

IFDH Country Report - April 2024

Australia - Dental Hygienists Association of Australia (DHAA)

The DHAA's top advocacy priority in 2024 is to secure access to Commonwealth Government Medicare Allied Health Item codes for preventive oral health services and education. This initiative not only expands funding sources but also integrates oral health prevention into GP chronic disease care plans, aligning oral health with overall healthcare objectives. Following our Federal Budget submission, a focused and structured public campaign is being planned for launch in the second half of this year.

We have been working with A/Professor Nicky Kilpatrick AM and South Australian of the Year Dr. Trudy Lin to implement our 'future leaders' program for our members. This program will provide leadership and mentoring training for members, aiming to cultivate leadership capacity within our profession. Recruitment for participants will commence in May.

Former DHAA director and Indigenous dental practitioner Warrick Edwards has been appointed to the position of Indigenous Advisor to the DHAA Board. This is an important appointment to ensure the DHAA has appropriate advice to fulfil our commitment to supporting the oral health of First Nations people.

With the support of Colgate Australia, DHAA volunteers provided oral health education sessions and gave out hygiene products to community groups across Australia around the March World Oral Health Day, targeting new migrants and refugees. The program had already reached over 600 people and there are many more scheduled sessions to follow this month.

After several years' hiatus due to COVID-19, the DHAA is hosting an offshore seminar in Bali on Saturday, June 8, 2024. As part of the ASEAN-Pacific Oral Health Alliance, this event has attracted delegates from Indonesia, Singapore, and Malaysia.

Work is continuing with the Australian Dental and Oral Health Therapists' Association (ADOHTA) to co-create a new unified association to represent oral health practitioners. A consultant has been appointed to facilitate this process, and a formal unification proposal for member review is underway, with a joint board meeting scheduled for April.

Preparations for the inaugural Joint ADOHTA-DHAA Oral Health Congress, scheduled for October 17-19, are progressing smoothly. This is a momentous event for Australian oral health practitioners to showcase our shared vision, uniting dental hygienists, dental therapists and oral health therapists under one banner, and setting a new beginning towards one stronger and more cohesive future derived from the two associations and three professional groups.

Prepared by

Bill Suen
CEO
April 2024



IFDH Country Report – Canada The Canadian Dental Hygienists Association

CDHA exists so that its members are able to provide quality preventive and therapeutic oral health care as well as health promotion for all persons living in Canada. Serving the profession since 1963, the Canadian Dental Hygienists Association (CDHA) is the collective national voice of over 31,000 dental hygienists, directly representing more than 22,000 individual members, including students. Dental hygienists in Canada are primary oral health care providers who work in a variety of settings, including dental offices, public health units, independent practice, long-term care facilities, hospitals, educational institutions, and dental industry, educating and empowering Canadians of all ages to embrace their oral health for better overall health. They are key partners in health promotion and disease prevention. Over the past 60 years, CDHA has relied on the strength, passion, and dedication of its members to move the profession forward through advocacy initiatives, public awareness campaigns, research, and education.

In accordance with the Policy Governance model, CDHA's board of directors articulates its vision for the association in the form of specific, measurable outcomes that are referred to as "ends." Board directors also endeavour to ensure that CDHA meets the needs and priorities of its members in an ethical and safe manner. CDHA's board has established five Ends to lead the association.

1. Professional Knowledge: Members create, contribute to, and utilize a growing body of professional knowledge and research.

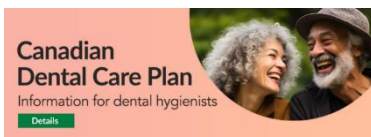
From its flagship publications, the Canadian Journal of Dental Hygiene and Oh Canada! magazine, to its position statements, conferences, workshops, and webinars, CDHA offers a variety of opportunities for members to contribute to and learn from the latest in oral health research and education.



CDHA hosted its first-ever hybrid event in October 2023, which included one-and-a-half days of in-person professional development in conjunction with our annual general meeting (AGM). During this event, dental hygienists broadened their understanding of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) and learned its relation to dental hygiene practice.



2. Public Policy Environment: A public policy environment exists that is beneficial to the practice of dental hygiene and the overall health of Canadians.



