



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

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Chairperson's Corner

By *Bosco Chan*

By the time you receive this August edition of the International News, we will have already entered the critical moments of our 2009–2010 section election.

There are three open positions in the International Section Council this year, each with a three year term. Eleven candidates had expressed interest in running for the council which translated to 3.7 candidates per open seat. This is the highest ratio if we were to measure against our own records in recent years. In comparison with other sections' ratios this year, we are in the top tier. There is also a diversified background amongst our candidates with work experiences that span vast geographic areas such as Brazil, Canada, Caribbean, China, Japan, Kuwait, United Kingdom, and other countries. Their multi-cultural experiences and global perspectives will bring new ways of executing decisions and allow us to provide better service to our members. The council is very excited and feels encouraged by the terrific responses.

The election is an important annual section activity. As the most important element in building sustainable business and operations is people, it is the council's goal to recruit the right match and the best people in order to deliver superior performance. Having council members with insightful vision and proven track record for execution will make us undefeatable.

On March 16, a blast e mail was sent out to search for leaders among our membership. Three-quarters of the candidates had immediately expressed interest in running for the International Section Council and the remaining one quarter spoke up right before the April 21 deadline. The council had reviewed each candidate's background and professional experience and then chose eight diverse individuals to be included in the ballot. Those selected candidates were asked to prepare a biography with up to 200 words for the election ballot by June 12.

The section council elections will be conducted electronically in August. All SOA members with a valid e mail address in the SOA database will receive a password for electronic voting. Paper ballots will be distributed to those without valid e mail addresses or who prefer paper ballots. Section members may cast one vote for each open position. Affiliate members do not have voting privileges. Polls close on August 24 and candidates with the most votes will win.

Newly elected International Section council members will be invited to join the council's monthly conference call in September and then officially take office at the end of the SOA Annual Meeting in October. Alistair Cammidge, Carl Hansen, and I will retire from the council at that time; the three of us will miss our time spent serving the council. Alan Cooke, Darryl Wagner, Joanna Chu, Joe Chou, Peter Duran, Rich de Haan, and the newly elected council members will lead the council to achieve the next milestone.

There has never been a better opportunity to demonstrate our leadership than there is right now in this changing economic landscape. As chairperson, I strongly urge you to vote and help to make a difference in the future of the council. It is my belief that you and I together can plant the seed toward our mutually owned future. □