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Chairperson's Corner

By Ben Marshall

The International Section has been intensifying its collaboration with other SOA sections on education and research initiatives over the past several months. This partnership approach meshes well with the International Committee's strategy for globalizing the SOA as the provider of choice for actuarial education and research. The International Committee hopes to see an international strategy developed by each SOA section, and the International Section has become the conduit through which those efforts are being coordinated.

The focus of the global strategy is on several countries in eastern Asia, as well as some seed-planting closer to our traditional U.S./Canadian borders. In support of this strategy, the International Section is sponsoring several upcoming events and activities. Among these, the International Section is sponsoring the SOA Symposium in Macau on 24-25 June 2013. We are also expecting to partner with the Marketing and Distribution Section on an upcoming research study on the emerging stratified insurance markets in China. These are in addition to our annual co-sponsorship with the Financial Reporting Section of the Hong Kong IFRS seminar from August 27-29.

At the Life & Annuity Symposium in Toronto on May 6-7, we are providing speakers and sponsoring a session on longevity risk and capital markets solutions, and we are co-sponsoring a session on international actuaries in North America with the Management and Personal Development Section.

A new partnership initiative with the Actuary of the Future Section, with plans for long-distance mentoring of actuarial students internationally, is also under development. I expect further partnership opportunities with other sections to arise in the near future, as we have established liaisons from among the International Section Council members with each other SOA section. We will also be brainstorming together at this spring's Council of Section Chairs on additional ways to support the International Committee's strategic direction.

Beyond partnerships with other sections, we are also partnering with Actuaries Without Borders (AWB) on an actuarial seminar in Vietnam, as well as a life contingencies seminar offering in Colombia. We are also looking for ways to influence regulators and employers abroad in utilizing actuarial services and enhancing the role of the actuary.

Our International Section Ambassadors have been arranging educational and networking events in the United Kingdom, Japan and a host of other locations to provide CPD and career development opportunities for ex-pat and indigenous actuaries around the world.

Finally, we have voted to fund and send a representative to the Third African National Congress in Lome, Togo in April. Its theme is "The Actuarial Profession and Sustainable Development in Africa." I expect our representative at that event to write a related article for the next issue of *International News*. □