



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

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# International Section News

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## Editor's Note

by Randy Makin

Every fifteen minutes or so, I throw another log on the fire. I am quickly using up all of my Y2K wood in one of the coldest Decembers Kansas City has ever experienced. My new boss came from Dallas in October, and I told him December was cool, January frigid, and all the snow tended to come in February or March, and melted quickly. Ice and snow have now lain on the ground for several weeks, the temperature has dipped below zero, and he has investigated enrolling me in the local chapter of the Liars' Club. It is only natural to sit back, enjoy the

warm fire, and dream of faraway places.

The first thing that comes to mind in escaping the winter weather is to go south.

Michael Braunstein leads off this issue with a delightful description of his travels to Puebla, Mexico, for the Conference of Actuaries in October. Jorge Noronha, one of our new Section Council members, wanted to see more articles on Latin America and contributed one himself on the Actuarial Conference in Buenos Aires.

Some parts of Asia are always warm. Jeff Newnam gives us a quick update on pension funds in Indonesia. Norm Crowder was kind enough to give us a summary of his trip to the Far East last summer. Rounding out a trip to Asia is David Alexander's write-up of the risk



management conference in Nankai. We have also included invitations to attend the East Asian Actuarial Conference in Hong Kong in October, 2001, as well as the Pacific Insurance Conference in Banff in September.

One of the most important aspects of the International Section is the Ambassador program, which enables us not only to learn about

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developments in other parts of the world, but also to meet the needs of students, Associates, and Fellows who live outside the United States and Canada.

Hans Wagner has written an article giving us an overview of the program, and we have included Martha Sikaras' Winter 2000 Ambassador Report. Those who are interested in receiving this report on a regular basis should contact Martha at the Society office or at [msikaras@soa.org](mailto:msikaras@soa.org). Martha has also worked hard to write up several reports: one regarding exam fee discounts for qualified candidates, one on the International Section

Breakfast at the Chicago meeting, and one summarizing the IAA Council meeting.

Several other items should prove to be of interest to our readers. First of all, building on the success of prior seminars, we are planning on jointly hosting an International Start-up Workshop with the Non-Traditional Marketing Section. Lisa Kuklinski-Ramirez has written an article on this and has also provided us with the Section's 2001 budget. We want all the members to understand how their Section dues are being spent, and Lisa and Jim Toole would welcome any questions on this. We have also received

permission to reprint an article from LOMA, which addresses common human resource issues in global companies.

Lastly, I'd like to thank Jim Toole for his encouragement and support on this newsletter. Jim has worked hard to help move several articles from the conceptual stage to their final form, and has contributed his Chairperson's Corner as well. Thanks, Jim!

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## Chairperson's Corner

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expenses) is available to fund special projects brought to our attention by the council members, Ambassadors, and you, our members.

Without this dues increase, our surplus would have disappeared in four years or less, severely restricting the types of services we think you want the Section to provide. A breakdown of Section expenses follows:

Section Admin.	32%
Newsletter	31%
Meetings	22%
Special Projects	15%

Approximately a third of the budget goes to pay for fixed charges allocated to the Section by the SOA. Our next largest expenditure is the printing and distribution of the newsletter.

Due to the size of our newsletter and the wide geographic distribution of our members, our distribution costs are somewhat higher than other Sections. We will

experiment with electronic distribution this year, and will be soliciting your feedback.

Meetings have been the domain of Mike Gabon for several years. The Section has been fortunate to have someone as capable and dedicated as Mike handling this important and time-consuming task. If you have any ideas for meeting sessions or want to help, call Mike.

This year we have a specific amount budgeted for special projects. The Section receives requests during the course of the year from members, Ambassadors, and other actuarial organizations to provide support for various projects.

This year, we have budgeted \$5,000 and would encourage you to contact any council member if you have a specific project in mind.

We are planning to bring one or more seminars to fruition this year, with our first to take place in the spring in conjunction with the Non-traditional Marketing Section. VP Lisa Kuklinski-Ramirez will be working on this project, which is

sure to be fun AND educational (see article).

Finally, the Ambassador program is near and dear to the Section's heart. Its impact is truly felt around the world, and we are fortunate to have the able-bodied and high-spirited Hans Wagner heading up the program (see article).

The Sections were formed to serve members. If you have any questions or comments about these priorities, or wish to volunteer your time and energy, feel free to contact me at [Jim.Toole@milliman.com](mailto:Jim.Toole@milliman.com) or (303) 672 9046.

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