Dubai: As part of its efforts to collaborate with local and international scientific organizations and build strong relationships with academics, Dr.]Molto, President of the Executive Committee of the Community Development Authority, recently met with Mr. Sulaiman Al Jasim, Rector of Zayed University to discuss ways in which the two organizations can work together to exchange social research and training in order to enhance Dubai’s social development.

During the meeting, the organizations discussed ways in which to enhance the workforce in the social service sector through government work or volunteer programs. One of the short-term solutions discussed was the implementation of specialized training programs to better equip the social workforce with the means to handle the UAE’s requirements in the field, while long-term solutions discussed centered on the development of tailored university programs to provide professional degrees in social services. It was also agreed that the CDA and Zayed University would share research to increase the CDA’s capacity to pursue a strategic and targeted approach to providing social services for the special needs population by accurately determining the numbers and location of different special needs sectors of society.

“The CDA is looking to grow Dubai’s social infrastructure in a strategic way that is built on knowledge and understanding of the needs of the various categories of society and incorporating best practice from around the world. We believe that this partnership with Zayed University will enhance our ability to provide world class social services for the residents of Dubai,” said Dr. Maryam Matar.

One potential idea was to develop programs to encourage Zayed University students to participate in social initiatives either as trainees or volunteers, part of the CDA’s efforts to develop a culture of volunteering in Dubai.

The CDA aims to attain the goals of Dubai Strategic Plan 2015, declared by HH Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum in February 2007. It will be a speedy phase towards promoting national identity, empowerment, enhancing social cohesion, social inclusion and social protection.

King Abdulaziz University campus to get nuclear research center

JEDDAH: Osmna Tayeb, president of King Abdulaziz University (KU) in Jeddah, announced at a press conference plans to establish a nuclear research center on the university’s campus.

“The first phase of planning and research is complete, the project is moving along the required channels in order to be implemented,” she said. Tayeb is chairman of the executive committee organizing the Kingdom’s first international symposium on the peaceful uses of nuclear technology in Gulf countries that begins Tuesday. The symposium is held under the sponsorship of Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah.

More than 50 nuclear scientists from various parts of the world are expected to attend the three-day event scheduled to begin tomorrow. It will identify the requirements for obtaining peaceful nuclear technology, Tayeb said.

When asked why Iran and Pakistan were not among the participants, she said the committee had used certain criteria in choosing participants. He added that 55 studies and working papers from more than 25 countries had been chosen.

The three-day forum will have 15 sessions dealing with five main points: Strategic planning for introducing nuclear technology into the GCC countries, the role of nuclear scientists, new research reactors, radio-isotope applications and radiation protection.

Al-Johani said a number of GCC ministers are also expected to participate. A speech by Mohamed El-Baradei, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), will be read out at the opening ceremony.

Al-Johani said participants would listen to the experiences of countries such as Egypt, the Czech Republic, Chile and others. Local and international companies will exhibit their products and services on the sidelines of the event. The university has set up an official website: www.kau.edu.sa for symposium for the forum.

The meeting will focus purely on scientific research and will not be held over, said nuclear scientists and experts from the United States, Russia, China, Canada, France, Germany and Japan have confirmed their participation. The papers, Tayeb explained, are carefully revised and approved after they are submitted.

Qatar: Exhibition opens hospitals

DOHA: H E Dr Sheikhha Ghalia bin Hammam Al Thani, Minister of Public Health, opened the Qatar International Medical and Hospital Show (Qmedic) at New Qatar International Exhibition Centre, yesterday.

Qatar’s first medical exhibition has attracted more than 100 health professionals, manufacturers and distributors around the world. The show is organised by OACom Company under the patronage of the National Health Authority (NHA) and Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC). Qmedic has brought all medical products and services under one roof.

After the inauguration the minister toured various pavilions. She was received by Abdullah Al Khalaf, Director of Public Relations at the NHA and HMC stalls. She also visited the stand of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and Children’s Hospital.

