



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

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Carl Hansen, FSA, FCA, MAAA, is international director at BWC Group in Guernsey in the Channel Islands. He can be reached at chansen@bwcigroup.com.

2014 International Congress of Actuaries

By Carl Hansen

Actuaries from all over the world gathered in Washington, D.C. for the 2014 International Congress of Actuaries (ICA) from March 30–April 4. The event drew more than 1,300 participants from nearly 110 countries and territories. While Washington D.C.’s famous cherry blossoms failed to make an appearance during the week (and it even snowed one day!), the business and social activities were still a success. The ICA is held every four years in various locations around the world—past host cities include Paris in 2006 and Cape Town in 2010.

The 2014 Congress was hosted by the five U.S. actuarial organizations:

- American Academy of Actuaries
- ASSPA College of Pension Actuaries
- Casualty Actuarial Society
- Conference of Consulting Actuaries
- Society of Actuaries

The International Actuarial Association (IAA) serves as overall coordinator for the event. The IAA is the worldwide association of professional actuarial associations (such as the SOA), with a number of special interest sections for individual actuaries. The IAA encourages the development of a global actuarial profession, acknowledged as technically competent and professionally reliable, which will ensure that the public interest is served. You can get more information from the IAA website (www.actuaries.org).

Those in attendance were woken up early in the opening plenary session on Monday thanks to the sights and sounds of the Howard University marching band.



Howard University Marching Band performs at the Opening Ceremony.

Those of us in the front row were even more awake! Plenary sessions during the week were:

- Dr. Jay Olshansky – The Longevity Dividend: Altering the Future Course of Health and Longevity?
- Senior executives from Towers Watson, Swiss Re, RGA Reinsurance Company, Resolution



Welcome reception at the Smithsonian Museum of American History.



Attendees browse the ICA program.

Group, and AIG – The Insurance Industry CEO Perspective: Navigating the Changing Business Landscape

- Dr. Paul Embrechts – Uncertainty
- Dr. Guntram Werther – Improved Forecasting through a Different Focus

Many of the delegates submitted papers in advance of the meeting on a wide variety of subjects, with some authors invited to present their topic during individual sessions. These presentations formed the basis for the parallel sessions during most of the ICA, with something of interest for everyone in attendance regardless of actuarial discipline or type of employer.

Social activities were sprinkled throughout the week, giving opportunities to become better acquainted with each other. The week was kicked off with a Welcome Reception at the Smithsonian Museum of American History Sunday night. Delegates and guests could sample some typical American foods while viewing exhibits on U.S. history and culture. On Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, those in attendance could choose from group tours to learn more about the Washington, D.C. area. Thursday night was the gala reception and dinner at the hotel.

More information on the ICA, including details on sessions and speakers, is available on the 2014 International Congress of Actuaries website (www.ica2014.org).

You can start to plan now for the 2018 International Congress of Actuaries in Berlin, Germany from the 4th to the 8th of June. Follow developments at www.ica2018.org. □