



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

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Sunil Sen, FSA, CERA, MAAA, is a manager at PwC in Chicago, Ill. He can be reached at sunil.w.sen@us.pwc.com

Chairperson's Corner

By Sunil Sen

Summer has arrived for many of us, and with it, the opportunity to enjoy the nice weather and potentially a break from the daily grind. I was fortunate to attend a wedding in Kenya and safari in Masai Mara a few weeks back, both of which were breathtaking experiences. During such times, one has the rare opportunity to step back and reflect on the direction and composition of one's activities. Within the International Section, we are in a period of reflection and transition. We have been privileged to be in a position to help drive the SOA's international strategy for many years. As you know, the SOA has taken a serious interest in serving the actuarial community outside of North America. This includes the formation of an International Strategy Committee created to drive our international strategy, whose purview includes both structural and directional initiatives. For the International Section, this means we are no longer at the forefront, driving the SOA's international strategy, but rather evolving to a supportive role. This is not a negative transition, but rather one which illustrates how our section's mission and grassroots organization has grown to become one of the SOA's top focuses. We are proud of the foundation we have created and we look forward to continuing to serve our membership in the future!

So what does this mean for our section and how we serve our constituents? We will become more targeted in our initiatives, but also be granted flexibility and freedom to explore new member service offerings. In previous newsletters, we have highlighted the mentorship and scholarship as well as research initiatives. With regards to the latter, we have decided to solicit requests from our members (you!).

SOA INTERNATIONAL SECTION: RESEARCH REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The International Section is requesting proposals for research initiatives. In place of dictating where research should be conducted, we believe that it should be driven through our membership from the

bottom up. We are seeking topics which are both focused and targeted towards our international constituents, while also being informative for the North America membership. Responses should include the following components:

- Topic of choice and summary of key outputs
- Intended targeted audience
- Expected timeline to completion
- Required volunteer structure
- Target funding required

If your proposal is selected, we will expect you to lead the research; however, we will assist in resource requirements if necessary. Funding will be provided both from the International Section and if of interest, by other section councils and the SOA itself. Think big, think small—the key is providing relevant research which will serve the international community and further actuarial work and education in international markets.

Research submissions should be directed to myself (sunil.w.sen@us.pwc.com), Carlos Arocha (ca@arochaandassociates.ch), and Martha Sikaras (msikaras@soa.org).

Are you up to the challenge?