



Joint Congress Marks

Another Milestone in History

The Story Behind the Success of a Great Partnership Between ASIA PACIFIC DENTAL CONGRESS and PDA ANNUAL CONVENTION

Dr. Jennifer Mercado-Añonuevo

Once again, the country plays host to the prestigious **Asia Pacific Dental Congress (APDC)**, alongside the **116th Philippine Dental Association (PDA) Annual Convention**, a momentous joint celebration of scientific advancement, collaboration, and national pride

Held every year in May, the APDC is the flagship event of the Asia Pacific Dental Federation/Asia Pacific Regional Organization (APDF/APRO), the only regional dental body recognized by the World Dental Federation (FDI). Member countries take turns hosting the congress, with hosting rights awarded through a formal bidding process. A bid was submitted, during the Congress in Hong Kong, to host the APDC in Manila for 2025. Consequently, in the same year in Taiwan, the Philippines was awarded to host the Congress.

This year's event carries even greater significance, as it marks a proud milestone for the Philippines: Dr. Arleen Reyes was inducted as President of APDF/APRO

HIGHLIGHTS



Opening of the Trade Exhibit

The Trade Exhibit of the 46th APDC and 116th PDA Annual Scientific Sessions officially opened on May 12, marking one of the most anticipated highlights of the event. (see p.7)



Opening Ceremony

The PDA takes pride in hosting this year's 46th APDC in Manila. Amidst the vibrant and warm hospitality of the Filipinos, this International Congress is (cont. p.7)



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I set goals and tried to achieve them as best as I could. But I also learned to move past the challenges and focus on what is doable.

– DR. ARLEEN REYES
APDF/APRO President

during the Opening Ceremonies held on May 12 at the SMX Convention Center. Her leadership is a testament to the Philippines’ growing influence and active participation in the regional dental community.



The joint leadership and tireless efforts of incoming PDA President Dr. Junn Niñal and newly inducted APDF/APRO President Dr. Arleen Reyes paved the way for the remarkable success of this year’s historic convention. Dr. Niñal brought forward a dynamic vision for unifying the national and international components of the event, ensuring a seamless convergence of both scientific excellence and cultural celebration. Meanwhile, Dr. Reyes’ historic appointment elevated the Philippines on the global dental map, reinforcing the country’s voice and leadership in the Asia Pacific region. Their combined strengths, experience, and unwavering commitment to the profession created a powerful synergy that inspired the organizing teams and ensured a truly world-class congress experience for all.

The decision to merge APDC with the PDA Annual Convention is a strategic one—cost-effective, logistically smart, and deeply symbolic. “When two entities collaborate, the goals are better achieved,” said the APDC Chair. “It strengthens the bond between the national dental association and the regional umbrella organization.” Hosting APDC gives the PDA not only global visibility but also an opportunity to elevate its scientific and cultural offerings.

The last time the Philippines hosted APDC was in 2018, also under the leadership of Dr. Fernando Fernandez. That event welcomed over 16,000 delegates and generated revenue that funded PDA’s first van. Despite limited resources this year, the Chair once again led with grit and vision, securing Colgate’s return as a major sponsor and forging a partnership with the Department of Tourism, which contributed to the delegate experience through curated tours, giveaways, and support for the Gala Night.

This year, the congress had anticipated 500–800 foreign delegates, particularly from the Asia Pacific region. While the scientific program remains at its core, the event also highlights Filipino culture through vibrant social activities.

Despite the international spotlight, the PDA retains its central role. “The PDA will always be recognized as the

host,” the Chair affirmed, explaining that APDF/APRO serves as the umbrella organization, but the PDA’s credibility and capability made this historic hosting possible.

Reflecting on the months of planning, the Chair shared, “I set goals and tried to achieve them as best as I could. But I also learned to move past the challenges and focus on what is doable.”

To all delegates, her message is clear: Participate fully, learn, connect, and take pride in how the Philippines continues to shine on the regional dental stage.



Swing Into APDC Philippines 2025: Golf Invitational at Splendido

Dr. Emmanuel Lois Vargas



In anticipation of two of the most significant events in the regional dental calendar—the 46th Asia Pacific Dental Congress and the 116th Philippine Dental Association Annual Convention—the APDC 2025 Organizing Committee hosted the **APDC Invitational Golf Tournament** on May 9, 2025, at the scenic Splendido Taal Golf Club in Tagaytay.

