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Chairperson's Corner

By Graydon Bennett

Spring is a time of renewal and rebirth; an opportunity to look eagerly towards the summer and the fulfilment of a promise. Although, depending on who you ask, a dark four-year-long winter has only just begun ... as we begin to work towards implementation of IFRS 17 in 2021.

As animals awaken from their winter slumber, financial reporting actuaries begin to emerge from their year-end bunkers. Rest assured, your council has not been hibernating over the winter months. We have been busy organising a number of sessions for the Life and Annuity Symposium which will take place shortly in Seattle. We are also planning for the 2017 SOA Annual Meeting & Exhibit to be held in Boston in October. We are on track to bring you a variety of sessions from around the globe, including two regions where the SOA has been focusing its international efforts: China and Latin America.

James Xu and Jack Zhu have been busy supporting the SOA Regulatory Resource team by sourcing regulatory information from all over the world. Regardless of your practice area and your location, I encourage you to pay a visit to this valuable and growing resource. If you notice that your local regulations have been omitted or overlooked, please get in touch with James or Jack who will be more than happy to enrich the resource by including a link. <https://www.soa.org/resources/regulatory-resource/default/>

I would also like to welcome Arpita Das to the council. Arpita is based in Ireland and brings to the council another truly international perspective; she is also one of the co-lead editors of *International News*. Arpita will be filling the vacancy created by the departure of Athena Tsouderou. My thanks goes to Athena for her contributions to the section during the time she spent on council.

This edition of *International News* also marks the midpoint of the SOA sessional year. I hope to meet many of you at the SOA Annual Meeting & Exhibit. This meeting will also mark the end of my term on your council, along with Quintin and Arpita. If you have an interest in volunteering for the SOA and helping to move the International Section forward, I encourage you to run in the council elections. Council members serve for a three-year term, from October to October. It is a valuable way to build governance



experience and to gain a deeper understanding of how the SOA functions. If you are interested in running for the section council, fill out the expression of interest form here: <https://www.soa.org/elections/section-member-interest-form/> before May 30, 2017.

Finally, I am delighted to announce the appointment of new Ambassadors around the world since our last update on the Ambassador Program:

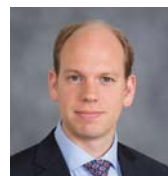
South Korea: Deok Jung Kim (Ambassador)
Joseph Kim (Deputy Ambassador)

Hong Kong: Simon Lam

Japan: Jeffrey Simone

I would like to thank the retiring Ambassadors in these countries for their efforts over the last few years in promoting the actuarial profession in general and the SOA in particular, and for providing assistance to our members in those countries.

I wish you all the best for the summer! ■



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