



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

Article from:

International Section News

October 1999 – Issue No. 20

may be a source of dispute. If an eye surgeon develops an affliction which results in his being unable to perform operations, but he is otherwise able to undertake other types of employment and activities, is he regarded as disabled? Should an occupation-specific or an all-occupational definition of disability be used?

The recent past has witnessed more and more people, particularly the elderly, refusing treatment in the face of terminal illness. Many wish to save on medical costs. In 1993, the United States spent US\$152 billion on Medicare, 28% of which was estimated to have been for patients in their last year of life. Of that, half was spent in the last 30 days of the patients' lives. There is also a growing acceptance that the terminally ill should have the freedom to choose to die earlier instead of being kept alive by machines. More people will be willing to confront the subject of death and make living wills, and the social security system of the 21st century should encourage this practice. Singapore has just recently begun to consider this subject.

V. Concluding Remarks

This paper outlines some of the key characteristics of the viable social security system of the 21st century, based on trends that are expected to prevail at the time. Social, political and economic conditions vary and even if all countries adopted these principles, implementation will differ according to circumstances and conditions. Issues such as whether the social security system should be publicly or privately managed, how systems can be unified, whether withdrawals should be phased or lump sum, whether contributions made in one country can be withdrawn in another are best decided by the governments or corporations concerned. Flexibility should be a guiding principle in system as well as implementation.

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The Egyptian SOA

by Mohamed F. Amer

Preamble

The Egyptian Society of Actuaries (ESOA) was established in February 1999. The founders are ten Egyptian professional actuaries:

- Two Fellows of the UK Institute of Actuaries
- Two Fellows of the USA Society of Actuaries
- Four Associates of the UK Institute of Actuaries
- Two Associates of the USA Society of Actuaries
- Twenty five affiliated members who are studying for actuarial examinations

The Main Objectives of the Society

- ✓ Promote and maintain high standards of conduct and competence among its members
- ✓ Issue guidance notes and professional guidance standards
- ✓ Increase awareness of actuarial science
- ✓ Organize meetings and seminars to discuss practical actuarial problems of professional interest so that the affiliated members may acquire skills and information in the areas related to the profession
- ✓ Exchange views and experience with other societies
- ✓ Express views and opinions in all matters related to the actuarial profession
- ✓ Form an actuarial library

Education and Training

In Egypt the shortage of actuarial personnel had become acute. Most of the

existing Egyptian actuaries were aging and there were only very few new potential actuaries.

In 1995 an actuarial education program was started at Cairo University for the degree of B.Sc. in actuarial science. Members of the ESOA and professors of the university teach courses in this program, which is a joint effort of Cairo University, City University in London, the Insurance Federation of Egypt and the Institute of Actuaries.

Through the Cairo University program, students are able to obtain exemptions on up to eight of the UK Institute of Actuaries' examinations. Twenty-five students have already graduated, in both 1998 and 1999, and have obtained the degree of B.Sc. in actuarial science. Some of them received the full exemption of eight examinations of the Institute of Actuaries, and they are now affiliate members of the IOA.

A steady stream of new entrants is starting actuarial studies each year at the university.

There are two examination centers in Cairo for examinations of the USA Society of Actuaries and the UK Institute of Actuaries.

The ESOA is not conducting its own exams now and does not plan to do so in the foreseeable future. We will depend upon both the USA Society of Actuaries and the UK Institute of Actuaries.

Membership

For admission to the ESOA, the prospective member should have a good reputation and the board of directors must approve his/her application for membership.

The membership of the Society consists of two classes:

- 1) **Active members:** Fellows and Associates of the Society of Actuaries or the Institute of Actuaries who are included in the

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registry of the Egyptian Insurance Supervisory Authority.

- 2) **Affiliated members:** Those who have a bachelors degree in actuarial science or any other equivalent qualifications from a university or institute, are accepted by the Board of Directors, and who are continuing their studies to qualify to be an active member.

Termination of Membership

Membership will terminate for any of the following reasons:

- ✗ Noncompliance with the rules of the Society
- ✗ Commitment of an offense causing

material or moral damage to the Society

- ✗ Exploiting his/her membership in the Society for personal benefits
- ✗ Death
- ✗ Resignation

The General Assembly

The General Assembly is the supreme authority of the ESOA. It is composed of all members, but voting is limited to active members. The general assembly shall hold its sessions at least once every year.

The general assembly approves the financial accounts and the budget.

Members of the Board of Directors are appointed by the General Assembly.

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An American Actuary in Shangri-la

by James E. Norris

On a secluded hillock festooned with palm oil trees in the center of one of Asia's most bustling cities, a sinuous Chinese woman approaches the Buddha in her bare feet. The few believers in the temple are young and reverential before the incarnate god. The incense only punctuates the essentially sensate nature of their worship. A metal gong is seen but is not heard as the young woman murmurs her incantations.

This is not the heraldic religion of the Occident, the Christianity born of Frankish blood and Toledo steel. This is not the stern stuff of Rome and Leipzig, the denial of the senses—dare we say it—the denial of the flesh.

As the western man observes the young believers—and, in particular,

the young woman—he senses a loosening of his own moorings, a questioning of all that has gone before. He feels himself awash in a riot of images—some profound and some profane. He observes paradox where before there was only rational, western truth.

Malaysia is, after all, an Asian land. Although modern, clean, and progressive, Malaysia is also traditional and atavistic. In its jungles and highlands, one can feel the presence of ancient avatars, who frolic amid gushing, mountain waterfalls and who take their rest in tropical, lowland gardens. Yet, in the largest of its commercial centers, one enjoys the civility of its warm and genteel people—a civility long since gone in the west.

Suddenly the western man is aroused from his reverie by the Islamic call

to prayer. In the middle of the week—in the middle of the day—in the middle of the nation's commercial heart—the western man finds himself praying. And, as the days progress, the beautiful minarets of lapis and gold which dot the landscape remind the western man to pray again.

Malaysia is a wondrous land, whose people are genuine, hardworking, receptive to many influences, and conveniently for this western man, well-versed in the English tongue. And Kuala Lumpur is a beautiful, contemporary metropolis, which also conveniently has a need for instructors in actuarial science.

*James E. Norris, ASA, EA, MSPA
Actuary
30 August 1999*