



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

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# Ambassador Program Update

by Jim Toole

The Ambassador Program serves as an important link between the Society and its membership abroad. In 1999, the Ambassadors' energies were focused on assisting the SOA membership by providing insight into other markets in the form of the Country Web Pages. With the help of International Section Council member Richard Geisler and SOA staff members Debbie Jay and Jeanette Selin, the pages quickly progressed from idea to reality with 12 beautifully crafted submissions from around the globe. If you haven't seen them yet, please link to [www.soa.org/links/amb.htm](http://www.soa.org/links/amb.htm).

We have aggressively recruited Ambassadors in 1999, increasing our ranks from 24 to 30 as of year-end. Our goal for 2000 is to close the year with 35 or more Ambassadors, providing service to key countries where SOA membership is 10 or more or where there is a strong local actuarial presence.

This growth has proven to be too much for one volunteer to adequately support. Incoming Council members Hans Wagner and Hubert Mueller are sharing responsibilities with me to facilitate and encourage Ambassador activities. Hans, Hubert and I will be assisting Ambassadors and leading recruiting efforts in Asia-Pacific, Europe and the Americas, respectively.

Highlights on Ambassador activity for 1999 included:

- Our Ambassador in Egypt, Mohammed F. Amer, was instrumental in the establishment of the Egyptian Society of Actuaries in July 1999
- Bill Klunk being appointed as our Ambassador in Tanzania and, with limited resources, has been very active in furthering the profession in that area

- Ronald Poon-Affat, our Ambassador in Brazil, has been behind the efforts to produce this newsletter in Portuguese
- While we regret to report the retirement of one of our more active Ambassadors, Dominic Lee, we look forward to working with his replacement, Danny Chung
- New Ambassadors were appointed this year to represent India, Luxembourg, and Pakistan, areas that previously had no ambassador representation
- Last, but certainly not least, we'd like to thank all the Ambassadors who provided us with work reports throughout the year published in this newsletter.

Our main focus for 2000 will be to assist with the transition to the new exam system. To that end, we have identified two distinct student constituencies: expatriates studying overseas, and local

helping to locate PD advisors for projects and identifying programs with appropriate content for PD credits. Ambassador back office support for these and other efforts will be provided in terms of canned presentations on various topics; specific contact persons within the SOA exam center to handle questions concerning international students; and the support of the regional coordinators.

Being an Ambassador can be very rewarding. If you are interested in becoming an Ambassador, or have an idea that you would like to contribute, please contact one of the coordinators for more information.

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nationals sitting for SOA exams. Our Ambassadors will be assisting these students by presenting the new system to local universities and actuarial forums,