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# Vietnam Actuarial Community Seminar – October 2017

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Vietnam is an emerging market with rapid growth in the insurance sector. The insurance market consists of large global insurance providers and a few local companies as well. The rapid growth in the insurance industry has prompted the development of an actuarial community, to bring together experienced professionals for the development of the profession in Vietnam.

The Vietnam Actuarial Community was founded in 2016. Their mission is to promote the profession in Vietnam and lead to the establishment of a recognized actuarial society. This community of actuaries is aiming to establish a risk management culture within financial institutions in Vietnam. Members of the Vietnam Actuarial Community have diverse backgrounds and skill sets, which uniquely positions them to effectively provide risk management advice within the financial sector.

Endeavoring to support the insurance sector development in Vietnam, the Vietnam Actuarial Community, in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance of Vietnam, recently organized a two-day seminar focusing on Risk Based Capital and general actuarial topics in both life and general insurance.

Day one of the seminar was under the theme **Implementation of a Risk-Based Capital Framework: Benefits and Challenges from Early Adopters' Perspectives**. The objective of this seminar was to understand the requirements, benefits and challenges of a risk-based capital framework, and how such a framework can be adopted in a local setting. There were several presentations that discussed current solvency regimes in different regions and their evolution. Panelists from Singapore, Taiwan and Sri Lanka discussed their experience in implementing risk based capital frameworks in each country as case studies and highlighted the benefits and challenges of implementing such a framework. The topics discussed also included the importance of developing human capital, especially actuarial skills in order to successfully transition to a risk-based capital regime.



Seminar presenters and members of the Vietnam Actuarial Community

On day two, the seminar was conducted under the theme **Adopting Generally Accepted Actuarial Methodologies in a Local Setting**, with the topics related to life and general insurance scheduled as half-day sessions. The life insurance topics included population aging, impact of low interest rates, universal life products and IFRS 17. Motor and health insurance pricing, and reserving in health insurance were discussed in the general insurance session.

The seminars were organized for the benefit of the members of the Vietnam Actuarial Community and representatives of the Ministry of Finance. It brought together speakers from Taiwan, Singapore and Sri Lanka, and was an excellent opportunity for networking among professionals within the region. The presentations were followed by active dialog among the audience and the speakers.

The Society of Actuaries is engaged with the Vietnam Actuarial Community in many ways. Several members of the Vietnam Actuarial Community hold credentials from the SOA, with a larger pool of candidates. I was honored to represent the SOA at the seminar to speak on the SOA education framework and credentials, and how the SOA supports the development of the profession through education and research. We also briefly discussed the special interest sections of the SOA and the opportunities they provide for networking and continuous learning, which is instrumental for the development of the profession in emerging markets. ■



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