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Actuaries Without Borders: Get Involved with a Mission of Global Outreach

Actuaries without Borders® (AWB) is a section of the International Actuarial Association (IAA) that helps provide temporary actuarial services in parts of the world where those services are lacking.

“Actuaries without Borders is a unique IAA section in that it doesn’t focus on a specific practice area but provides temporary actuarial education services in countries lacking actuarial resources,” says Doug Carey, chair of AWB. “Our focus is to help with projects around the world that fit within our scope.”¹

AWB’s mission includes assistance with the development and sound management of social security, enterprise risk management, pensions, insurance, investments, health care, and other areas where actuarial services can be of use. Its volunteers also provide education and training.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Mr. Carey describes a January 2017 project in Armenia² where AWB helped to train and instruct people sitting the Society of Actuaries (SOA) exams. “We attracted good instructors,” he adds. “The students were very motivated.”

Other recent AWB projects include workshops in Sri Lanka, Nigeria, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Columbia, and Kenya. The group’s current and future projects involve a global mentorship program,³ a two-day introduction to ERM workshop in Bulgaria, and a two-day workshop introduction to ICPs, Solvency II and the four (4) internal control functions in Macedonia.⁴

GLOBAL MENTORSHIP PROGRAM PARTNERS WITH AIO

The **African Insurance Organisation**⁵ (AIO), a non-governmental association established in 1972 with members of the insurance industry, regulatory/supervisory authority, insurance training centers and national and regional associations



(such as FANAF⁶), mainly from Africa, is partnering with AWB to provide a global mentorship programme for actuarial professionals in Africa. In May 2017, the AIO General Assembly in Kampala approved AWB’s Global Mentorship Programme (distance assistance) and AWB’s on-site tutorials for professional exams to develop actuarial capacity in Africa. This initiative will aim to increase the number of qualified actuaries across the African region, and, contribute to a sound sustainable insurance business delivering products meeting the policyholder’s reasonable expectations. The program counts already more than 50 mentees from all over Africa.

WHY SHOULD YOU GET INVOLVED WITH AWB

Volunteering is very useful to the people and countries receiving assistance, but also to the volunteers themselves. AWB provides an opportunity to work much more broadly than just in a professional environment; to develop connections completely outside one’s sphere. It’s personally rewarding to see people succeed, to make a difference in these people’s lives and their professional development.

HOW IT WORKS

AWB has a pool of volunteers, and a committee (comparable to a board) of 14 members, 12 of whom are elected (two are delegates appointed by the IAA Council) and one is recruited as executive director (ED), supervising and monitoring the AWB requests/projects. An actuarial association submits a request online, followed by a personal support by the ED who, after duly analyzing the request, submits it with a proposal for a project manager for approval to the AWB Committee. The AWB itself has only a small amount of funding; local sponsors usually fund the project, while the AWB, through the AWB director of funding, looks continuously for other financial sponsors as

needed. For example, the Asian Development Bank helped with funding for a project in Kazakhstan. The AWB puts out a call for volunteers and helps with logistics. Volunteers receive reimbursement for their expenses.

INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?

The AWB is always looking for new volunteers, from a variety of practice areas. The only requirement for volunteering is being a member of the AWB section,⁷ which costs C\$50 per year. People who are intent on teaching, mentoring and tutoring young actuarial professionals in actuarial developing countries are particularly welcome.

“Obviously we want active AWB members,” says Ms. Renata De Leers, ED. “We have monthly committee calls. We ask the committee (board) members, elected by the AWB section, to commit to the calls as they have a responsibility to the AWB Section and

the existing and future AWB clients. This is so rewarding for volunteers,” she adds.

For more information about Actuaries without Borders®, visit their website.⁸ ■

ENDNOTES

- 1 http://www.actuaries.org/AWB/Documents/AWB_Rules.pdf
- 2 http://www.actuaries.org/AWB/Projects/2016/Armenia_Report.pdf
- 3 http://www.actuaries.org/index.cfm?lang=EN&DSP=AWB&ACT=GLOBAL_MENTORSHIP
- 4 See article on page 29 of this issue.
- 5 <http://www.african-insurance.org>
- 6 www.fanaf.org
- 7 <https://www.actuaries.org/merchandise/section/>
- 8 <http://www.actuaries.org/index.cfm?LANG=EN&DSP=AWB&ACT=ABOUT>



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