‘day and warm greetings from Australia. I have the privilege of heading the team organizing the 7th International Orthodontic Congress in Sydney in February 2010. This is the first time the World Federation of Orthodontists’ congress is being hosted in the southern hemisphere, and we’re making sure this is one you simply cannot miss.

The 7th IOC will build on the solid foundation of previous IOCs. At the 1st IOC in New York in 1926, Congress President Dr William C. Fisher noted that with the inauguration of the American Society of Orthodontists in 1901, “one can rightfully conclude that the science, art, and practice of orthodontics became a specialty.” It was 69 years after the New York meeting that the World Federation of Orthodontists was born, at the 4th IOC in San Francisco. The first president of WFO, Dr Bill DeKock, wrote: “This historic meeting brings the world together.”

Fostering evidence-based practice and encouraging consistently high standards of specialist orthodontic education are worldwide goals. The 7th IOC Scientific Programme Committee, under the chairmanship of Dr Ian Watson, has lined up the best speakers in the world of orthodontics for a stimulating scientific programme that will inform on the latest developments in orthodontics.

Orthodontists from all over the world are keen to share their knowledge and talents. We have received abstracts submitted from 63 countries. The largest numbers were submitted from Asian countries, whose orthodontists do not usually present so prodigiously outside their homelands. The 7th IOC is delighted to be able to showcase the science arising from the Asian Pacific region.

We have excellent support from our major sponsors—3M Unitek, Ormco, GAC, TP, and SPEED—and a substantial exhibition will bring cutting-edge equipment and services to your attention.

The Sydney Convention & Exhibition Centre is a world-class venue, with communication systems and facilities that will maximize the value of your attendance. The centre is located on Darling Harbour, close to the city centre, and for most delegates will be no more than a pleasant stroll from your hotel.

February finds Sydney in its vibrant summer mood, and our social programme will ensure that you have a great opportunity to network and enjoy the best in Aussie food, wine, and entertainment. This is your opportunity to visit the Sydney Opera House. And just imagine yourself here on a harbour cruise on a balmy summer’s evening or climbing our landmark Sydney Harbour Bridge.

Australia is one of those places that everyone dreams about visiting. Our website (www.wfo.org) has a collection of tours, so be sure to make time to discover the Great Barrier Reef, the grand landscapes of the outback, our beautiful wine country, and some of the other cosmopolitan Australian cities. It’s also a wonderful place to bring the family.

My team and I look forward to welcoming you to Sydney in February 2010. Please come.

Rick Olive
Chair, Sydney IOC Committee