



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

Article from:

International News

May 2014 – Issue 62



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Chairperson's Corner

By Sunil Sen

After one of the longest winters in living memory, we are finally starting to see hints of a warmer future. In spite of the arctic temperatures and record breaking snowfalls, the International Section has been far from hibernating. Over the past quarter, we have received significant input from our membership and country ambassadors. The programs below have been selected in order to better serve our membership internationally and to provide volunteer opportunities for our North American membership.

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The International Section Council (ISC) has recently approved a scholarship program to fund actuarial exam fees for international students in need. For the first year, the program will be funded with \$2,000 and is expected to fund 10-15 examinations for international students. The program will be administered in conjunction with volunteers from the SOA and Actuaries Without Borders. If successful, we hope to expand the initiative with other SOA sections and joint partners.

MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

The ISC will be launching a mentorship program in 2014. The program's mission is twofold: first, we want to create a support platform for budding students and actuaries; secondly, the program will offer North American actuaries the opportunity to stay connected internationally as a mentor. We will use 2014 as a beta testing phase and initially target mentees in Taiwan and the Caribbean Region. Mentors will be sourced globally, but are expected to be predominately North American. In addition, we will be partnering with the Smaller Insurance Company Section to specifically target mentors and mentees in smaller organizations or satellite branches.

AMBASSADOR PROGRAM REDESIGN

We recently asked our country ambassadors for feedback as to how the ISC can better support actuaries in the field. We received responses from over fifteen countries and are in the process of redesigning the

program and our educational offerings. One of the key changes will be pivoting from a one size fits all approach to adopting a country / regionalized approach for the particular membership. Currently, over 80 percent of the SOA's membership outside of North America resides in Asia, with most of them living in a handful of countries. In conjunction with the broader SOA International Committee, which is responsible for the SOA International Strategy, the ISC will be placing considerable focus on revamping our support offerings in the Asia region.

SEMINAR AND ONLINE EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

In 2014, the ISC plans to expand our physical and online education opportunities. This includes more live seminars, webcasts at internationally convenient times, and multi-lingual presentations. Key seminar offerings in 2014 include the ALM seminar held on April 7 in Hong Kong and IFRS satellite seminars offered in various locations throughout the year.

In the coming months, you will be receiving blast emails on the programs above. If you are interested in volunteering to help, please do not hesitate to reach out to the SOA, myself, or one of our council members.

We are already off to great start and I look forward to working with you over the coming year. □