A historic advocacy success is the launch of the new Canadian Dental Care Plan. In the March 2022 federal budget—the Canadian government announced funding of \$13.5 billion for dental care for uninsured Canadians with an annual family income of less than \$90,000, and dental hygienists are listed as eligible providers in this program.

CDHA staff and board continue to meet throughout the year with federal policy makers and elected officials to work on the details of the Canadian Dental Care Plan, review priority initiatives, including access to care, seniors' oral care, and student loan forgiveness. Our policy paper, A National Oral Health Care Plan for Canadian Seniors, was released in June 2022 and was supported by a Canada-wide digital letter-writing campaign to elected officials and decision makers. CDHA also contributed to the Health Standards Organization's new Long-Term Care Services standard, recommending the inclusion of dental hygienists on care teams and the implementation of a comprehensive program of oral health services in all facilities.



THE CANADIAN DENTAL HYGIENISTS ASSOCIATION
L'ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DES HYGIÉNISTES DENTAIRES

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3. Professional Practice: Members have the resources to work as an integral part of a health care team.

CDHA's premier member benefits program includes professional liability insurance (for active members), health, LTD, home and auto insurance, free webinars, free legal advice, and a member and family assistance program that provides free counselling and resources to support members in their professional and personal lives. We also supported our members who are providing increasingly complex care to their clients in a variety of ways, including credible fact sheets and guidance on key issues (Diabetes & Oral Health, Xylitol, Oral Care Tips for Seniors).

CDHA Job Market & Employment Survey



CDHA administered its biennial compensation survey to all CDHA practising members. The average hourly wage is \$49.69 per hour; average age is 44; unemployment rate is 1%; and 5% own an independent practice.

Independent Practice: CDHA currently has over 1,500 members practising independent of dentists in Canada and all provinces now have self-regulation for dental hygienists!

Public Opinion Polling: CDHA conducted another reputation benchmark survey to gauge public opinion on the dental hygiene profession and the state of oral health care in Canada. Key findings were shared at a press conference on Parliament Hill.



Healthy and Respectful Workplace: Members have the resources to ensure a healthier and more respectful workplace. CDHA has a whole section of our website with numerous resources supporting a healthier and more respectful workplace. In the fall of 2023, CDHA conducted its second Healthy and Respectful Workplace. Six in ten respondents personally experienced and/or witnessed some form of mistreatment in the workplace within the last 12 months and at least 87% of respondents confirmed that they experienced one or more medical issues within the past 12 months.

4. Public Recognition: The Canadian Public understands and values the dental hygiene profession.

Through media releases, print and television advertising, interviews, supplements, special events, social media connections, and its web presence, CDHA educates Canadians on the work of dental hygienists and the important links between oral and overall health. The association strives to ensure that dental hygienists are recognized by the public as partners in health promotion and disease prevention.

Dental Hygiene Image Bank: CDHA's [dental hygiene image bank](#) offers a collection of high-quality images that accurately portray dental hygienists and reflect proper dental hygiene practice.

Put Your Purple On: In celebration of National Dental Hygienists Week (NDHW) in Canada, CDHA has built an extensive annual public awareness campaign over the past five years, centred around the Put Your Purple On! theme (www.cdha.ca/putyourpurpleon). Our theme encourages members to show their professional #dhpurplepride.

CDHA's [national television advertising campaign](#) featured 30-second ads in English and French.

5. Leadership: Members potential for professional leadership is developed:

CDHA has student representatives in most schools in Canada. In addition, we host a biennial summit. We also have awards programs including Board Awards, Canadian Journal of Dental Hygiene awards, and Oh Canada readers' choice award.

Country Report – Denmark

A lot has happened since we last met. Below you will find the few subjects that we would like to emphasize.

Free access to public dental care

In Denmark, the municipalities have the responsibility to ensure that children and young people from 0 to 18 years of age have free access to public dental care. But from 2022 – since we last met – the scope of the group has been expanded to covering young people up to the age of 21.

This is something that the Danish Dental Hygienists have been working on for years, so when the law came into force, we were very happy.

The years of lobbying wasn't enough to ensure that dental hygienists at first were included in the draft proposal of the law, so we as an organization kept on lobbying politicians and officials to ensure, that dental hygienists were included in the law in the same manner as the dentists. And we succeeded.

