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This newsletter is free to section members. Current issues are available on the SOA website ([www.soa.org](http://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

The time has once again come to reveal the winner of the International Section's annual country feature article competition. "A Healthy Dose of Cultural Divide" by Ronnie Klein was chosen from among this year's excellent entries to win the top prize of US\$1,000. Congratulations to Ronnie! You can read the winning article on page 15 of this issue. Other articles from the competition will appear in future issues of *International News*. Thank you to everyone who submitted entries this year, and please start planning your article ideas for next year's competition.

In this issue, we have reprinted an article by Alan Cooke on Actuaries Without Borders (AWB) starting on page 6. Some of you may have already read this article in the February/March 2013 issue of *The Actuary* magazine. For those of you who have not yet read the article, it is a well written overview of AWB including some examples of projects that the group has coordinated. Nhon Ly's article on a recent AWB workshop in Vietnam (page 20) gives you another perspective. Hopefully, this material will encourage some of you to join the AWB section of the International Actuarial Association if you are not already a member, and then become more involved by either donating your time to their activities or by asking AWB to help in your country. Your efforts will help to build the actuarial profession around the world.

Finally, I draw your attention to some of the upcoming professional development opportunities in various parts of the world:

- The East Asia Actuarial Conference – October 15-18 in Singapore (see page 22 for more information)
- The Caribbean Actuarial Association's Annual Conference – December 4-6 in Jamaica (see page 18 for more information)
- The International Congress of Actuaries – March 30-April 4, 2014 in Washington, DC (see page 13 for more information)

I hope that you enjoy this issue of *International News*. As always, please feel free to send ideas for articles or your comments to me or other members of the editorial team. □



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