

Ambassador's Corner

The International Section is pleased to advise that Ambassadors have recently been appointed for three more countries: Japan, the Gulf Region, and Israel. In this edition of the ambassador Corner, we are providing biographies and 2010-11 work plans for these new Ambassadors. We will continue featuring articles from all of our ambassadors on their respective countries.

JAPAN



Warren Rodericks, FSA

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Biography

Warren Rodericks works in actuarial consulting for Deloitte in Tokyo. Although originally from Canada, he speaks Japanese and has lived in Japan for the past four years. Prior to that, Warren worked in life insurance and actuarial software companies in Canada. He is a Fellow of the Society of Actuaries. As the new SOA Ambassador to Japan, he would like to create opportunities for the 50+ SOA members in Japan to interact with each other, as well as to provide a communication link between the members and the SOA. In addition, he hopes to strengthen the relationship between the SOA and the Institute of Actuaries of Japan (IAJ).

2010–11 Work Plan

As Ambassador, I would like to do the following:

1. Reach out to SOA members in Japan
 - Inform them of my ambassador status
 - Ask about member needs and concerns and, acting as liaison with, SOA, also facilitate SOA communications to members
 - Organize member get-togethers if there is interest
2. Provide support for continuing education requirements:
 - Research and inform SOA members of events in Japan and surrounding countries that comply with continuing education requirements
 - If necessary, conduct an informational session on the requirements (since they were implemented recently; many people in Japan were cut off from the dialogue and may not understand the requirements)
3. Provide support for exam centers and examination taking where possible
4. Write one or more international section news articles (many possible topics: Japan's move to IFRS, systemic risk regulation developments in Japan, solvency regulation overhaul in Japan, Japan's aging demographics, etc.)
5. Develop the Japan Web page (if necessary? I have never seen one of these before, but would be happy to create one)

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6. Support any actuarial conferences and seminars in Japan, and help to arrange joint activities with the IAJ with whom I have contacts
7. Assist the Society with any research projects involving Japan
8. Other support as necessary

GULF REGION



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Biography

Shoib Soofi has been recently selected as SOA Ambassador for The Gulf Region, covering Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates (UAE), Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait and Oman.

Shoib has been based in Dubai, UAE since March 2008, working for American Life Insurance Company as their Principal Financial Actuary for Middle East, Africa and South Asia (MEASA) Region. Before that, Shoib worked in Pakistan in various positions, including assistant general manager in State Life Insurance Corporation of Pakistan, director (insurance) in Securities & Exchange Commission of Pakistan and chief government actuary. Shoib has over 18 years of experience in life insurance, pension, health insurance

and Takaful in the areas of product development, financial reporting, regulations and policy making.

2010–11 Work Plan

We, the actuaries in United Arab Emirates, started in May 2008 to have meetings every three to four months in which an actuary gives a presentation on a topic and then we discuss our activities and how to expand them followed by a dinner. Initially, people from UAE attended the gatherings but actuaries from Bahrain and Qatar have also joined. Presentations included topics like communication, role of the appointed actuary, Takaful, enterprise risk management, etc. This has been going well and now we are working on the next steps i.e., organizing ourselves into a formal association. Talks are underway with the Dubai International Financial Centre for registration as the non-profit professional association representing the Actuarial Profession in Gulf.

There are 75-100 members in the Gulf Actuarial Community including students, associates and fellows with probably the highest number in UAE. We have also started compiling a list of actuarial resources in the Gulf Region.

I'm also supervising SOA Exams for about two years as the official supervisor for UAE.

In the future, I plan to:

- Continue with the Gulf Actuarial Meeting at least three times a year. As mentioned, in these meetings we will have a presentation on any topic of mutual interest plus discussion on the actuarial profession and how to expand our activity level. So far, our meetings have been limited to actuaries, but now we have started to involve others. In our last two meetings, the secretary of the Emirates Insurance Association also attended.

- I also plan to give a talk at a university once a year about the actuarial profession. There is good potential for the profession to grow in this region.
- Continue with SOA exam supervision for the UAE.
- Try to arrange an SOA Associate Professionalism Course (APC) in Dubai once a year benefiting students in the Middle East and South Asia.

ISRAEL



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Biography

Eitan Fish is a senior marketing actuary in Swiss Re, Tel Aviv, Israel, responsible for reinsurance product development for life and health business in Israel, Greece, Cyprus and Malta, including pricing, product design, and marketing of reinsurance. Prior to Swiss Re, Eitan worked as a senior actuary for life and pension business in the Office of the Commissioner of Insurance, in Jerusalem, Israel, where he was responsible for the analysis of the government's modifications to the country's pension system and evaluation

of insurance companies' submissions of policy and rate filings. Prior to this, Eitan worked at Guardian Life Insurance Company, New York.

2010-11 Work Plan

My work plan as an SOA Ambassador for Israel includes:

- Surveying SOA members and exam candidates in Israel to find out what their professional and educational needs are.
- Investigate how the SOA can help its members in Israel in their professional development.
- Identifying CPD needs and opportunities.
- Submitting articles to the SOA International Section newsletter regarding the insurance industry and on the role of actuaries in Israel.
- Developing an informational package and checklist for actuaries considering relocating to Israel. □