Designed as a unique prelude to the upcoming scientific and academic gatherings, the tournament brought together dental professionals, members of APDC and PDA and dental leaders from across the Asia-Pacific region. The event offered a refreshing blend of spirited competition, professional networking, and wellness, all within the tranquil surroundings of one of the country's premier golf destinations.

Golfers competed under ideal weather conditions and enjoyed a comprehensive tournament package, which included green fees, cart access, snacks, buffet lunch, raffle entries, and exclusive giveaways. International players received additional perks such as breakfast and dedicated caddy services.

Under the theme of connection, wellness, and excellence, the golf tournament highlights the APDC and PDA's commitment to fostering a holistic approach to professional development—one that values both academic growth and personal well-being.

Set against the majestic backdrop of Taal Volcano, it was a perfect day not just to compete but also to provide meaningful opportunities for camaraderie and collaboration. Raffle prizes and special giveaways added to the celebratory tone of the event.

Serving as the ceremonial curtain-raiser for the weeklong congress, the APDC Invitational Golf Tournament exemplifies the spirit of fellowship and innovation that defines APDC 2025.

OVERALL CHAMPION

Tim Yang

86 Gross • 14 Handicap • 72 Net

MEN'S DIVISION

		Gross	Handicap	Net
Class A Champion	Jong Manangan	87	16	71
1st Runner-up	Dr. Nick Guzman	87	15	72
Class B Champion	Dr. Andy Fernnandez	96	23	73
1st Runner-up	Dr. Robert Tajonera	100	25	75
Class C Champion	Dr. Hermogenes Villareal	103	31	72
1st Runner-up	Jeq Jamiro	103	28	75
Class D Champion	Lance Fernandez	108	29	79
1st Runner-up	Ferdie Fernandez	118	33	85

WOMEN'S DIVISION

		Gross	Handicap	Net
Champion	Rona Malone	86	14	72
1st Runner-up	Marjorie Lopingco	96	23	73

Most no. of Birdies: Jong Manangan with 1 Birdie (got the first birdie on Hole 1)

Most no. of Pars: Tim Yang 9 with 7 Pars (got the first par on Hole 1)

FUNHOLES

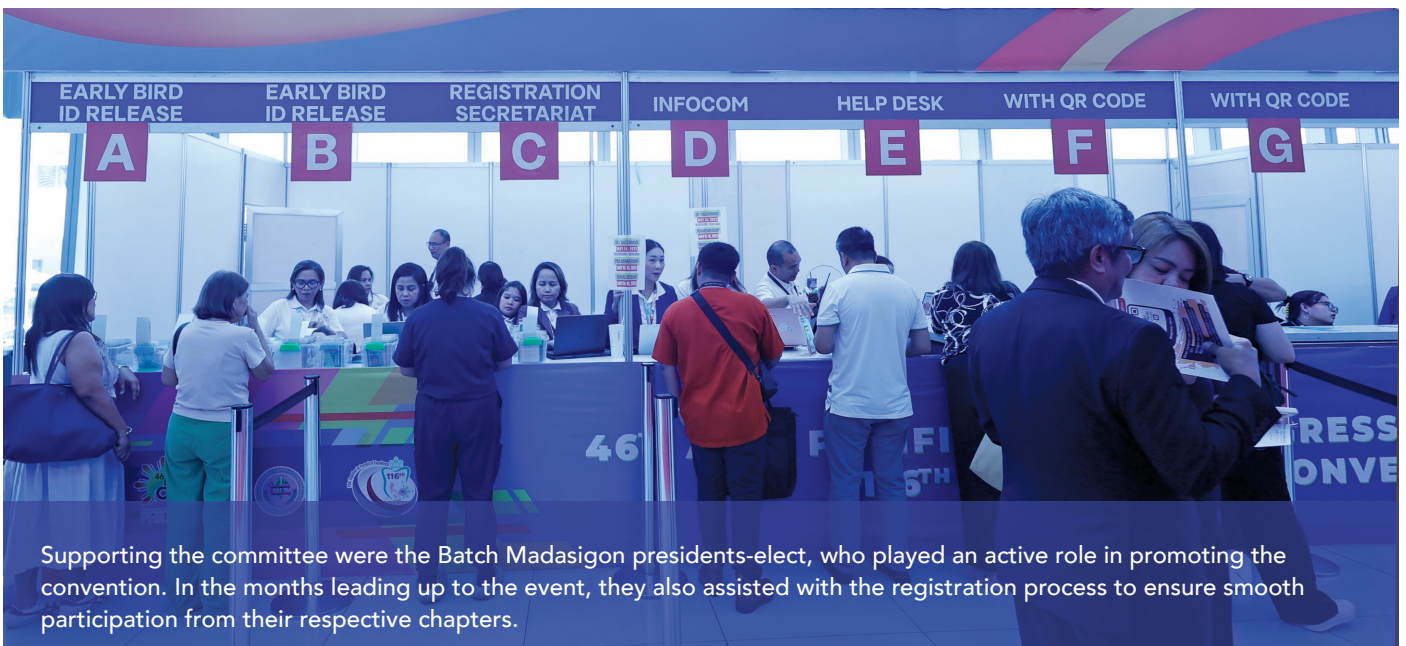
Nearest to the Pin (Hole 15)	Dr. Andy Fernnadez (8 ft)
Most Accurate Drive (Hole 7)	Jeq Jamiro (18 ft)
Longest Drive (Hole 9)	Dr. Nick Guzman (206 yards)

