



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

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Alan Cooke, FSA, FCIA, MAAA, is a retired actuary in Vancouver, Canada. He can be reached at vancooke@telus.net.

Chairperson's Corner—Embracing International Opportunities

By Alan Cooke

Before updating you on your International Section Council's current activities, I would like to talk generally about international actuarial opportunities.

As a retired international actuary, I was privileged to have enjoyed a career of working experiences very different from what I would have enjoyed practicing purely in a domestic environment. I expect most of you, as readers of *International News*, have also been involved in interesting international activities or at least have the intellectual curiosity to want to know more about what actuaries in other countries are doing. Many of you undoubtedly have also had the opportunity to work in one or more countries other than your country of birth and thus have a direct appreciation of the joys and challenges of working in a different culture. To those of you who have not yet had this energizing experience, I would strongly recommend you consider it at some time in your working career. As actuaries, we are blessed with having one of the most internationally portable professional designations that exists.

One international area, which may not be on the radar of most international actuaries, is doing work in developing nations. This may be done not only as a career but also on a temporary basis. For example, many actuaries do these paid or unpaid projects during a sabbatical from their employer, between jobs or after they have retired. Opportunities exist in almost every area of actuarial expertise. One of my retirement "jobs" is acting as the vice-chairperson of Actuaries Without Borders (AWB). AWB is one of many organizations that manage actuarial projects in developing countries. Shiraz Jetha, the current AWB chairperson, submitted an excellent article on the work of AWB in the August 2010 issue of *International News*. Either one of us would welcome your queries on work and opportunities within developing countries.

At the 2011 SOA Annual Meeting in Chicago, the International Section will be co-sponsoring two sessions with the Actuary of the Future Section on interesting (not just international) activities that actuaries are doing in retirement and what younger actuaries can do during their work-

ing lives to prepare for such opportunities. We have an interesting range of speakers lined up for the sessions, so we hope many of you can attend these as well as the other sessions that the International Section is co-sponsoring.

We have successfully completed our annual Country Feature Article competition. As usual the quality of the articles was very high and it was difficult to pick the two winners. The first and second-prize articles appear in this issue of *International News*, and the other submitted articles will appear in future issues of *International News*.

As you can see from this issue's Ambassador's Corner, our Country Ambassadors have been very busy and we are pleased to introduce you to several new ones. We continue to recruit new Ambassadors whom we will introduce to you in future issues.

Our seminar on international financial reporting for insurers in Hong Kong is fast approaching, August 28 to 31, and several seminars are planned in other countries on this and other topics. Please check the International Section's SOA website or the advertisements in this newsletter for more details.

The International Section recently co-sponsored popular sessions at this year's Health Meeting and the Life & Annuity Symposium. Your suggestions on future meeting topics are always very welcome. We will also be sponsoring the international reception/dinner at this year's Annual Meeting in Chicago. We hope you can join us for this evening of fun and networking.

We very much want to hear from you on how our council can better serve you. Please do not hesitate to contact me or our section specialist, Jill Leprich, at jleprich@soa.org with your suggestions. □