

**Speech by Professor Tan Chorh Chuan**  
**President, National University of Singapore**  
**at the World Dental Education Society – FDI Cheque Presentation Ceremony**  
**Suntec City Convention Hall, Ballroom 2, Friday 4 September 2009, 2.00 pm**

FDI President, Dr Burton Conrod,  
WDES President, Dr Choo Teck Chuan  
FDI Executive Director, Dr David Alexander  
FDI Council Members and Delegates

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

Good afternoon. Thank you very much for inviting me to join you for this important event. On behalf of the National University of Singapore, I would like to extend our sincere best wishes and to all our friends from abroad, a very warm welcome to Singapore. My colleagues and I are delighted that the FDI World Dental Congress is being held here in Singapore. This meeting bears testimony to the dental profession's continuing commitment to enhancing dental education and raising the standards of oral health and clinical dentistry worldwide.

I am also deeply appreciative of the World Dental Education Society – FDI's support for the NUS' Faculty of Dentistry through your very generous gift of \$257,000 for student bursaries.

It is the selfless generosity of benefactors like WDES-FDI that helps us realize our mission of nurturing talent and grooming our students to become future leaders in their professions and in society. Your kind support will help deserving dental students fulfil their promise and to reach beyond themselves. The NUS community and the Faculty of Dentistry in particular, are grateful to WDES-FDI for your investment in our students' future.

This generous gift is made all the more special as the Faculty of Dentistry celebrates its 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. Over the years, the Faculty has built a strong reputation for excellence in dental education, research and service, and has produced successive generations of dental graduates who have made their mark on society and community. In the area of dental education, transformative changes have taken place particularly in the last 10 years. The revamped dental curriculum offers rich opportunities for our students to develop not only their clinical and technical skills, but also soft skills like patient management, communication, health promotion and disease prevention. Through inter-disciplinary and institutional collaborations, the Faculty has also been able to build synergies, strengthen its research impact and innovate educational pathways for its students.

In closing, may I take this opportunity to congratulate the local organising committee for the success of this World Dental Congress. My heartfelt thanks to all of you, and also to the WDES-FDI once again for your unstinting support and generosity. I wish you all a very successful meeting.