

Editor's Note

By Arpita Das

Wishing all of our readers a very Happy New Year!

January 2017 has indeed brought with it many changes, some faraway and some right here, close to home within the International Section. Qi Sun and I are both humbled and excited by the opportunity to serve as the new co-lead editors with this issue. We are deeply grateful for Vincent Xuan's leadership as chief editor over the last two years in developing this excellent publication and hope to follow in his footsteps. The 2016 SOA Annual Meeting & Exhibit in Las Vegas in October also marked the beginning of our new council members' terms as well as elections to new positions. Congratulations to Graydon Bennett and to Vincent Xuan, our new chair and vice-chair. We wish them and our new council members continued success. A special thank you to our outgoing chair Wendy Liang for her leadership and invaluable contributions to the section.

Here at the newsletter, I am thrilled to introduce our new editorial board to you. We are a dynamic group of actuaries covering a range of experiences, geographical areas and interests. Carl Hansen, previous chief editor of the newsletter, graciously offered to continue being on the board as a lead editor for Europe. Milanthe Sarukkali, with her deep involvement with the section as well as the Sri Lankan actuarial community, continues to be our lead editor for Asia outside Greater China. Timothy Paris, brings his years of both actuarial and editorial experience in continuing as our lead for the Caribbean region. I am grateful to our continuing members for their past contributions and look forward to our work together. I am also excited to announce the new members of our board. Carlos Arocha, previous chair of the International Section Council and current Friend of the Council, will be leading publications on Europe, along with Carl Hansen. Wan-Yi Huang, with her breadth of professional experience in the Canadian market will be our lead for Canada. Gordon Garfield, will be our lead for Japan and Korea—well positioned to do so from his Chief Pricing Actuary role in Tokyo. Jing Fritz joins us as our U.S. lead with experience spanning international products, risk and capital modelling. Boaz Yam, owner and CEO of his consulting firm in Israel and an involved member of the SOA community, will be our Middle East and Africa lead. Jessica Chen brings her wide-ranging international experience and interest in emerging markets to being our Latin America lead, as well a lead for the U.S. with Jing Fritz. And finally, a warm thank you to our SOA Staff Editor, Kathryn Baker for her continued



work with us, without whom this publication would not be possible. Qi and I plan to alternate as lead editors for each issue and you will be hearing more from both of us in the coming months.

I hope you enjoy reading this issue as much as we did. As we come upon political changes in the U.S. and Europe, unrest in the Middle East and of course the ever-increasing complexity of regulatory regimes, the roles of actuaries will continue to evolve. We look forward to creating a platform where our readers are engaged and informed of the changing global landscape around us. To our readers around the world—keep coming in with your ideas and feedback. Qi and I look forward to being in touch. ■



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