

Presidential Speech at GC Event of April 15, 2026

Dear President Dr Makoto Nakao and Makiko Nakao, President of Foundation,

Dear Distinguished Guests,

Thank you very much for your kind invitation.

Since 2004, ERO has had 38 member countries and represents an area defined by WHO-established regions of competence.

Primarily, ERO strives to to serve as a key link and source of information for the new states that emerged from the former Soviet Union, and to support those that need assistance according to FDI projects and Statements. ERO is the oldest Regional Organisation and surely a pillar of FDI.

In light of your foundation's well-known and highly active GC Project on Aging Population, I would like to inform you that the ERO Working Group on Aging Population was established in 2015 following the Tokyo Declaration. In Buenos Aires, our Working Group experts, chaired by Jean-Philippe Haesler, presented a document to the ERO delegates, which was adopted and is available on the ERO website. The document states that the proportion of elderly people is increasing.

- Oral health is an integral part of general health. The most important challenge is maintaining oral health and providing care. The code of ethics should specify that treating ageing population is every dentist's concern. The recommendation may require considerable additional resource if they are to be enacted across all healthcare systems.
- Education in geriatric dentistry is essential. Geriatric dentistry should be incorporated into undergraduate (basic education) and postgraduate dental curricula.
- Dentists need to move away from a 'treat everything' philosophy toward treating and restoring only what is necessary for patients to function comfortably, with prevention taking priority over intervention.
- An individual oral health plan should be developed. Twice daily oral health care must be provided to all long-term care residents who are unable to manage their own care. The staff in long-term care facilities should be educated on the importance of thorough daily oral care for residents, trained and equipped to provide that care. It is necessary to include a dental check-up into the schedule of general medical examinations of the residents performed at least once a year with follow-up procedure.

So now you find on ERO website (www.erodental.org)the development of this project for frailly people, with explaining movies.

Jean-Philippe Haesler, Chair of the Working Group, introduced the *Senior Tooth Brushing* app and its web version (<https://www.seniortoothbrushing.com>)

Topics in the app summary

- **Why oral hygiene is important**
 - **Oral hygiene products**
 - **Helping someone brush**
 - **Brushing natural teeth**
 - **Brushing partial teeth**
 - **Brushing overdenture**
 - **Brushing full denture**
 - **Brushing toothless mouth**
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GC was founded in Japan in 1921 and has since continued to expand, becoming one of the world's largest companies specializing exclusively in the dental industry. As FDI Councillor and now as ERO President, and on behalf of the countries I represent here, ERO expresses its appreciation for all GC's efforts in product innovation, research and development, and world-class manufacturing.

As you know, the EU is currently focusing on the MDR, and as Chair of the appointed CED Working Group, I am working with the European Commission.

In 2025, the Working Group focused on navigating the complexities of the Medical Devices Regulation (MDR) to safeguard the interests of dental practitioners and patient care. Throughout the year, the WG actively engaged with the European Commission's targeted evaluation of the MDR, notably through the submission of detailed feedback to the public consultation.

ERO and CED's synergic contributions consistently emphasized the need for a pragmatic legislative framework that prioritizes clinical focus over bureaucracy. The WG remains committed to ensuring that the voice of the dental profession is central to the future of EU medical device policy.

Opening a new state-of-the-art dental products factory in the heart of Europe, as GC is doing, is truly a matter of goodwill, trust, and a great challenge. I am confident you will succeed.

I hope that today marks the start of a strong cooperation between GC and ERO, with joint projects to further develop dentistry and support dental professionals across Europe, so as to provide optimal oral care for our patients and citizens.

Thank you!