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Chairperson's Corner

By Arpita Das

Welcome to *International News*. This issue marks the half-way point of the year and perhaps the right point at which to reflect on what we've accomplished here at the International Section so far.

First and foremost, I am proud to say that this year has kicked off with a laser-focused mission: connection and outreach. This two-pillared mission puts our members, their needs and their interests at the center of our activities. This mission was articulated as a result of our first strategy call and has been the guiding light for our activities since then. The year has also been characterized by the active engagement and enthusiasm of our council members and friends. I am grateful for the team we have in place and excited for the initiatives that are underway.

Connection. Our first pillar has triggered a number of initiatives both digitally and in the real world. Digitally, we are looking to facilitate member connections through multiple interactive platforms. Plans are underway for an e-bulletin,

a LinkedIn page and a revamp of our website. In the real world, we are reviewing opportunities at actuarial events around the globe that attract section members and we hope to leverage them to build connections. In 2019, events include the Global Conference of Actuaries Mumbai, which was held in March, the Society of Actuaries (SOA) Asia-Pacific Annual Symposium in Bangkok and the SOA Annual Meeting & Exhibition in Toronto, which are scheduled for June and October, respectively.

Outreach. Our second pillar refers to conducting research and supporting actuarial education around the world. Research topics under consideration include a collaboration on health care funding around the world and a global retirement research project. In terms of supporting actuarial education, we plan to collaborate with Actuaries Without Borders® on its volunteer projects and Global Mentorship Program this year. We also plan to liaise with the Actuary of the Future Section of the SOA.

This mission is ultimately meant to focus our efforts and serve you, our section members. If you have any ideas, feedback or thoughts, please reach out to me or any of our council members. We want to hear from you. ■



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