COORDINATING GLOBAL PARTICIPATION

Dr. Maria Teresa Perdon-Garcia

The registration committee was formed in the latter part of May 2024 and was fully organized by early July 2024. The committee consisted of 16 dentist-members along with several non-dentist volunteers, who helped manage the extensive demands of this international event.

The committee was led by the tireless and ever-cheerful Dr. Fresnida Ebreo. Given the global scale of the convention, multiple co-chairs were appointed to share responsibilities and ensure smooth coordination across various areas of the registration process.



Supporting the committee were the Batch Madasigon presidents-elect, who played an active role in promoting the convention. In the months leading up to the event, they also assisted with the registration process to ensure smooth participation from their respective chapters.

The committee has processed pre-registration of 7,424 local and 98 international delegates, in addition to numerous students and accompanying guests.

Pre-registration officially closed on April 30, 2025. However, the registration committee will still be accepting onsite registration until May 15.



• PDA BATCH MADASIGON • **The PRESIDENTS' DIALOGUE**

The Philippine Dental Association held its highly anticipated Presidents' Dialogue for Batch MADASIGON last May 11, 2025 at the SMX Convention Center Manila, bringing together presidents-elect from various chapters, affiliates and integrated professional organization across the country for a full day of inspiration, learning, and strategic planning.

The event commenced at 9:00 AM with a warm welcome and was marked by a series of engaging and insightful sessions. The morning program began with an inspiring Keynote Address by Dr. Fernando Fernandez, APDF/ APRO Secretary General, who emphasized the critical role of leadership and integrity in steering local dental chapters toward excellence.



This was followed by a heartfelt and motivating message on leadership by Dr. Lucilo "Junn" Niñal Jr., PDA President-Elect and General Chairman of the 116th PDA Annual Convention. Dr. Niñal encouraged the incoming presidents to lead with passion, purpose, and a deep commitment to serving their members and communities.

Dr. Jose Angelo Militante then presented an in-depth explanation of the Continuing Dental Education (CDE) and Continuing Professional Development (CPD) processes, equipping the attendees with essential knowledge to ensure compliance and quality in their chapters, affiliates and integrated professional organization programs.

Rounding out the morning session was Dr. Alvin Laxamana, Chairman of the Presidents' Dialogue, who discussed the guidelines and criteria of the Awards Committee, urging chapters, affiliates and integrated professional organization to strive for excellence and actively participate in PDA's programs.

The afternoon session was skillfully facilitated by Mr. Felix Mosqueda, who guided the group through a dynamic exchange of ideas and reflections. A significant highlight was a special segment where Dr. Junn Niñal shared his personal journey and life experiences, offering inspiration and allowing the presidents-elect to gain deeper insight into the values and vision of their incoming national leader.

