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Editor's Note

By Vincent Xuan

For most of us, we live in a calm yet uncertain world. We luckily enjoy the longest period of peace in modern human history, while also facing new challenges. The Zika virus, European immigration crisis, Middle East unrest, world top GO player defeated by artificial intelligence ... every piece of news passes on the same message—new risks are coming and someone needs to find ways to manage them. We, as actuaries, could right be the ones to turn the risks into opportunities, whether it is today or many years down the road.

I am excited to announce the “2016 Country Feature Article Call for Papers” winner, Geoffrey Melbourne with “Retirement Readiness: A Rocky Road in Canada,” and the runner-up, Ronald Klein with “The Flipside of the European Immigration Crisis.” Congratulations to both of them and many thanks to all authors who shed light on these topics with their unique observations. In this issue, we selected five excellent articles, and they show how these fellow actuaries observe, analyze and also try to solve the problem. It might be impossible to untangle a complicated matrix in a quick turnaround, but thinking about possible solutions is a big step forward.

With articles about the bumpy roads of pension plans in Canada and Germany, an interesting view on the social impact of the European immigration issue, professional development stories in Switzerland and New Zealand, and finally a rhapsody of in-

surance innovation and changing roles of actuaries, I want to make sure there is always one or two (or more) articles that will pique your curiosity for something new, fun and inspiring.

By the time you receive this newsletter, we will have a new slate of International Section Council members. Every year we have fresh talents flowing into the council and they bring in new ideas, initiatives and the power to make things happen. We always welcome volunteers who want to serve the community and also can gain new leadership skills from doing so. If you are interested in joining the editorial board, please contact any of the editorial board members listed on the front page.

Time flies! You have seen my name on the editorial roster for a long time—four years if I remember correctly. This will be my last issue as the editor of *International News*. Two editorial board members, Qi Sun and Arpita Das, were elected to be the new co-editors, effective immediately after the release of this September issue. I want to thank everybody on the editorial board who never let me down, Carl Hansen who I have worked side-by-side with since the beginning, our SOA Staff Editor Kathryn Baker, our incumbent Section Specialist Jane Lesch and retired Section Specialist Sue Martz. I appreciate your patience, professionalism and friendliness. It has made the editor job a truly enjoyable and memorable journey.

And last, thanks so much my dear readers! 再见! ■



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