



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

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Table Manager Update

by Jim Toole

Did you hear? The latest version of the SOA Table Manager is available for free download on the SOA Web site! The first hour it was available it almost brought the site down—we had hits from all around the world! I mean, if you could get free access to 1000+ mortality tables from around the globe, wouldn't you jump at it? This thing is hotter than the Victoria Secrets Webcast, güey!

Well, maybe not that hot. But it sure seems like one of the brightest examples of cooperation within the international actuarial community since the ICA 2002.

It all began when Steve Strommen and I were on the Computer Science Section Council together. While I was busy reading speculative fiction contest entries,

before he can really think about it, he agrees to upgrade his software to support the needs of the international community.

Update Focus

The update had two main goals: to update table content, and to upgrade the software to better support the needs of international users.

In order to meet the needs of international users, the mortality databases were completely reorganized to allow the user to sort and access information by country and by usage (insured mortality, annuitant mortality, population mortality). Not only did this entail collecting the information to support these fields on our new tables, but all past tables needed to

Update Summary

The summary netted over 200 new and updated tables from 25 countries, six of which are entirely new, including Korea, Indonesia, PR China, the first ever Egyptian table (provided by our ambassador Mohammed Amer) and population tables from Brazil and Argentina. In the Asia/Pacific region, coordinated by Karl Khor, there are over 30 new tables. In the Americas region, we have over 60 new tables thanks to Tom Leonard and Jorge Noronja, while in Europe/Africa there are over 100 new tables thanks to the creative and unflagging efforts of Mike Gabon and Hubert Mueller. The countries now included in the table manager represent over 95% of the global insurance premium volume according to Swiss Re, so if you want to do business there, chances are the Table Manager has a table for you.

"The SOA Table Manager is available for free download on the SOA Web site!"

Steve was designing and implementing the first version of the table manager. It was very successful and has become well known in actuarial circles.

Fast forward. Each year in the International Section we have a project for the ambassadors. One year, the project was developing country Web pages. The next, it was educating international students about changes in the E&E system. Somehow, I became fixated on the idea that this would be the goal for my last year on the council, bringing the international resources of the section to bear, working in a collaborative effort to bring information to the constituency at home. So, Steve is minding his own business and the phone rings, and

be updated as well. Finally, additional categories were provided to support selection factors, projection factors, lapse rates and miscellaneous tables.

In order to update the content, we drew on volunteer resources both inside and outside of the section council. Organizationally, we approached the project on the same regional basis as the ambassador program. The ambassadors were alerted to the project and served as our first contact in any country. We turned to IAA representatives with some success, and finally, as often as not relied on the resources and generosity of the local offices of Tillinghast and Milliman to fill in any blanks.

A World of Thanks

Time now to say thanks again to all the people involved, including the International Section Council, Steve Strommen, Mo Chambers at the IAA, Martha Sikaras at the SOA, the dozens of people who helped by contributing and documenting all the tables, the regional coordinators Mike Gabon, Carl Khor, Tom Leonard, Hubert Mueller and Jorge Noronha, and finally, Citlalli Vital who was there every step of the way and was ultimately responsible for getting all those tables loaded into the system.

Saludos!

Jim Toole, FSA, MAAA, is a consulting actuary at Milliman & Robertson, Inc. in Denver, CO, and is immediate past chairperson. He can be reached jim.toole@milliman.com.