Today, children and young people from 0 – 21 years of age will have the possibility to receive dental care at the public clinics that are run by the municipalities, and often staffed by mainly dental hygienists. If the parents or the young person him-/herself does not want to receive dental care at the public facilities, they also have the choice of a private offer either at a dental hygienist's clinic or at a dentist's clinic. This is due to the work of the Danish Dental Hygienists.

Collective agreements – setting a fair wage for everyone

For more than 40 years the Danish Dental Hygienists has negotiated collective agreements with the public sector employers (municipalities and regions) and private sector employers (the dentist organization). In 2024 we succeeded in covering our last area of work with a collective agreement where the agreement will cover state employees.

This is a great victory for us, and we are very proud of the result that we have achieved and happy that we can offer all of our members the protection and benefits of being employed under the regulations of a collective agreement.

Since we managed to finish the agreement by the March 1st, then the agreement was renegotiated with all other state employees in the month of March, and a new and even better agreement will be in place by the 1st of April.

50 years anniversary

In 1974 the first dental hygienists from Denmark received their degree. Right away a group of them took the initiative to form a union. The work and efforts of these pioneers has grown over the years and this means that we now – in 2024 – can celebrate the 50th anniversary of our union.

Many results have been made during the years and many more will follow in the years to come. We will mark this anniversary on the precise date Wednesday May 22nd followed by a huge reception the day after,

which will take place in central Copenhagen with our President and also the Danish Minister of Health as keynote speakers.

This will be followed by two days of conference and a huge dinner and party on the Friday evening (24th of May).

Prognosis regarding dental care staff

Every fifth year the Danish Health Authority are carrying out an analysis to predict the volume of authorized dental care staff in Denmark in the years to come. This is presented in a report called "The prognosis on Dental Care Staff 2023-2045".

Even though the Danish Dental Hygienists was invited to participation in a background working group, which we did participate in, we do not support the way the analysis was carried and therefore we do not support the conclusions. We have informed the Danish Minister of Health that we do not support the conclusions and our main reasons are, that the Danish Health Authority has performed their analysis with a too large workforce population in the starting point which means that they overestimate the population of dental hygienists. Besides that, the Danish Health Authority was not taken into consideration the much-improved oral health in the general population in Denmark. This improved oral health calls for more dental hygienists in the workforce – and fewer dentists.

More members and a growing union

As a union we are still experiencing a growing number of members even though the Covid-pandemic, inflation and other external factors have also had an impact on the total of members. We keep on trying to provide support for our members such as easy access to secretariat regarding advise on contracts, wage levels and legal assistance, we also provide training courses and produce magazines and other information.

Prevention – leaflets and brochures

On the health agenda we support our members in their daily work with patients, making sure that they have the right materials. This means that we produce and distribute leaflets and brochures on different topics which we know the dental hygienists talk to their patients about. This could be the effect of soft drinks on teeth and enamel, effects of a dry mouth, periodontitis, the use of psychotropic drugs in regards to oral health and so on.

The leaflets and brochures are requested by many others than dental hygienists as we distribute to public and private clinic, patient organizations, dentists and many other groups.

Country Report Ireland

Irish Dental Hygienist's Association (IDHA)

September 2022 to December 2022

Inspired by the 2022 International Symposium on Dental Hygiene, IDHA organised a study group to learn how to submit and present work at the scientific conference.

The EDHF Annual conference was held in Oslo, Norway and was attended by Jeannine Byrne IFDH and EDHF representative and Linda Phelan President of IDHA.

The IDHA Annual Conference took place in Dublin with the theme of 'The Future in Our Hands' on November 12th, 2022. The IDHA also celebrated its 35th anniversary with its members and attendees.

The IDHA has continued its collaboration with Irish Dentistry and provide a regular column for them. This collaboration is a valuable opportunity to share insights, updates, and perspectives on topics related to dental hygiene and oral care, and the role of dental hygienist in it.

January 2023 to December 2023

President Yvonne Howell set up space on the IDHA committee for two dental hygiene students to serve as representatives of the student body. It is important to involve students early in their careers so that we can offer our support in an ever-changing world.

