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This newsletter is free to section members. Current issues are available on the SOA website (www.soa.org).

To join the section, SOA members and non-members can locate a membership form on the International Section Web page at <http://www.soa.org/International/>.

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Editor's Note

By Carl Hansen

Welcome to the first digital version of *International News*! The section council sees this as an important action to better meet the needs of the section membership while keeping costs down. As always, if you have any comments on this new format (or any other newsletter issues), please feel free to contact the editorial staff or the section council.

Welcome to the new International Section Council members—Carlos Arocha, Warren Rodericks and Rong Rong. This issue includes a brief introduction to each of them on page 5. Thank you to Michael Lockerman, Alycia Slyck and Genghui Wu for your contributions on behalf of the section over the last three years.

This issue of *International News* also marks a transition for the editorial staff. This will be Alan Cooke's last issue. Alan has been an exceptional volunteer in many different roles for the International Section over the last few years. I will certainly miss his guidance and support, and I hope he continues to contribute articles to the newsletter as we go forward. Vincent Xuan from Prudential in the United States is joining the editorial staff. He has already been very helpful in pulling together this issue. Welcome, Vincent!

We have two more excellent entries from the 2012 Country Feature Competition in this issue. I suggest that potential authors start planning for the 2013 competition, as the deadline will come quickly following the many work requirements early in the year. See page 26 for more information.

I would like to draw the reader's attention to the article on "A Global Perspective of the Health Insurance Market" by Michael Frank on page 18. This is a summary of an exceptional "grass roots" initiative that benefits the students involved in the program, the instructors and future employers. The SOA and the international actuarial profession should encourage more exchanges such as this, both within countries and across borders, to develop critical thinking and a global outlook in the next generation of actuaries. □



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