

Nation in need of qualified dental teachers

KUALA LUMPUR: The nation is in need of well qualified dental teachers and specialists to teach undergraduates and post graduates, said Health Minister Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai.

“The number of graduates from our 11 dental schools will increase from the current 200 a year to 665 per year by 2017,” he said, adding that there was also lack of qualified and experienced teachers to keep up with this increase.

He said this in his opening speech at the Malaysian Dental Association's (MDA) informal night at a hotel held in conjunction with the 67th MDA AGM/World Dental Federation Scientific Convention and Trade Exhibition yesterday.

Liow said the ministry and the MDA would have to look into the need for established dental schools for post-graduate training and for an ideal ratio of dentist and patient.

The evening, called 'Dental Glee Night' saw 550 students from various dental schools singing and acting in front of their peers and overseas guests.

The convention will be held from June 10 to 13 at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre (KLCC).