



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

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Chairperson's Corner

By Sunil Sen

What an exciting period to be involved in our profession internationally! Within the SOA, over 35 percent of current candidates take exams outside of North America and more than half of our candidates are of a foreign nationality. The International Section's mission is to not only facilitate educational and networking opportunities for our colleagues abroad, but also to create a mechanism for North American professionals to be connected globally. Historically, we have worked towards this goal by establishing a network of SOA ambassadors in more than 40 countries, working in hand with Actuaries Without Borders (AWB) to assist the actuarial community in emerging countries, and creating educational and networking events worldwide. Looking forward to 2014, we intend to expand our volunteer opportunities for our local actuaries in order to broaden our services to our membership overseas.

During the International Breakfast Session in San Diego, we had the opportunity to discuss potential initiatives with our membership and hear what direction you think we should take. One of the most interesting ideas we heard from several groups was to facilitate a mentoring service in which actuaries and students abroad would be paired with local mentors. In tune, many of our members expressed the desire to establish exam scholarship(s) for international students in need. Others voiced their support for continued research initiatives, such as the international experience study and middle market research in China. Throughout the discussions, there was a clear underlying theme that our membership wants to be more actively engaged and it is our job as a council to facilitate opportunities.

Concretely, the International Section has three broader initiatives for 2014. First, we intend to expand our international outreach. This will include a revamp of our ambassador program, expanded webcast offerings, and hosting more events globally. Second, we want to expand mechanisms available to connect our local membership with the global actuarial community. We plan to create a mentorship program, expand volunteer opportunities with Actuaries Without Borders, and support university outreach programs. Third, we

will support the SOA's broader international footprint through seminars and conferences, such as IFRS and ALM Seminars throughout Asia, and through the use of our global network.

The only way we can meet these aspirations is through use of our membership and volunteer network. During the coming year, you will be receiving emails periodically regarding our new initiatives and more importantly ways you can become involved. I welcome your ideas and feedback over the coming year and look forward to making 2014 a success together. □