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## Editor's Note

By Carl Hansen

This is the time of year when we wrap up our annual Country Feature Competition. We are pleased to announce the winning article for this year is "Health Care System Reform" written by Davout Yean, featured on page 12 of this issue. The second place article "Occupational Pensions Plans in Germany" by Norman Dreger is on page 17. We also feature several other excellent articles in this issue, including others from the competition. More articles from the competition will appear in the next issue of *International News*. Thank you to all of this year's authors. It's not too early to start planning for the 2012 competition!

As I mentioned in the April Editor's Note, I have recently relocated to Guernsey in the Channel Islands. So far, it has been an incredible adventure, both personally and professionally. In May, I attended the Channel Islands Actuarial Association Annual Dinner, perhaps one of the few black-tie affairs for actuaries anywhere in the world! My experience so far has reminded me to keep an open mind to other ways of approaching issues. Measurable growth can come quickly by embracing differences and learning from them. We can all benefit from the differing perspectives of colleagues from around the world. We hope that *International News* is a valuable conduit for this process.

As you may already know, now is the time for Society of Actuaries (SOA) elections for the leadership of the organization. Please participate in this important process (if you have not already done so) to make sure that the SOA and the future of the profession continue to represent your interests. □



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