The dialogue fostered camaraderie, clarity, and a shared sense of purpose among the new chapter leaders. With the theme of MADASIGON—a Visayan word symbolizing courage, drive, and determination—the event set a strong tone for the year ahead.

As the day concluded, participants left energized and equipped to lead their respective chapters with renewed confidence and strategic direction. — Dr. Emmanuel Lois Vargus



Unity in Faith

A Meaningful Start to the PDA Convention and APDC 2025

Dr. Amie Banawis

The Philippine Dental Association began its annual convention with a solemn and heartfelt Interreligious Celebration. This year is particularly significant, as the PDA proudly hosts the Asia Pacific Dental Congress (APDC), welcoming delegates from all over the region and from neighboring Asian countries. To mark the start of this momentous gathering, the Interreligious Committee prepared a meaningful spiritual program held last May 12 at 7:30 AM at the SMX Convention Center.



Leaders from various faiths were invited to offer prayers and reflections, embracing the spirit of unity. Dr. Alim Fatani Sultan Abdul Malik led the opening prayer representing the Muslim community. He was followed by Pastor Jeff Elezcupides of Rebuild City Church, who conducted an uplifting Christian worship service. The celebration of the Holy Eucharist was then solemnly officiated by Fr. Ronaldo Paulino, RCJ, from the Fr. Di Francia Center of Studies in Sucat, Parañaque. Each segment reflected the richness of faith and the importance of divine guidance in our shared journey.

Adding a deeply spiritual atmosphere through music was the Madasigon Choir, composed of PDA officers from the Visayas and Mindanao regions. Under the direction of Mr. Ryan Marasigan, the choir's harmonious renditions stirred the hearts of all present and brought a sense of reverence and unity.



This annual interreligious tradition serves as more than just an opening ceremony. It is a moment to pause, reflect, and seek blessings not only for the success of the event but also for the continued commitment of dental professionals to their oath of service. As the PDA brings together dentists from different backgrounds, beliefs, and regions, the interreligious celebration stood as a powerful reminder that we are all united in one noble purpose: to heal, to serve, and to uplift the lives of others.

With faith as a foundation and unity as a guide, the 2025 PDA Convention and APDC begin on a hopeful and inspiring note.

LEARNING WITHOUT LIMITS



Dr. Micah Sy



The pre-congress sessions of the joint convention has set the stage for an impactful week of learning, collaboration, and innovation in the field of dentistry. Held on May 12, 2025, the pre-congress offered a robust line-up of lectures and workshops and focused sessions designed to provide in-depth insights into various dental specializations and cutting-edge technologies.



Renowned international speakers delivered comprehensive lectures and conducted hands-on courses, discussing topics such as advancement in implantology, esthetic dentistry, dental occlusion and digital workflow integration. These sessions provided a unique opportunity for pre-congress registrants to engage in intensive learning experiences prior to the main scientific program.

Participants also benefited from close interaction with leading experts, allowing for personalized learning and deeper discussions on best practices and emerging trends. The pre-congress served as a valuable platform for professional development, fostering critical skill enhancement and knowledge exchange among dental professionals.



PDA AND APDC OPEN DOORS TO INNOVATION AT TRADE EXHIBIT LAUNCH

Dr. Gian Paolo Duterte

The Trade Exhibit of the 46th Asia Pacific Dental Congress (APDC) and 116th PDA Annual Scientific Sessions officially opened on May 12, marking one of the most anticipated highlights of the event. The exhibit showcased the latest in dental products, services, and technologies from both local and international industry leaders.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony was led by APDF President and 46th APDC General Chair Dr. Arleen R. Reyes, PDA President-Elect Dr. Lucilo G. Niñal, Jr., Trade Exhibit Committee Chair Dr. Michael Baybay, and Co-Chair Dr. Fresnida Ebreo, along with representatives from the event's major sponsors Colgate, Haleon, and Lamoian Corporation, represented by Mr. Diomar Escat, Ms. Robelle Venzon, and Dr. Cecilio K. Pedro, respectively. Their participation reflected the strong and enduring partnership between clinical practice and industry innovation.