Our spring webinars continue to focus on various topical topics. We arranged two exciting webinars that took place on the 20th and 27th April 2023. Our first webinar was with Mary Turner, where she discussed all aspects on "Employment law". The second webinar was by Daniel Hardiman who discussed "Life and Pensions". We are grateful to have EMS, sponsoring our two webinars.

June 24th - Lynne Brophy membership officer represented the IDHA at the Dublin Dental University's inaugural alumni day, which marked 30 years since their first graduate.

September 2023 - Olivia Hanley Secretary, Linda Phelan Treasurer, Aisha Ramadan social media officer and Louise Madge trade officer were invited to attend the Irish Dentistry Show at the Royal Dublin Society (RDS). Yvonne Howell President of the IDHA was also an invited speaker, and her topic was to raised awareness about the importance of the dental hygienist's role in early detection of mouth cancer.

September 2023 - The IDHA was invited by Sinn Fein TD, David Cullinane to attend the launch of the alternative budget for health. It was attended by social media representative Aisha Ramadan who enquired about more training places and direct access for dental hygienists.

September 2023 - The EDHF Annual conference was held in Malaga, Spain and was attended by Yvonne Howell President of IDHA and Linda Phelan IFDH and EDHF representative.

October 2023 - President Yvonne Howell, IFDH and EDHF representative Linda Phelan and Secretary Olivia Hanley met with the Chief Dental Officer from the Department of Health Dr Dymphna Kavanagh, Michael Dolan, and Barry Crossan.

To give an insight of the meeting, Barry advised us of a workforce census that will be carried out by Alpha Health Care, the aim of this is to capture data of patient facing roles. It is proposed that Alpha Healthcare will contact IDHA in coming weeks where they will conduct interviews and provide a survey. They hope to have this census completed by February. Their aim is to have a draft scope of practice for the mid-level profession (DH/OT etc) done by the end of Quarter 1 of 2024.

Our members were strongly encouraged to attend the virtual Global Oral Health Summit on Motivation, Inspiration and Guiding Actions for Dental Hygienists on November 4th. We distributed the recording with the members to reach larger audience.

November 2023 – President Yvonne Howell and IFDH and EDHF representative Linda Phelan met with Sinn Fein TD David Cullinane to discuss the expanded duties for Dental Hygienist. David Cullinane asked IDHA for the feedback on the policy consultation document “Priorities for Change in Health and Social Care” by the 19th of April.

On November 17th and 18th, we held another successful conference in the Midlands Park Hotel, Portlaoise with the theme “Back to the Future”. We restructured the conference to provide our members with more educational opportunities, enhance their skills, and support them through hands-on workshops. Our Chief Dental Officer, Dr Dympna Kavanagh was among invited guests, who updated our members on the plans of the Department of Health for the profession.

We voted in the new updated Constitution during our AGM.

Aisling Earley became Kin Hygienist of the Year and created a brochure to highlight the issues surrounding menopause and the oral manifestations of this natural biological process “Menopause and Oral Health”. A copy of her leaflet will be on our website.

We established and launched the IDHA’s first ever poster competition which was held at our annual conference. Dental hygienists can showcase their work and inspire colleagues with this opportunity.

Linda Phelan our past President with the support of our association also initiated a mentorship programme for its members to support them in their personnel and professional development and promote a positive culture within the profession. Our volunteers are completing their training, and we are planning to create a mentorship panel and implement the program fully in due time.

The IDHA is constantly working on the direct access initiative for Ireland, and a sub-group was established in 2023 to speed up the process. Upon contacting the Minister of Health, requesting that the current legislation be amended to permit dental hygienists' direct access to the public, we were informed that resources have been allocated within the Department of Health, allowing the work to progress at a faster pace. We were also notified that the Department’s Oral Health Unit has commenced a scoping exercise to design a scope of practice and establish a pilot for a mid-level professional in oral healthcare, which will include engagement with all relevant stakeholders. The aim of this pilot scheme is to evaluate the potential for dental hygienists to work under direct access. For this purpose, a survey was distributed by the Department of Health to help develop the pilot scheme. We encouraged both members and non-members dental hygienists to complete the survey. The Departments of Oral Health Unit were in contact with us, and we are now waiting for the follow up meeting to discuss how we can advance to facilitate direct access for the dental hygienists.

