

Chairperson's Corner

By Graydon Bennett

On behalf of the International Section Council, I would like to wish all members of the International Section a very Happy New Year. I hope 2017 brings you good health, much joy, and prosperity. I also hope you were able to take some time out during the holiday season to relax and reconnect with family and friends.

This edition of *International News*, while being the first of 2017, is also the first for our new editorial team. I would like to thank Vincent Xuan for his efforts over the last four years as editor and also extend my very best wishes to our new co-lead editors, Arpita Das and Qi Sun. Vincent has now taken on an editorial role with *The Actuary* (where I'm sure he will champion the interests of international actuaries) and has also been elected vice-chairperson of your council.

The International Section Council is keen to continue our collaboration with the SOA International Committee, a sub-committee of the SOA Board of Directors, to promote and progress the SOA's international objectives.

In 2017 we are looking forward to launching an expanded mentorship program, having seen a successful pilot run in Taiwan and the Caribbean last year. We will also be launching a refresh of the Ambassador Program: a valuable network of engaged and committed actuaries around the world who assist in carrying out the SOA's international programs, identifying special needs of SOA members around the world, helping the actuarial profession to grow in economically underdeveloped areas, and functioning as a link between the SOA and national actuarial organizations and actuarial clubs.

A recent initiative of the SOA was the launch of the web-based regulatory resource which aims to offer actuaries a way to search recent regulatory updates. At the moment this resource is limited to the United States, but we are keen to add an international dimension to this resource by starting with IFRS 4 Phase 2 and Solvency II.

We are also looking to recruit volunteers for all these projects, as well as the webcasts and meetings we have planned throughout the upcoming year. Our immediate past chairperson, Wendy Liang, is coordinating a list of micro-volunteering opportunities which are designed to be "bite-sized" for members who would like to be involved but whose circumstances do not permit intense and sustained commitment to a particular project. If you would



like to be more involved, please do get in touch with me (gbennett@bwcigroup.com) or Wendy (wendy.liang@swissre.com).

At this point I should introduce the rest of your council. The "Old Hands" are:

- Graydon Bennett (Chairperson)
- Vincent Xuan (Vice-Chairperson)
- Athena Tsouderou
- Milanthi Sarukkali (Secretary)
- Wendy Kwan

We also welcome four "New Faces" to the council:

- Heather Ingram (Treasurer)
- James Xu
- Ken Seng Tan
- Quintin Li

You can read more about your new council members later in this newsletter.

Lastly, I would like to thank the council members whose term of office finished in October 2016: Wendy Liang, Kelvin Lam, Anna Edwards, and Lindsey Neu. ■



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