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17th East Asian Actuarial Conference

By Jill Hoffman

The 17th East Asian Actuarial Conference (EAAC) was held in Singapore in October. You may have noticed the ads running in recent issues of this publication. Historically, the EAAC has been a bi-annual conference held in various member countries of the EAAC (Singapore, Chinese Taipei, Australia, Korea, Malaysia, Thailand, Australia, Hong Kong, Philippines, and Indonesia), so it has been over 20 years since Singapore hosted the EAAC! The 17th EAAC was a huge success (for the sake of full disclosure—I am biased, as president of the Singapore Actuarial Society). With over 650 delegates in attendance (of which Singapore made up around 270), I believe it was one of the largest EAAC gatherings ever. This was a great achievement, as usually the host country's members make up the majority of the delegates.

Starting with next year's conference, it has been decided that the conference will be held annually. Mainly so that we can increase the frequency that EAAC countries are able to host (as opposed to every 20 years!) and also so that members who are not able to travel, get to attend in their home country. In 2014, the Actuarial Institute of Chinese Taipei will host and organize the conference and then the Society of Actuaries of Thailand in 2015.

The 17th EAAC started off with the annual board meeting, which is the meeting of all the current presidents of the member associations. The China Association of Actuaries was formally welcomed to the EAAC, as they were ratified earlier in the year.

Each EAAC tends to follow a similar format. The night before the conference officially starts, there is a welcome cocktail reception. This year, the reception was held at the Hard Rock Hotel, at their outdoor space and was a great opportunity for attendees to catch-up and meet new people. The first day of the conference starts with plenary sessions, with several



Attendance at the EAAC was over 650 participants.



The 17th EAAC Organizing Committee, made up of Singapore Actuarial Society volunteers.

guests of honour. We had the privilege of having Mr. Lee Boon Ngiap, assistant managing director of the Monetary Authority of Singapore give the opening address. As the International Actuarial Association (IAA) hosted their council and committee meetings the weekend before in Singapore, we were able to have the IAA president, Robert L. Brown, FSA, FCIA, ACAS, HONFIA, give the keynote address.

The conference theme was “Redefining Risk. Creating Value.” Presentations were given in most actuarial



The Singapore Actuarial Society performing at the Gala Dinner.

disciplines—life, health, non-life, and ERM. The second day of the conference was a half day, where participants had the choice of going to Universal Studios Singapore or the S.E.A. Aquarium. During coffee breaks, there are booths set up by the sponsors, often with contests to win Apple products and free giveaways. The conference ended with a full day of sessions on the third day followed by the gala dinner.

The gala dinner of the EAAC is a unique event. Each of the EAAC member countries must do a “country performance.” That is, members of that association get on stage and perform a song, dance or performance for the audience. This is one of the highlights of the

dinner. Watching actuaries come out of their shells and perform is a treat. There is also a free flow of drinks at the dinner, which helps.

All in all, the EAAC was a great experience, not only from a conference attendee point of view but as part of the organizing committee. I wish the Actuarial Institute of Chinese Taipei all the best with the 18th EAAC. I have no doubt that it will be a successful conference. □