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Editor's Note

By Carl Hansen

We are delighted to announce the winning article for this year's Country Feature Competition. The winner, "The Netherlands: Going Strong After the Financial Crisis," written by Sunil Sen appears in this issue of *International News* on page 44. The second place article, "Indonesia," by Mitchell Wiener (plus some other entries) will appear in the December 2010 issue of *International News*. Thank you to everyone who submitted an article this year. I encourage all readers to start planning for the 2011 competition.

This issue features several articles highlighting activities at the International Congress of Actuaries and related meetings in Cape Town this past March. I hope that some readers were able to attend the Congress in person. If not, Paul Thornton, Tom Herget, and John Robinson give a good flavor of the events. It was an impressive gathering of 1,600 actuaries from over 100 countries. Where else can an actuary from the United States enjoy drinks at the same table as actuaries from Colombia, South Africa, and Sudan? The South Africans were wonderful hosts and Cape Town was a spectacular setting. It will be a hard act to follow when the U.S. actuarial organizations host the 2014 Congress in Washington, DC!

You should notice that we have greatly expanded the "Ambassador's Corner" feature for this issue, with additional news and updates from various countries. The International Section is committed to the SOA's ambassador program as a way of enhancing communication on the local level. *International News* is happy to support these efforts.

Finally, August is the time of year when the SOA asks its membership to vote on the new leadership of the organization. I encourage all readers to participate in this important process (if you have not already done so). □



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