



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION  
OF DENTAL HYGIENISTS

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## **IFDH Announces Change of Venue for ISDH 2019**

The IFDH and Korean Dental Hygienist Association have mutually agreed on postponing plans to hold the International Symposium on Dental Hygiene (ISDH) in Korea until 2024, initially scheduled to be held in Seoul in 2019. The IFDH Board of Directors advised the KDHA of a change of venue due to the current political tensions in the area.

Many concerns have been raised in relation to the 2019 ISDH and the heightened political situation involving North Korea. Many of the House of Delegates are apprehensive in relation to the safety for its members and are concerned that many international participants will choose not to commit to attending the ISDH in South Korea in 2019 due to the tensions in North Korea and the possible outcomes.

We have had indications from potential speakers and participants that they would not participate in a conference in S. Korea because of this situation.

We have been watching the situation evolve for several months and it has not been an easy decision to make, but unfortunately the increase in tension with the ongoing nuclear testing and build-up of strategic weapons in the area makes the situation too volatile and we feel that it is perceived as unsafe for participants to travel to the region. This situation could improve or devolve, but we do not know which way it will go and with a short time to prepare a new venue, we have been investigating the possibilities.

**The IFDH Board has been in contact with the runners-up from previous ISDH bids in 2013 and 2016 and is in negotiation with an alternate IFDH House of Delegate member country. This country will be announced when the details are finalised.**

In spite of the current political tension around the Korean Peninsula, South Korea is stable both socially and economically, which is reflected through some social indicators such as the KOSPI (Korea Stock Market Index) and has been steadily rising despite these global issues.

This decision has not been made lightly and is very regrettable. We are very mindful of, and deeply regret that the environment has caused such a disappointment to the KDHA. The Board is most appreciative of the hard work they have done up to this stage to develop the ISDH and look forward to going to Seoul in 2024.

Signed,

Robyn Watson  
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