The exhibition is focusing on different medical options available in the region and provides the opportunity for experts to be in touch with foreign expertise. It will also allow them to discuss the latest innovations and development with leading healthcare specialists and will provide vital access for companies participating in the event. The exhibition is organised by the local exhibition company under the patronage of the Ministry of Health.

It is also an opportunity for medical companies to shed light on their technologies and innovations and to reveal the advances of the medical system, to accompany the rapid growth and expansion that the field is continuously witnessing.

Doctor Fahad, the Executive Director of Hamad Medical Corporation, said that the show represents an exceptional opportunity for patients to present their cases to a variety of internationally famous consultants secured by the company.

Two Awards for Ajman University

Two research projects by the College of Dentistry at Ajman University of Science and Technology (AUT) have won first and third awards at a research conference.

The conference, which is the fourteenth of its kind, was organized by Sharjah University in conjunction with Emirates Medical Association and the Ministry of Health, and took place from October 14-17, 2008. The topic of AUT’s first winning project was “Antibacterial and Antifungal Activity of Concentration during Ultrasonic Scaling,” and it was the work of student Ms. Afraa Salah, College of Dentistry faculty member.

Commenting on these achievements Dr. Salem Abu Fanas, Dean of the College of Dentistry, said: “Our winning these two awards is the fruit of the innovative medical environment in which we work, which enables our students and faculty members to develop new ideas and abilities and practice what they are taught in the classroom.”
Saudi Arabia to set up world's largest women-only varsity

JEDDAH: The Riyadh Women’s University, which is designed to become the world’s largest institution of higher learning exclusively for women, will have 15 colleges, including those for medicine, dentistry, nursing, naturopathy and pharmacology and a 700-bed hospital. The project will be completed by 2010.

Speaking about the new campus, Al-Jowharah said it would be spread over an area of eight million square meters along Airport Road in northern Riyadh. The new campus will double the university’s capacity. King Abdullah has instructed the university’s officials to do their best to improve the condition of women.

“The new colleges will accommodate 1,500 students this year,” the princess said, adding that existing colleges would be restructured in line with job market requirements. “We have devised its educational programs after consulting different ministries, including the ministries of labor, commerce and industry, and economy and planning,” she said.

He said the university would play a big role in promoting women’s education in the Kingdom. “The project also aims at improving the condition of Saudi women and enabling them to participate in the country’s development process efficiently.”

Princess Al-Jowharah bint Fahd, president of the university, praised King Abdullah and Crown Prince Sultan for their tremendous support to Riyadh Women’s University, which she said will usher in a new era in higher education for women in Saudi Arabia. “We want to make it a leading international institution,” she said.

She disclosed plans about tie-ups with prominent universities inside and outside the Kingdom to promote research. The Women’s University, along with its affiliated colleges, has so far enrolled 17,000 students, she added.

Al-Jowharah spoke about the university’s plan to focus on educational programs that are essential to meet the Kingdom’s job market requirements. “We have devised its educational programs after consulting different ministries, including the ministries of labor, commerce and industry, and economy and planning,” she said.

Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah is briefed by Finance Minister Ibrahim Al-Assaf as he views a model of the Princess Noura bint Abdulrahman University project in Riyadh on Wednesday. (SPA)
**Egyptian Governor Honours Kuwaiti Educational Official**

Kuwaiti Minister of Higher Education Dr. Bashir Hamoud Al-Sabah for efforts to beef up bilateral ties in various domains, especially education.

The senior Kuwaiti official was honoured by the governor in a ceremony thrown on the sidelines of the first international conference “Dialogue among Civilizations - Channels of Communication - Mutual Understanding” hosted by Menya University.

Speaking to KUNA following the ceremony, she hailed Kuwaiti-Egyptian relations as a landmark of education in Upper Egypt, the Kuwaiti educational official said that this cooperation is economic, educational, and cultural cooperation in this way the Kuw aiti university could be further reinforced.

She also wished that the conference would come up with recommendations that could lead to a further promotion and development of dialogue among civilizations.

**Henry Schein sees weak economy helping acquisitions**

Medical-products supplier Henry Schein Inc. expects to make an acquisition over the next couple of quarters, as weak economic conditions make potential targets relatively cheaper.

