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# ICA 2018: A Gathering of Actuaries from 102 Countries

By Carlos Arocha

Amid a heat wave that hit Berlin in early June 2018, more than 2,750 actuaries attended the 31st edition of the International Congress of Actuaries (ICA 2018). The congress was organized by the International Actuarial Association and was hosted by the German Association of Actuaries (better known by its German acronym, DAV<sup>1</sup>). ICA 2018 was great on many counts—superb ambiance, high-quality academic content, and fruitful networking, just to name a few.

ICA 2018 in Numbers	
Delegates:	2,750
Countries represented:	102
Contributed papers:	364
Speakers/moderators:	500
Hours of virtual content:	150

Several leading representatives from insurance and regulation, such as Gabriel Bernardino, chairman of the European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority, Peter Praet, member of the Executive Board of the European Central Bank, and Corinne Trocellier, chief operating officer of SCOR Global Life, spoke at ICA 2018.

Speaking at the opening session, the president of DAV, Roland Weber, discussed several important themes for the actuarial profession, such as the changing role of the actuary. He also highlighted that digitization is not a trend to be feared, but one that will provide more opportunities for actuaries. The president of the International Actuarial Association (IAA), Masaaki Yoshimura, declared the congress open.

A session dedicated to the SOA Student Research Case Study Challenge featured European-based finalists presenting their work. This year's winner was a team from the University of Oxford.



ICA attendees gather for a casual dinner.



Carlos Arocha at ICA 2018

In addition, the SOA organized a luncheon on Monday and members of the International Section held a casual dinner at a beer garden on Wednesday.

The exhibit hall was transformed into an international actuarial arena where dozens of exhibitors showcased their products and services. But it was also the place to have lunch and coffee breaks. On the eve of the FIFA World Cup, there were games and contests around the theme of soccer.

To enhance the experience for international congress attendees and promote networking, several trip fields were offered on city highlights, history of Berlin, a Jewish heritage tour, modern architecture, etc. The welcome event, held at the Museum of Natural History in Berlin, the garden event with a sing-along, and a traditional fun-fair themed farewell event provided further networking opportunities for participants.

Berlin is full of history and was the scenery of memorable 20th century events. Berlin is also remembered by the visits of Presidents Kennedy and Reagan. It occupied a center-stage position in the Cold War. It was the symbol of division between political ideologies. Berlin provided a contrast framework for the more tolerant, open and diversified society. It was an ideal location for a beautiful gathering of 2,750 actuaries from 102 countries. ■



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#### ENDNOTE

- 1 *Deutsche Aktuarvereinigung.*