January 2024 to date

January 2024 - we launched our updated website. Our aim was to make the site more appealing and make it easier for our members to browse and keep up to date with information when they visit.

For the past two years, our association has been involved in the Oral B health promotion initiative, which has had a positive impact in raising public awareness about oral health and the role of dental hygienists.

Sara Keane Award was established to honour the contributions of dental hygienists and recognise their dedication and excellence in the field who can inspire others in the field and will be launched at our conference on October 11th and 12th.

The Kin Hygienist of the Year was changed to a new format, with nominations to be made by dental practices. Nominated finalists are now required to provide an infographic as part of their selective process, and the award is being implemented across four regions.

April 2024 - Yvonne Howell President, Linda Phelan Treasurer, Olivia Hanley Secretary, and Sviatlana Anishchuk IFDH and EDHF representative are attending Irish Dental Association Annual conference in Killarney to promote the IDHA annual conference, build networking connections, and increase IDHA visibility in the dental field.

April 2024 - The IDHA participated in video collage for Association of Dental Hygienists in Slovakia "Days of Dental Hygiene 2024".

We are preparing the IDHA Annual Conference "Focus on the Future" for 11 and 12th of October in Galway Bay Hotel, Galway. Based on the positive feedback from the previous year, we are maintaining the conference format from last year with a slight change.

Report - Israeli Dental Hygienist Association

Hadas Avraham-Goldberg, president of IDHA

Since the seventh of October 2023, the State of Israel has been in a complex and difficult period that affects every area of the lives of its residents.

We in the IDHA also share the difficult feelings and complexity of existence in this period.

Like all the residents of the country, we were united in mutual support and a spirit of volunteerism towards the dental hygienists in Israel and all the citizens of Israel.

First, we supported dental hygienists, who were directly affected by the Seventh of October attack, we accompanied and embraced those who lost their loved ones and supported those who were financially harmed.

We have been in contact with the Ministry of Health regarding the continuation of our work and have provided information and advice to the dental hygienists, most of them return to regular work within a week.

We published a special edition of our newspaper marked "Stress and stress situations during the war" both as therapists and as phenomena in patients.

We had a meeting lecture with the legal advisor and the financial advisor regarding working conditions during the war and we continued with lectures through the Zoom system.

In the meantime, we did not stop with the volunteering spirit of the dental hygienists for the population of Israel.

In social responsibility, we continued a project that began before the war with the mentally ill, during which our presence was doubly important, dental hygienists continued to come, guide, teach, and support instructors and patients about oral health.

At the same time, due to the security situation in Israel, the state had to evacuate residents from the northern and southern borders due to a real threat to their lives.

Centers for evacuees were established to which, dental hygienists also came and instructed them in maintaining oral hygiene as part of routine and maintaining general health even during wartime.

In the IDHA, we have not stopped working to continue normal activity even in this complex period.

We held a conference in honor of "International Women's Day" which took place on the eighth of March 2024, and we are organizing the annual scientific conference to be held on May 29.

We continue to publish information through social media keeping dental hygienists updated on what is happening in our association as well as in EDHA and IFDH

A group of Israeli dental hygienists is being organized which will participate in the ISDH in July 2024.

We submitted nominations for various competitions of our projects.

I am lecturing at the conference and my colleague's poster will be presented as well.

I will end this report with hope for quiet days, of security, peace, and a life worthy for all human beings wherever they are. May God bless us with peace between us and our neighbors and all the world.



Associazione Igienisti Dentali Italiani

Country Report

AIDI's activity

AIDI, the Italian Dental Hygienists Association, turned 43 this year, and accompanied the birth and growth of the dental hygienist profession in Italy. In fact, the legal process that led to the full recognition of the figure of the ID in these four decades was complex and articulated and AIDI became the promoter and protagonist of the various phases.

From the beginning, among the objectives of the association there was the regulation and definition of the figure of the dental hygienist, who gradually took on a very specific profile and connotation for the protection and promotion of the development of the profession, both from a scientific and a political point of view by interacting with the government and institutions.

To crown an intense journey, from 2 August 2017 pursuant to the relative ministerial decree, AIDI is fully listed among the Technical-Scientific Associations accredited by the Ministry of Health.

