



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

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The International Section at the SOA Annual Meeting

By Alan Cooke



J. Leprich, G. Wu and B. Smith presenting the first door prize at the International Reception.



International Reception Buffet

More than 1,900 people attended the SOA 2011 Annual Meeting & Exhibit in Chicago from October 16-19. Attendees included members from across the globe and the International Section Council was very busy at the SOA Annual Meeting.

INTERNATIONAL SECTION COUNCIL MEETING

Our activities commenced at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday with our annual council meeting. At the meeting we welcomed three new council members (Doug Carey, Sunil Sen and Michael Witt) and said good-bye to three members (Joanna Chu, Peter Duran and Alan Cooke). The new officers for 2011/12 were elected and they are: Genghui Wu (chair), Benjamin Marshall (vice-chair), Doug Carey (treasurer) and Michael Witt (secretary). Genghui commented in more detail on the council's planned 2012 activities in his inaugural "Chairperson's Corner." We were very pleased that Christos Patsalides, our ambassador for Cyprus, was able to join us for our council meeting.

JOINT IABA/CAC/CAA NETWORKING RECEPTION

The International Association of Black Actuaries, in partnership with the Chinese Actuarial Club, and the Caribbean Actuarial Association, co-sponsored a panel presentation followed by a networking reception over a Caribbean banquet on Sunday. The International Section Council attended their networking reception immediately after its council meeting where there were also many

representatives of the Institute of Actuaries of Japan in attendance. Much good Jamaican beer and food was enjoyed.

INTERNATIONAL RECEPTION

Our ever-popular Tuesday night annual reception sold out well in advance of this year's event. As usual it was an evening of networking and fun. This year's event was financially assisted by Milliman and DW Simpson and our co-partners for the event were the IABA, the CAC, the CAA and the Institute of Actuaries of Japan. This year's event featured several short speeches, hilarious skits, door prizes, many varieties of food and an open bar. Brad Smith, the incoming SOA president and chairperson of Milliman, talked about the SOA's international strategy and the important role of the International Section. His remarks were followed by a talk by Lesley Traverso (managing partner international, DW Simpson) on international actuarial employment opportunities. Mingguang Li (general secretary of the China Association of Actuaries) updated us on the actuarial profession in China. This was followed by a series of short addresses by our reception partners. The highlight of the night followed when our colleagues from the Institute of Actuaries of Japan entertained us with a series of amusing skits. Several photos from the international reception appear with this article. A good time was had by all and we look forward to seeing many of you again next year. Special thanks to Genghui Wu, Lina Xu, our financial sponsors and our partners for their efforts in making this year's event a success.

ANNUAL MEETING SESSIONS

The International Section was heavily involved with several sessions at the annual meeting. The materials for the sessions may be found on the SOA website.

On Monday afternoon, the International Section co-sponsored "IFRS: The Future of Accounting for Insurance and its Implications" with the Financial Reporting Section. Darryl Wagner, the former chair of the International Section, moderated and spoke at this session.

On Tuesday morning, Ben Marshall, the current International Section vice-chair, spoke at a session sponsored by the International Section entitled "Where Enterprise Risk Management Meets Capital Management." Two



Institute of Actuaries of Japan performers at the International Reception

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

The International Section at the SOA Meeting | from Page 9

International Section Council members were involved later that morning with a second session. Theo Iaponas moderated and Lina Xu presented at “Managing Longevity and Mortality Risks and their Global Activities.” Both sessions as well as the Monday session were coordinated by Genghui Wu, the current chair of the International Section.

On Tuesday afternoon, the International Section, along with the Actuary of the Future Section and several other sections, co-sponsored back to back non-technical sessions discussing how to have a successful retirement. I was the moderator for the first session “How I’m Having Fun in Retirement” and a speaker at the second one “What Can I Do during My Working Years to Make My Retirement Years More Interesting?”

All of the sessions received favorable reviews and we anticipate a high level of participation next year as well. □



Attendees at International Section Council meeting:
Back Row: G. Wu, T. Iaponas, D. Carey, C. Patsalides, A. Cooke
Front Row: M. Sikaras, L. Xu, S. Sen, M. Witt



Mingguang Li, General Secretary of the China Association of Actuaries