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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

Recent information from the Society of Actuaries indicates that the organization is well on its way to becoming truly global, with members currently working in more than 60 countries and territories. Since 1995, the percentage of the membership outside the United States and Canada has increased from about 8 percent to nearly 14 percent of the total. This trend should continue to accelerate since four of the top 10 largest SOA examination centers are now located outside the United States and Canada—in Hong Kong, Seoul, Beijing, and Taipei.

For the past two years, I have been part of the 14 percent outside of the United States and Canada as I have been based in Guernsey in the Channel Islands. If you are also one of the 14 percent, I encourage you to give feedback to the SOA and International Section leadership so that the organization can be more responsive to your needs as it expands internationally. Wherever you are currently living or working, embrace the SOA's globalization and use it to expand your perspective and your business skills.

For all readers, this is the time of year to consider increasing your leadership activities in the profession by being a candidate in the SOA elections. Regardless of whether or not you are a candidate, please vote when the ballots are available.

This issue of *International News* includes a variety of articles on issues affecting actuaries in many jurisdictions. We also have brief reports from several international conferences. I hope that you have a chance to attend a similar conference somewhere in the world in 2013 (and please consider submitting a write-up of the conference to *International News* if you do!). They are an excellent medium for exchanging ideas with actuaries from other countries and for seeing the similarities in the issues we all face in managing financial risks. Please also take a moment to read the 2011 SOA International Experience Survey – Embedded Value Financial Assumptions that has just been posted under the publications category on the [International Section Webpage](#).

Finally, I would like to thank Zorast Wadia for rising to the challenge to attempt to explain the vast array of ways for measuring the funded status of U.S. pension plans to our readers not normally dealing with this area. Maybe it is a cautionary tale for regulators in other countries! □



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