



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

Article from:

International News

May 2015 – Issue 65



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International Section Ambassador Program

By Graydon Bennett

As many of our readers will know, the International Section of the SOA runs an initiative to promote both the actuarial profession in general, and the SOA and its members in particular, outside North America: the SOA Ambassador Program. The program currently boasts 32 ambassadors across as many countries. Indeed, with the exception of Antarctica, there is an SOA ambassador on every continent. A listing of current ambassadors is available on the International Section webpage.

The mission of the Ambassador Program is “to assist in carrying out the Society of Actuaries’ international programs, identifying and developing subjects of international interest for communication to SOA members, identifying special needs of SOA members in different areas of the world, helping the actuarial profession to grow in underdeveloped areas, and functioning as a valuable resource and link between the SOA and national actuarial organizations and actuarial clubs.”

The duties of an ambassador will be dependent on their location: in developed markets with a concentration of SOA members (or similarly qualified actuaries) and actuarial employers, the ambassador may look to organise networking events to allow actuaries to connect in a new location, in addition to promoting the SOA’s international strategy in a local context. By contrast, in regions with a small or developing actuarial population, the ambassador may focus on marketing the SOA’s credentials to both employers and potential candidates, as well providing a local point of contact for SOA members who wish to keep up to date with international initiatives of the SOA.

For example, an ambassador could:

- promote the SOA examination system to local students by presenting at secondary and tertiary educational institutions
- assist the SOA in contacting local SOA members and potential candidates
- liaise with a local actuarial organisation, if one exists

The International Section Council would like to hear from the section’s membership, particularly members who reside outside the United States and Canada, to understand what else they seek from the Ambassador Program. What additional activities would be of greatest benefit to SOA members and potential candidates around the world? We would be grateful for your feedback. Please contact any member of the International Section Council or Martha Sikaras at msikaras@soa.org with your ideas or any questions about the Ambassador Program. □