With the subsequent approval of law 3/2018, the profession in Italy has completed the legal process becoming a profession as well as regulated as well as ordered, with the establishment of the TSRM-PSTRP Order to which 18 health professions with their professional registers belong, including that of dental hygienists. An important goal for which AIDI has always fought as the most representative association of Italian dental hygienists, recognized by Ministerial Decree by the Ministry of Health and which provided, for its organization, an important technical-administrative support in the evaluation of applicants' qualifications and registration, through its representatives (RAMR) designated for each region.

This milestone is one of the most important goals achieved, as the Orders and the related national Federations are non-economic public corps that act as subsidiary bodies of the state in order to protect the public interests, guaranteed by the legal system, related to professional practice. They promote and ensure the independence, autonomy and responsibility of the health professions and professional practice, the technical-professional quality, the enhancement of the social function, the protection of human rights and the ethical principles of the professional exercise indicated in the codes deontological. They also verify the possession of qualifying qualifications for professional practice and take care of the keeping of professional registers.

Very briefly, AIDI's "mission" has always been to develop the value of the ID, and to promote the health of the oral cavity of the population with professionalism and competence, basing its activity on technical-value principles that take into account the personal experience of each assisted person.



Associazione Igienisti Dentali Italiani

The strategy pursued is based on the promotion of a qualified professional preparation, on continuous updating, comparison and collaboration with scientific societies, health federations, Ministry of Health, Regions, Health Authorities, public health organizations and institutions. At the same time, international relationships of vital importance were built from a communicative and experiential point of view.

Given these assumptions, AIDI's "vision" translates into that of a healthcare professional who is the guardian of oral health and the overall well-being of the person, protecting both the assistant person and the dental hygienist. To achieve this goal, it has been committed for years, including in the battle against the scourge of illegal professionalism.

There are still many activities carried out by the association, including: professional protection through the establishment of a trade union (AIDI-PRO); professional update Continuing Education in Medicine; insurance agreements; promotion activities on the territory on the figure of the DH; volunteer projects. Furthermore AIDI has always collaborated with the universities in order to ensure that the degree courses possessed the required training requirements.

Each dental hygienist registered in the Register must demonstrate that he has carried out, through Continuing Education, the necessary updates and insights to be able to practice his profession and ensure adequate preparation. To facilitate the achievement of this goal and facilitate professionals in addition to residential updating, AIDI offers free credits in FAD mode to all Members, in sufficient numbers to meet the training needs.

As for residential updating, AIDI guarantees a wide choice, made possible thanks to a pyramidal work group that moves in a harmonious and synchronic way. According to the AIDI Statute, it has a pyramidal structure with the apex represented by the national board of directors, composed of the President and 8 Councilors, 3 auditors and 3 arbitrators, while each region has a Regional Council, composed of a minimum of 3 to a maximum of 7 AIDI hygienist members, elected by the members of the region every three years. Each Regional Council is led by a President and operates on its own territory following the guidelines of the Board of Directors and the National Assembly, while maintaining its own decision-making and operational autonomy.

There are currently 98 AIDI hygienists, who are part of the Regional Councils, Presidents included; a large group born from the need to represent and promote activity at the regional level, motivating the base of the members. For 2024, 30 accredited events including conferences and webinars of high cultural depth have been planned throughout Italy.

In addition to the aforementioned actions, AIDI promotes constant involvement of young students enrolled in the association, coming from 10 of the 36 Dental Hygiene degree courses in Italy, through an ambitious project, called UniversitAIDI Academy, which organizes various activities, from contests to awards, to many professionalizing technical-practical courses,



Associazione Igienisti Dentali Italiani

aimed at offering future colleagues an overview that allows them to make the most appropriate choices for their future. Students are also involved in the development of the national day of the dental hygienist, which is celebrated every year, in October, in the major Italian squares and which lives online on a special area of the site, www.aiditalia.it, dedicated to citizens with specific contents aimed at promoting oral and general health, risk interception and the management of diseases and their complications. An APP-AIDI is being created to allow direct exchange between dental hygienist colleagues and to create a link with citizens.

We have traveled a long way to date, and many goals achieved, but the goal we are pursuing is the inclusion of the figure of Dental Hygienists in the public health context of the country, but above all the technical-scientific comparison with the professions of the healthcare world to create recommendations and best practices that allow the patient to be treated with an interdisciplinary approach.

