



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

Article from:

# International Section News

June 1999 – Issue No. 19

## Promoting Actuarial Education Across Asia

by Patrick Cichy  
Coordinator of Asian Services

The Society of Actuaries has a long history of supporting actuarial education across North America by supplying universities' actuarial science departments with SOA-published materials. This type of assistance appeared to be a logical first step for the Asia Committee (now the China Region Committee) to promote actuarial education in China where an ever-increasing number of students sit for SOA exams. Study materials are also hard to come by in a country where the annual per capita income as reported by the World Bank is less than US\$1,000.

The CRC identified universities with either undergraduate or graduate actuarial science programs, many of which are SOA exam centers, and designated them as Society of Actuaries Reference Centers. The SOA sends them complimentary materials, requiring them to place the materials in a library available to all students, faculty, and others interested in learning more about the profession. The Reference Centers receive a one-time complete set of

Associateship level study notes (with revisions sent biannually) and SOA-published textbooks, plus regular mailings of *The Actuary*, *The Future Actuary*, *North American Actuarial Journal*, *Yearbook*, *Associateship and Fellowship Catalog*, and all of the Section newsletters.

There are currently nine Reference Centers across China: East China Normal University, Shanghai; Fudan University, Shanghai; Hunan College of Finance & Economics, Hunan; Nankai University, Tianjin; Peking University, Beijing; Renmin University, Beijing; Shanghai University of Finance & Economics, Shanghai; University of Science and Technology of China, Hefei; and Zhongshan University, Guangzhou. The CRC is also considering adding two more centers in the near future.

SOA Reference Centers have also been established at two universities in the region encompassed by the recently formed Southeast Asia Committee—MARA Institute of Technology, Shah Alam, Malaysia, and Nanyang

Technological University, Singapore. These institutions were chosen based on the same criteria as those in China. The SEAC is currently reviewing the programs at other universities in hopes to further promote actuarial education in more countries throughout Southeast Asia.

For more information on the CRC, SEAC, and the Reference Centers, please visit the SOA Asia News Homepage at [www.soa.org/committees/asiahp.html](http://www.soa.org/committees/asiahp.html).

\* \* \*

*Patrick Cichy is the Coordinator of Asian Services for the Society of Actuaries in Hong Kong. He can be reached at [pcichy@soa.org](mailto:pcichy@soa.org).*



*Faculty and student members at Fudan University, Shanghai, China, discuss a paper from the latest edition of the North American Actuarial Journal.*



*Students at the Hunan College of Finance & Economics, Hunan, China, study for the SOA exams at the Reference Center.*