



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

Article from:

# International Section News

October 2003 – Issue No. 31

# What's New in the SOA's International Arena?

by Martha Sikaras

## International Strategy

The Board Level Advisory Group on International Issues, chaired by Stuart Wason, continues work on its White Paper on International Strategy and Initiatives. The group is focused on addressing four strategic questions:

1. *What do we know about our members' needs, wants and preferences that is relevant?* Here, the group will examine information on our current member and candidate demographics and related trends; information on the needs of both of these groups and the identification of other international constituents such as emerging actuarial organizations, academic programs and government entities.
2. *What do we know about the current realities and evolving dynamics of the SOA's environment that is relevant?* There are an almost overwhelming number of environmental factors that influence international strategy decisions. For example, the impact of globalization; the emergence of international standards; the convergence of financial services firms and a host of regionally specific issues.
3. *What do we know about the "capacity" and "strategic position" of our organization that is relevant?* No picture is complete without a thorough examination of finances and organizational capacity. The SOA is currently involved in the support of many efforts; some directed by its staff while others are done in cooperation with other organizations such as the International

Actuarial Association and our Hong Kong joint office.

4. *What are the ethical implications of our choices?* The SOA is one of the largest actuarial organizations. As such, we must take a responsible look at the consequences of our decisions and actions.

A final paper is due to the Board of Governors for consideration at their October meeting.

You are invited to provide comments on any of these topics by contacting Martha Sikaras at [msikaras@soa.org](mailto:msikaras@soa.org).

## New Ambassadors

The SOA is pleased to welcome Phong Thanh Huynh, F.S.A., F.C.I.A., (Vietnam) and Julian D.Gribble, F.S.A., F.C.I.A., (Australia) as its newest ambassadors. Both ambassadors will be working to promote the actuarial profession within their countries as well as acting a local resource for SOA members and candidates. Congratulations!

## Joint Groupe Consultatif/IAA Education Seminar

The International Actuarial Association (IAA) and the Groupe Consultatif will co-sponsor an International Education Conference on "Educating Actuaries with a Business Orientation." The seminar will be held at the Hotel Maritim proArte in Berlin on November 26-27, 2003. □

Additional details are available at [http://www.gcactuaries.org/documents/berlin\\_regdetails.pdf](http://www.gcactuaries.org/documents/berlin_regdetails.pdf)

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## Don't Miss the International Section Sessions at the SOA Meeting in Orlando!!

### Monday, October 27

10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. SESSION 5 PD  
*Specialty Track: International/Nontraditional Marketing*  
TRENDS IN DISTRIBUTION IN INTERNATIONAL MARKETS

### Tuesday, October 28

10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. SESSION 69 PD  
*Specialty Track: International/Management and Personal Development*  
MANAGEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS

### Wednesday, October 29

10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. SESSION 117 OF/D  
*Specialty Track: Financial Reporting/International*  
INTERNATIONAL ACCOUNTING STANDARDS DEBATE

### Wednesday, October 29

2:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m. SESSION 127 PD  
*Specialty Track: Health/International*  
INTERNATIONAL SOLUTIONS TO FINANCING HEALTHCARE

### Wednesday, October 29

2:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m. SESSION 128 PD  
*Specialty Track: International*  
IT'S THURSDAY MORNING, I MUST BE IN SEOUL