Last but not least, AIDI has always worked to raise the figure of the ID through international comparison, thanks to its membership with the International Federation of Dental Hygienists and the European Dental Hygienists Federation. We are talking about Federations that, through the exchange and sharing of resources, have done and will do so much for the growth and evolution of the ID profession, under multiple aspects, including political and socio-cultural ones with the aim of leading the profession at increasingly higher quality levels.

And it is with this spirit of innovation and collaboration that we are working so that in 2026, on the occasion of the next international symposium, we will be able to bring together all the member countries under the sky of Milan.

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Japan Dental Hygienists' Association (JDHA)

About JDHA

JDHA was established in 1951 and joined IFDH in 1986.

Aim: to contribute to the promotion of public health and welfare through improving the quality and ethics of dental hygienists and promoting academic research in the field of dental hygiene, in addition to promoting oral hygiene awareness.

Membership: 13,812

Present status of dental hygienists in Japan (as of 2022)

Number of active registered dental hygienists 145,183

Employment

Dental offices – 130,806 (90.1%), Hospitals – 7,460 (5.1%), Public health centers – 2,785 (2.0%),

Dental hygienist educational institution – 1,768 (1.2%)

Education program of dental hygiene (as of 2024)

Degree course (3 to 4 years) – 188, Master's course – 8, PhD course – 6

JDHA Activities

1. Improvement of the quality and ethics of dental hygienists

1) Continuing education –Planning, management, and implementation of professional training–

(1) Seminar for specialized certification (6 categories)

I Prevention of lifestyle-related diseases

II Dysphagia rehabilitation

III Instruction for home care and management of oral health

IV Guidance on diabetes prevention

V Medical-dental cooperation and oral health management in the perioperative period

VI Dental safety management

(2) E-learning program

42 topics (jointly developed with Dental Diamond Co.)

2) Leadership training for community dental hygiene activities

“Dental Hygiene Promotion Forum” and other events

3) Workforce census among JDHA members (every 5 years, scheduled in 2024)

4) International cooperation in dental hygiene

(1) Oral Health Care Seminar 2022 organized by the Association for Overseas Technical Cooperation and Sustainable Partnership, October 31- November 05, 2022

–To promote dental hygiene in 4 Asian countries (Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam)–

Title of JDHA presentation: Approach to Oral Health Care by Dental Hygienists in Japan

- (2) The 45th Annual Meeting of the Korean Dental Hygienist Association (KDHA) held in Seoul, July 15-16, 2023

JDHA President Naomi Yoshida delivered an invited talk entitled “Practices of Dental Hygienists for Oral Health Promotion in Japan”

- (3) The 18th Annual Meeting of JSDH held in Shizuoka, September 16-18, 2023

KDHA President Yoon sook, Hwang delivered an invited talk entitled “Past, Present, and Future of Dental Hygienists in South Korea”

- (4) Oral Healthcare Training Program 2023 in Japan for Indonesia and Vietnam, January 15-19, 2024
Presentations, tour of dental companies, and group discussion were held in Tokyo and Osaka.

Title of JDHA presentation: Practices of Dental Hygienists for Oral Health Promotion in Japan

2. Promotion of academic research in dental hygiene

- 1) Activities of the Japan Society for Dental Hygiene (JSDH)

- (1) Annual meetings of JSDH

- The 18th Annual Meeting of JSDH was held in Shizuoka, September 16-18, 2023
- The 19th Annual Meeting of JSDH will be held in Niigata, September 21-23, 2024

2023



2024



- (2) Research meetings focusing on specialized fields to be launched at the JSDH annual meeting in 2024

- (3) Publication of the Journal of the Japanese Society for Dental Hygiene (twice/year)

- 2) Providing research grants to promote academic research

3. Promotion of dental hygiene awareness

- 1) Publication and distribution of “Dental Hygiene Newsletter” (every 2 months)

- 2) Publication and distribution of “Student Newsletter” (twice/year)

Dental Hygiene Newsletter issued six times a year

Students Newsletter issued twice a year



3) Distribution of brochures to promote dental hygiene

Themes: Oral care for patients with systemic diseases such as diabetes and cerebral stroke, Children's oral health, Xerostomia, Prevention of oral frailty, etc.

