Dubai: United Arab Emirates, February 24th, 2009. Under the patronage of HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Prime Minister, the Minister of Finance, President of the Dubai Health Authority, the 15th UAE International Dental Conference and Arab Dental Exhibition AEEDC Dubai, is scheduled to be held from March 10th -12th, 2009 at the Dubai International Convention and Exhibition Centre.

Dr. Amer AlSharif, Director of Continuous Education Department, Dubai Health Authority, in behalf of H. E. Qadhi Saeed Al Murooshid, Director General – Dubai Health care authority that preparations are at full swing for the only dental gathering in the Middle East region and North Africa. The press conference was presided by Mr. Abdul Salam Al Madani - Executive Chairman – AEEDC Dubai and Dr. Nasser Malik – Chairman of the conference.

Mr. Abdul Salam Al Madani the Executive Chairman of AEEDC Dubai added that “every year we strive to add new records to AEEDC conference and exhibition, this year the number of specialist speakers, and exhibitors participating in AEEDC 2009 are more than 20,000 specialists, the number of exhibitors has increased of 25% in number of exhibitors. We are also expecting more than 20,000 specialists from 113 countries to attend and participate in AEEDC 2009”. Moreover, a number of country representatives, chairmen and presidents of international associations and cooperations will participate in AEEDC 2009 Al Dammam.

Dr. Nasser Malik – The Conference Chairman said at the press conference; “In 2009, AEEDC will take a major shift in its focus, as we are including topics usually not covered in our previous conferences, topics such as Para-dental professions and business aspects of dentistry. We are also showing our support to the dental education community by starting for the first time, the AEEDC dental knowledge competition, for the undergraduates dental students of the Middle East region. With the honorary title of AEEDC Champion awarded to the winning school”.

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Abu Dhabi set to revise health insurance scheme

Abu Dhabi: The full medical insurance scheme for Emiratis working in the private sector will be withdrawn by the Health Authority Abu Dhabi (HAAD) effective from February, 2009.

A circular issued by the HAAD on February 5 states that Emiratis working in the private sector will henceforth have to bear 50 per cent of the cost of pharmaceutical products and dental care services.

The new rule cuts back on some of the benefits enjoyed by Emiratis under the “Thiqah” Health Insurance scheme. The Thiqah card earlier assured nationals of access to free medical coverage in all health care facilities and qualified them for broader geographical coverage and extra health benefits, Dr. Bitzer acknowledged that people alarmed by the decision had been keeping the call centre busy with their phone calls.

When contacted for clarification, the official at the HAAD concerned with health insurance policies refused to comment on the decision. However, in earlier meetings, some of the HAAD’s top officials had sought to tell the media that all Thiqah card holders would be entitled to full medical treatment free of charge.