Spanning Halls 1 to 4 of the SMX Convention Center, the exhibit brought together 526 local and international traders, offering delegates access to cutting-edge dental equipment, advanced materials, and emerging digital solutions. It served not only as a showcase of innovation but also as a vibrant hub for networking, business exchange, and professional development.

With delegates from across the Asia-Pacific region, the exhibit embodied the congress theme of unity, innovation, and progress. The dynamic engagement between dental professionals and industry stakeholders reaffirmed the PDA's commitment to advancing dentistry at both the regional and global levels.



PDA CELEBRATES LEADERSHIP LEGACY AND COLLABORATION AT JOINT CONGRESS OPENING

Dr. Oppen Viudez

The highly energized Opening Ceremonies, chaired by seasoned organizer Dr. Rodel Baltazar, was attended by both local and international delegates. It showcased cultural performances along with the traditional Parade of Nations, much to the delight of the audience.





The host country welcomed delegates with dynamic performances by the Bukluran Dance Troupe and the Kalilayan Folkloric Group, highlighting the spirit of Filipino culture. These performances set the tone for the week-long joint congress and captured the theme of unity through diversity.



PDA President Dr. Ronaldo Nuñez warmly welcomed delegates with a heartfelt address, setting a positive and inclusive tone for the event. Prof. Chun Pin Lin of Chinese Taipei followed with his Valedictory Address, marking the close of his distinguished term.



Dr. Arleen Reyes of the Philippines then delivered her Inaugural Address as the Incoming President of the Asia Pacific Dental Federation (APDF), a proud milestone for the Philippine Dental Association (PDA) as it continues to strengthen its global presence. Adding to the momentous occasion, PDA President-Elect Dr. Lucilo Niñal, Jr. joined Dr. Reyes in the formal inauguration of the joint congress, reflecting the unity, continuity, and shared vision among dental professionals across the region. Dr. Fernando Fernandez, APDF Secretary General and PDA Speaker of the House, led the traditional Roll Call of Nations and the presentation of local delegates.



The Keynote Address was delivered by Prof. Young Guk Park, Treasurer of the FDI, on behalf of Dr. Gregory Chadwick, President of the FDI World Dental Federation. The PDA's partners, Haleon Philippines, Inc. and Lamoian Corporation, once again showed their generous support, resulting in solid collaboration and promoting sustainable business growth.

This grand gathering of dental leaders and professionals not only celebrated shared achievements but also fostered deeper connections across the Asia Pacific region and around the world and to experience the unique and truly Filipino: ONE SMILE PILIPINAS!

Mabuhay!



Philippine Dental Association Celebrates Culture and Camaraderie at "Distang Pinoy"

Dr. Mar David Antioquia



The Philippine Dental Association (PDA) warmly welcomed delegates of the 116th PDA Annual Convention and Scientific Sessions with a vibrant and culturally rich Welcome Reception Night on May 12, 2025, at the SMX Convention Center in Pasay City. Themed "Pistang Pinoy," the event showcased the country's diverse heritage in celebration of unity among dental professionals across the archipelago.

Attendees came dressed in colorful Filipino regional urban streetwear which proudly represented their respective provinces through creative and festive attires. The celebration kicked off with an invocation and heartfelt Filipino welcome songs performed by The Magnificat Singers, setting the tone for an evening of national pride and fellowship.

Being the chairperson of the Welcome Reception Night, I delivered the opening remarks, extending a warm embrace to local and international guests. A cordial message followed from a representative of Colgate-Palmolive Philippines, underscoring their continued support for the dental community.



The program also featured special messages from distinguished leaders in the dental profession, including Dr. Arleen Reyes, President of the Asia Pacific Dental Federation, who spoke on the significance of unity and innovation in dentistry across Asia. Dr. Lucilo Niñal, Jr., PDA President-Elect and General Chairperson of the 116th Annual Convention, highlighted the collective efforts poured into making the convention a success. Meanwhile, Dr. Ronaldo Nuñez, PDA President and Honorary Chairperson of the event, emphasized the value of cultural appreciation and camaraderie in building a stronger dental community.



