



Article from

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Chairperson's Corner

By Wendy Liang

First things first—Happy New Year!

As I write this article, the leaves are turning orange and the weather is definitely cooling down. Sitting on my balcony in Zurich, I can see the snow starting to cover up the tips of the Alps. The weather is changing as we bid farewell to autumn and slowly move into the winter season, welcoming the start of 2016, Year of the Monkey!

As usual, the new “year” for the SOA kicked off back in October at the 2015 Annual Meeting & Exhibit taking place in Austin, Texas. As Craig Reynolds takes over the presidential gavel from Errol Cramer, the International Section Council also moves on to a new chapter. I would like to take this opportunity to say thanks to Carlos Arocha, past chairperson, for successfully leading the International Section Council for the past year. Carlos will remain with us as a Friend of the Council. I'd also like to thank Rong Rong and Warren Rodericks for their commitment to the council during the last three years. With that, it is my pleasure to welcome our newly elected council members: Kelvin Lam, Milanthy Sarukkali, Vincent Xuan and Wendy Kwan.

During the SOA Annual Meeting & Exhibit in Austin, the International Section welcomed our members with a Sunday evening reception filled with wine, cheese, food and live music. The evening provided great networking opportunities and a chance to catch up with old and new friends. If you missed it this past October, definitely come join us this coming October as we head to Las Vegas! With a theme of “Around the Globe,” four sessions covering a wide range of topics internationally were offered by the International Section. A summary of all the sessions as well as an overview of our initiatives were presented during the breakfast session on day three. Specifically, I'm very excited to announce that we have reached the very final stage of rolling out our brand new Mentorship Program. The program will be rolled out with a pilot in the Caribbean and Taiwan and we look forward to expanding it after a successful test run!

Going into the new year, the International Section will continue supporting the SOA's broader international initiatives and footprint through webinars, conferences and through effective use of our global network. We will also strengthen our liaison with Actuaries Without Borders (AWB) and continue expanding our offerings with the Ambassador Program for our internationally

based members. Recently, we have entered into a partnership with the Investment Section on newsletter articles, webinars, and potential boot-camp offerings in Asia. All of which can only be achieved with the help and support of our members. In addition to research proposals, we encourage you to reach out to the council for any other ideas that you may have. This could be a local event in your country, an international topic for those in the United States or anything else. Ideas as well as research proposals can be sent to myself (wendy_liang@swissre.com), Graydon Bennett (graydon.bennett@generali-worldwide.com) or Breanna Rodriguez (brodriguez@soa.org).

In closing, please allow me to introduce you to the 2015-2016 International Section Council:

- Wendy Liang — Chairperson
- Graydon Bennett — Vice Chairperson
- Kelvin Lam — Secretary
- Vincent Xuan — Treasurer
- Anna Dyck
- Lindsay Neu
- Athena Tsouderou
- Milanthy Sarukkali
- Wendy Kwan

Once again, Happy New Year and we look forward to hearing from you! ■



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