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Editor's Note

By Vincent Xuan



By the time you open this new issue, we have said goodbye to the fruitful 2015 and welcomed a leap year of 2016! Please allow me to wish all of you a Happy New Year! With the first Olympics Games to be held in South America, the first privately built space plane debut and the first driverless car road testing getting close to the end, 2016 is indeed an eventful one. When we hear more and more about recent technology breakthroughs, we are expecting expedited changes both economically and socially. So is our own community – the International Section!

During the last SOA Annual Meeting in October 2015, new council members' terms started and new council officers were elected. Congratulations to **Wendy Liang** and **Graydon Bennett**, our new chair and vice chair. We wish them the best in leading the section to another period of success. As you may remember from the last issue, we expanded the editorial board to recruit more talented editors. Based on each editor's geographic and professional interests, they were appointed to lead the article sourcing, editing and relationship building for each continent. I am proud to introduce our editors to you.

Carl Hansen, our previous chief editor, generously decided to stay and help us build connections with European actuarial societies. **Arpita Das**, the lead editor for Africa, joined us with her abundant experience on micro-finance in VisionFund Kenya and active involvement with TASK (the Actuarial Society of Kenya). **Milanthi Sarukkali**, the lead editor for Asia outside Greater China, added her leadership in the actuarial community of Sri Lanka to the board. **Tim Paris**, the lead editor for Caribbean countries, brought in his years of transaction experience in foreign countries including Bermuda and Barbados and editorship from the editorial board of *The Actuary*. **Alex Slivinski** leads the European front with his presence in the United Kingdom and exuberant energy. **Qi Sun**, the lead editor for the Greater China region, added to the team his connections in Hong Kong, mainland China and Taiwan. **Peter Bondy**, leads the Latin America region with his plentiful exposure and personal root in this area. **Ning Ding**, the lead editor for Oceanian and North American countries, will also contribute in the Asian region.

Huge thanks to all of you who have voiced out your ideas through the *International News* survey. Your answers provided us an opportunity to create a benchmark and ideas to provide a better experience for our readership. Based on the survey results, we expect to roll out a series of actions to enhance the quality of our deliverables, such as the way of delivery, the publishing frequency and topic distributions. We will keep you informed.

This issue features several outstanding articles of industrial hot topics from Africa, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and other parts of the world. Our council chair and vice chair give us refreshing updates on recent developments of the council activities as well as the Ambassador Program. Also, greetings from sister actuarial organizations such as the International Association of Consulting Actuaries (IACA), the Actuarial Association of the Republic of Srpska, and the International Actuarial Association make you feel that you are not alone! Actuaries are playing an increasingly critical and active role on the global stage.

The editorial board continues to serve as the connection between you, the council and the Society of Actuaries. As always, we would like to hear from you on any feedback or suggestions. We hope to see a smile of satisfaction on your face, as that is the sole motivation for us to deliver a better newsletter in your hands. ■



Vincent Xuan, FSA, CFA, MAAA, is a vice president & actuary at Prudential Financial in Newark, N.J. He can be reached at xu.xuan@prudential.com.