said something simple, yet profound — that she could see the Malaysian Dental Association changing for the better. At that moment, it felt like a quiet affirmation that we were moving in the right direction.

Since then, there have been many such moments.

On 19th April, an esteemed high-ranking official who has since retired reached out to thank us — not for something grand, but for remembering those who came before us. He had heard about our collaboration with Dental South China, where we brought members for international exposure, and he offered his congratulations. It was a reminder that progress is not only about moving forward, but also about honouring those who built the path.

I recall standing on the deck during the Pearl River cruise gala dinner, where 71 Malaysians were warmly welcomed. A member shared with me that, for the first time, MDA truly felt inclusive — that members were not just observers, but participants in these experiences. That moment stayed with me.

Over the past year, I made it a point to be present — across all three zones — attending congresses, AGMs, and most importantly, listening. Listening to your concerns, your aspirations, and your frustrations, and doing my best to carry your voices to the relevant tables. In doing so, I also witnessed something deeply encouraging: esteemed senior professors stepping forward, offering their wisdom and guidance in advisory roles. That, to me, is a sign of a profession that believes in its future.

It has not been easy — balancing personal commitments, professional responsibilities, and the demands of this office. But the encouragement I have received directly from many of you — in conversations, messages, and quiet acknowledgements — has made every effort worthwhile.

Allow me to humbly report what we have achieved together in this past year.

The Council has focused on empowering our members in tangible ways. We have signed 14 Memoranda of Understanding with commercial partners across financial services, insurance, automotive, digital platforms, airlines, and dental companies — including AirAsia, Atome, Tesla, and Invisalign — to bring real, practical value to your membership.

We have initiated collaborations with universities to advance research that benefits our fraternity, and we are steadily working towards indexing our publications — increasing both the number of issues and the standards we hold ourselves to.

We have also been proactive in advocacy. Representing both private and public practitioners, we have taken our place at the table in national discussions. Personally, I have had the responsibility of serving on 14 national policy committees, ensuring that the voice of the profession is heard — always with the ultimate aim of safeguarding the welfare of our members and, by extension, the public we serve.

Beyond the meeting rooms, we have also become more vocal on national issues — engaging with the media when it matters, speaking up on policies that affect our profession, and contributing to public discourse on oral health. It is important that the voice of dentistry is not only heard within institutions, but also understood by the society we serve.

On the international front, our collaboration with Dental South China International Expo has placed MDA firmly on the regional map. We were honoured to be the first and only association invited to deliver an opening address — a meaningful step in rebuilding relationships across the region. This was further strengthened when we hosted the NDA Forum in conjunction with MIDEDEC 2025, graced by the presence of presidents from 13 international and national dental associations.

But beyond all these milestones, I am reminded of something I shared during an appreciation event in April:

“The leadership of today — myself included — are only custodians, here for a moment in time, entrusted to care for it and to pass it on stronger than we received it. And for MDA to remain strong — to continue having a voice — it depends on all of us. Your support, your participation, your belief in it... that is what gives MDA its strength.”



This past year has never been about one person, or even one council. It has always been about all of us — a collective effort to build an association that is more connected, more relevant, and more representative.

We have made meaningful progress, but there is still much to be done.

As we move into the next chapter, I ask for your continued support — not just in words, but in participation. Stay engaged. Stay involved. Continue to hold us accountable, and continue to believe in what we are building together.

Thank you for your trust, your encouragement, and your belief.

We will continue — quietly, steadily — to do the work.

“PROFESIONAL, PROGRESIF, PRIHATIN”

With sincerity,



Dr. Chong Zhen Feng

President

Malaysian Dental Association