4) Web-based distribution of updated information about dental hygiene and JDHA

4. Support for regional dental hygiene activities contributing to public health and welfare

1) Community oral health activities in disaster-hit areas throughout the country

- Registration system for disaster relief dental hygienists launched in 2020

Number of registered dental hygienists: 1,147 (as of 2023)

- Provided dental health support in the aftermath of Noto Peninsula Earthquake 2024

A total of 347 registered dental hygienists provided support from January 7 to March 17 as members of the Japan Dental Alliance Team (JDAT)

2) Cooperation and collaboration with prefectural dental hygiene associations and other related organizations

Future perspectives

1) Expansion of certified dental hygienist system first launched in 2008

2) Further promotion of continuing education program and establishment of training system for new dental hygienists

3) Continued discussion about a new qualification system for specialized dental hygienists

4) Further enhancement of academic activities such as conferences and research related to the dental hygiene practice

5) Enhancement of international cooperation and information exchange

Executive & contact information

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Country Report 2024 : Korean Dental Hygienists Association

1. Overview of Korea (Status of dental hygienists in Korea)

- ☯ Number of licensed dental hygienists: 108,344 people
- ☯ Number of employees at medical institutions : 48,386 people
 - Tertiary Hospitals, general hospital, hospital : 1,662 people
 - Dental hospital : 4,038 people
 - Dental clinic : 41,489 people
 - Health center & health subcenter : 1,130 people
- ☯ University with a Department of Dental Hygiene : 88 universities
- ☯ Number of new licensees each year : Annually 5,000 people

2. Key Activities

1) Composition and activities of the organizing committee of the ISDH 2024 (international Symposium on Dental Hygiene)

- ☯ The KDHA formed the organizing committee in October 22 to successfully host ISDH 2024 held in SEOUL.
- ☯ The organizing committee plans to provide a venue for academic exchange and harmony among dental hygienists around the world during the ISDH 2024, and to showcase the best brand promotion and services by promoting exchange and networking among exhibition participating companies.



Jeongran Park
Conference Chairperson
조직위원장



Kyungmi Kim
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부조직위원장



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Kyung-hee, Kang
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Yoonsook Hwang
President of KDHA
대한치과위생사협회 협회장

2) Establishment of an expert-centered oral health system for each target and training of human resources

① Expanding the training process for “dental hygienists specializing in the elderly” through a pilot project for oral care for the elderly

☛ The KDHA conducted a special project for oral care for the elderly for about four months at a day care center in the In-Cheon City in 2023.

☛ Along with this project, the KDHA provided a training course for ‘dental hygienists specializing in the elderly’ and laid a solid foundation for expanding the scope of activities of dental hygienists and preparing for an aging society.

② The first step of the “Infant Oral Health” educational project

☛ The Oral Health Project Group of the KDHA conducted an infant oral health education project targeting kindergartens in Seoul in cooperation with the Seoul Metropolitan Office of Education.

☛ A professional educator training course for dental hygienists was also offered. Professional dental hygienists developed an infant oral health education program for approximately 1,000 children aged 6 to 7 years and conducted on-site oral health education to promote good oral care habits.



3) Operation of the Korean Accreditation Board of Dental Hygiene Education

☛ The KDHA established the Korean Accreditation Board of Dental Hygiene Education within the association to implement a dental hygiene education evaluation and certification system to reflect the needs of the times for qualitative improvement of higher education field in dental hygiene and to establish an overall education management system.

☛ The Korean Accreditation Board of Dental Hygiene Education evaluates dental hygiene departments through a stepwise accreditation system, including preliminary workshops for each university, written evaluations, and on-site visit evaluations.



4) Policy strengthening activities and member rights protection activities

The KDHA has been promoting various activities to promote the rights and interests of dental hygienist members and utilize the expertise of dental hygienists.

☛ Revision of the 「Act On Medical Technologists」 related to 'student mandatory on-the-job training' to strengthen the capabilities of dental hygienists

☛ Launch of the Dental Hygiene Policy Research Institute to strengthen the policy capacity of dental hygienists

☛ Conducting a 'Survey on the Labor Status of Dental Hygienists' to resolve labor-related issues occurring in the dental industry and protect the rights and interests of dental hygienists.