Guests were treated to a sumptuous Filipino dinner buffet featuring regional delicacies. The night's energy surged with the much-anticipated Filipino Folk Dance Competition, where nine enthusiastic PDA chapters lit up the stage with contemporary interpretations of traditional Filipino folk dances. The participating groups included:

- PDA Angeles City Chapter
- PDA Batangas Province Chapter
- PDA Cavite Chapter
- PDA Davao City Chapter
- PDA Ilocos Norte Chapter
- PDA Manila Chapter
- PDA Muntinlupa Chapter
- PDA Pasay City Chapter
- PDA Pasig-Pateros-Taguig Chapter

Each team brought their unique regional flair and creativity, making the competition a stunning showcase of Filipino artistry, passion, and pride.

Following the electrifying performances, Certificates of Appreciation were awarded to acknowledge the contributions of performers, organizers, and sponsors.

One of the night's most heartwarming moments came during the PDA Unity Welcome Dance, where all attendees joined together in a collective dance — a beautiful symbol of the unity and spirit that defines the PDA community. The event concluded with the announcement of winners, capping off an unforgettable evening of celebration, culture, and connection. Among the winners for the traditional folk dance competition are:

- PDA Batangas Chapter bagging the 1st Place
- PDA Davao City Chapter as the 2nd Placer
- PDA Pasig-Pateros-Taguig Chapter as the 3rd Placer

The night came to a close with the announcement of the car raffle draw for early bird registrants. The lucky winner was Dr. Patrick Chua, a dentist from PDA Dumaguete Chapter and he will be bringing home a brand new subcompact SUV red Toyota Raize.

As the 116th PDA Annual Convention continues, the Welcome Reception Night stands out as a joyful testament to the heart and soul of the Filipino dental community — united in purpose, diverse in heritage, and proud of its roots.



NEWSLETTER - COMMITTEE -

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Since 2018 that the Asia Pacific Dental Congress (APDC) was held in Manila, the Philippines was chosen to host once again the 46th APDC. It is with so much pride and excitement that we partake in the highlights of the Asia Pacific Dental Congress and the 116th Philippine Dental Association Annual Convention.

Every day of this notable week was filled with meaningful and purposeful activities made possible by the dedication and commitment of every member of the organizing committee. It was not just a sequence of events that unfolded but a bright and full-of-life celebration of unity, professionalism, and service. The detailed planning and careful execution by each committee are a testament to the strength of our collaborative effort.

Every aspect of this annual gathering came to life through hard work and full attention to detail. Hosting both the Asia Pacific Dental Congress and the 116th PDA Convention was no small feat. Yet, with camaraderie, shared vision, and the hands-on leadership of our Executive Committee, what was seemingly difficult to deal with became a seamless and memorable experience.

Mabuhay to all our local and foreign delegates and the organizing committee!

- Dr. Jennifer Mercado-Añonuevo



VOSA Hosts Luncheon to Welcome Delegates and Introduce 2026 APDC Host Country

The Vietnam Odonto-Stomatology Association (VOSA) hosted a special luncheon last May 12, 2025, at Gloria Maris Restaurant, located near the SMX Convention Center, in honor of the delegates from various National Dental Associations and council members of the Asia Pacific Dental Federation (APDF).

This luncheon serves as a formal introduction of Vietnam as the official host of the 47th Asia Pacific Dental Congress (APDC), which is scheduled to take place in May 2026 in Hanoi, Vietnam. During the event, VOSA showcased an Audio-Visual Presentation (AVP) that highlighted Vietnam's readiness and enthusiasm in welcoming the global dental community to their country, as well as to encourage participation and support from the region.

A highlight of the program was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and the official turnover of hosting responsibilities from the Philippines to Vietnam. This symbolic moment marked the seamless transition of leadership and collaboration between two dedicated dental communities.

The luncheon will be led by Dr. Arleen Reyes, President of the Asia Pacific Dental Federation and General Chairman of the 46th APDC, along with Assoc. Prof. Tran Cao Binh, President of VOSA.

This event promises to be a meaningful gathering of leaders, fostering unity, cooperation, and excitement for the continued growth of dentistry in the Asia-Pacific region.

See you in
SHANGHAI

Early bird registration deadline:
2 June 2025

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9-12 September 2025