The company plans to spend $200 million on acquisitions annually, and is actively looking at a group of takeover candidates, Chief Financial Officer Steven Paladino said in a interview with Reuters.

“I would be disappointed if we did not announce any kind of acquisition activity over the next couple of quarters,” Paladino said.

Henry Schein, which bought UK-based Minerva Dental Ltd for an undisclosed sum in April, has spent about $25 million on acquisitions in the last nine months, Paladino said.

“We have $280 million of cash on the balance sheet at the end of the third quarter, and we have debt capacity,” he said.

The company had posted a better-than-expected quarterly profit, but forecast weak 2009 earnings and said it would cut about 500 jobs to reduce costs.

BIMMsis for 217 million euros ($271.5 million). The deal is one of the only European leveraged buyouts to be completed since the collapse of Lehman Brothers in mid-September all but closed the European leveraged loan market, and cut private equity firms off from financing.

The deal is being financed with senior debt provided by Fortis and a mezzanine facility that is being arranged by AXA Mezzanine.

The acquisition of BIMMsis adds to Duke Street’s existing healthcare portfolio, which includes dentistry group Oasis Healthcare, regional psychiatric hospitals operator Affinity Health care and Paris-based hospital operator Groupe Proclif.

**Ex-dental chief Trevor Mann struck off for fraud**

The former chairman of the British Dental Association was struck off for fraudulently articling, art.1,000 £-expenses from his organisation. Trevor Mann, of Cheam, South London, attempted to evade investigation by offering to repay the money.

He denied the charges, which he called “false and malicious.” The Dental Council was told that Mr Mann, a nonpractising dentist, wrongly claimed expenses for meetings of the association from October 2005 to July last year. He claimed that he worked at a surgery in Blythe, Surrey, earning £42,748 a year, but an investigation found no trace of the practice.

**3,000 Dentists Serve 140 Million Citizens**

Only 5,000 dentists are serving about 140 million Nigerians, Chairman, Lagos State Branch of the Nigerian Dental Association (NDA), Dr. Donna Umesi-Koleoso, has lamented.

Declaring this in a chat with Good health Weekly shortly after the opening ceremony of NDA’s 2008 Annual General Meeting & Continuing Education seminar on “Current Trends in Aesthetic Dentistry” Umesi-Koleoso called on government to establish more dental clinics in all the 779 local governments across the Federation.

She said acute shortage of dental clinics in the country had not only denied young dentists the opportunity to have their housemanship done and get registered as qualified dentist but contributed to the poor dental health in Nigeria.

She further called for the urgent implementation of the national oral policy in order to tackle the problem as well as put in place some aspect of oral health that would cater for the citizens oral health free of charge.

“We need to see the National Oral policy being implements fully in order to address the public health aspect of oral health. We need to take oral health close to the people at the grass roots.”

The State Chairman who however, admitted that despite numerous challenges, oral health is gradually coming up in Nigeria and emphasized the need for government pay appropriate attention to dental clinics in various parts of the country.

In States only one dentist is serving the whole state. “It is sad that we have more dental patients than the dentists. Dentists are determined to reduce a lot of tooth loss among Nigerians because when you have good oral health, you have good general and good health in general.”

Umesi-Koleoso said the seminar was to share the wealth of experience and update the knowledge of members on what dentists outside Nigeria are doing.

She further appealed to Lagos State government to ensure that the dentists in the state are involved in the on going health reforms in the state.

Delivering her lecture Dr. Norvishir Arkutu of the University of Hospital North Staffordshire, recommended three minutes brushing of teeth, two times daily with tooth paste containing fluoride.

Arkutu who traced most tooth decay to frequency of eating of sweet things advised that people should reduce their intake of sugary things.

She warned that it is not the quantity that you eat decays your teeth but the frequency. Stressing the need for people to be conscious of their oral health, Arkutu said bad oral health also affects the heart.

This is because the bacteria that could cause gum disease can also travel and affect the heart.