



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

Article from:

International Section News

October 2003 – Issue No. 31

Who to Call to Volunteer for the Section

by Shumei R. Kuo

If you'd like to participate in any of the section activities, or want to share some ideas or provide comments, please contact us—the volunteers on the International Section Council (ISC).

We would like to hear from you! Please contact any of us with comments, questions, suggestions and/or offers to volunteer (!) regarding the following subjects or any other subjects of your interest:

International Section Council Members and Volunteers

Title	Name	Telephone	E-Mail Address
Chair	Shumei Kuo	770-980-3341	Shumei.kuo@us.ing.com
Vice Chair	Yiji Starr	617-572-4377	Ystarr@jhancock.com
Secretary/Treasurer	Marc Slutzky	212-330-5844	Marc.slutzky@milliman.com
Meeting Session Coordinator	Rejean Besner	704-330-5844	Rejean.besner@transamerica.com
Webcasts & Seminar Coordinator	Carl Khor	972-881-4901	Hckhor@aegonusa.com
Education & Exam Coordinator, Regional Ambassador Coordinator	August Chow	852-2867-2549	Augustchow@oci.gov.hk
Regional Ambassador Coordinator	Paul Sauve	4922-1973-18510	Paul_m_sauve@manulife.com
Regional Ambassador Coordinator	Mike Enright	302-594-4694	Michael.enright@aig.com
Web site Liaison	Shyamal Kumar	5255-5628-4000	Shyamal@itam.mx
Newsletter Editor	Randy Makin	816-415-3729	RMakin@generaliusalifere.com

- Sharing topics you'd like to see for meeting sessions, webcasts or seminars.
- Speaking or moderating at meeting sessions, webcasts or seminars.
- Sharing article ideas that you have for the section newsletter.
- Writing an article for the newsletter.
- Comments and ideas about the section's Web site (<http://www.soa.org/sections/interna.html>).
- Comments and ideas about the Ambassador Program Web site and country pages (<http://www.soa.org/links/amb.html>).
- Ideas regarding how to reach out to non-section members located outside of North America.

We're taking this opportunity to introduce ourselves to you. We hope you'll find the information helpful. Please do not hesitate to tell us how we can better serve your needs for professional development and networking in the international markets. For those of you who have volunteered, we thank you for your contributions. If you're interested in volunteering and working with us, we look forward to hearing from you.

Shumei Kuo,
Chair

Being chair and vice chair of the ISC, I work with other council members and volunteers to accomplish tasks that all council members jointly set out to do. We may be very involved in some projects and simply stay informed on others. The focus of the chair and the vice chair is to coordinate and be flexible to inject ourselves as needed. We also work on special projects with the SOA. In this respect, our role is to share the information with other council members and provide the section's perspective to the SOA. For example, we provide comments to the International Strategies under development and review recommendations by the Implementation Task Force. In addition, we attend meetings of all section chairs to learn about the latest happenings of the SOA in order to provide section input and steer the council's effort.

Serving on the ISC is a lot of work and tons of fun. It's a lot of work because everyone already has plenty to take care of at a regular

job these days, but it's so much fun because, while working together, we get to know one another through sharing ideas and experiences in an open, direct and energetic fashion. We may not always agree on what to do or how to do it, but once a majority opinion is formed and a decision made, we go full speed ahead toward our goals. There is a special sense of achievement and kinship when things are done by a group of volunteers. Maybe it's because of the section work itself, which is something we *want* to do, rather than something we are obligated or told to do. We don't take one another for granted and we don't take having an opportunity to do things for the section for granted. We enjoy the ISC work and working together as a group. For that, we owe it to our companies that support our work on the council and also to our members who elected us to the council.

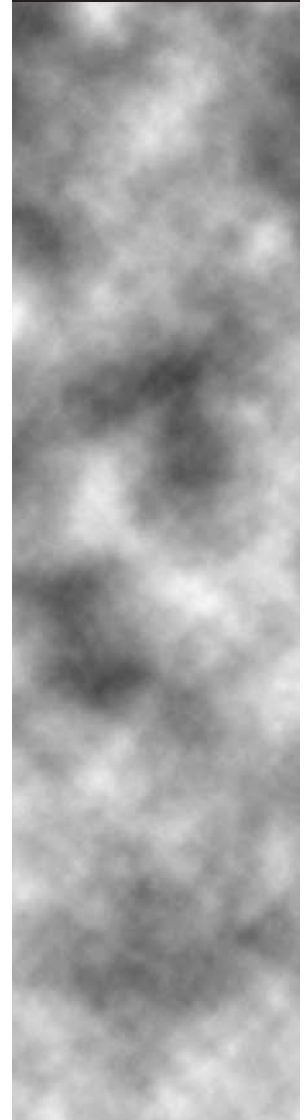
I am relatively new to the international markets. My ISC experience has made me want to continue my international work though I entered this field by accident. I practiced as a health actuary in the United States years before my husband, who was with Aetna International at the time, had an opportunity to go to Brazil for an expatriate assignment. Upon hearing that, I, a career woman and a mother of a nine-month old, had indicated that it was out of the question to even consider moving down the street. Three months later we landed in Brazil with a double expatriate package. It was quite an experience for me to work with the joint venture company on a health business of two million members, among other businesses. Yet it was equally challenging to parent a child who spoke only Portuguese. Nevertheless, my family and I had a wonderful experience knowing and working with the warm and welcoming Brazilian people during our years in Sao Paulo. Two weeks prior to our return to the States, ING acquired Aetna International. My husband and I took the opportunity to join ING's Americas office in Atlanta, Georgia. We have since been blessed for being able to continue their international experience with a global operation while living in a culture that we consider a nice mix of those in Hartford and Sao Paulo.

Yiji Starr,
Vice Chair

I have been doing volunteer work for the SOA and other professional organizations for many years. My work with the SOA includes taking



Shumei Kuo



continued on page 6



Rejean besner



Marc Slutzky



Carl Khor & his family

part in roles such as meeting session speaker, moderator, workshop facilitator and instructor. Prior to joining the ISC, I served on the Committee on International Issues and the Valuation Actuary Symposium Planning Committee. When I lived with my family in New York City, I served one term as Secretary for the Actuarial Society of Greater New York. I am is the chief actuary of John Hancock International Holdings in Boston, Massachusetts. I cover all of my company's international markets, including China, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia and Philippines. I travel to these countries on a regular basis.

Ms. Kuo has been amazed that, with Yiji's position and job responsibility, as well as being a mother of two young children, she has always managed her work on the ISC with such efficiency and determination. Ms. Kuo considers one of the benefits of serving on ISC is that she's been able to learn work and life management skills from people like Yiji.

Marc Slutzky,
Secretary/Treasurer

I have been involved with the International Section Council for two years. Beginning as a volunteer to be the Web liaison, I helped to get our Web page up and running. A year later in 2002, I was elected to the Section Council. Currently I am the secretary treasurer, and my duties are what you would expect—keeping the meeting minutes, and tracking our income and expenditures.

As a consultant with Milliman USA, I have been involved in several consulting projects in Japan, including the demutualization of two Japanese Life Insurers. Other projects I've worked on are in Europe, Hong Kong, Korea and Latin America. In addition, I work on projects in the United States as well.

I like working with the section council as it provides me opportunities to interact with people working all over the world. My work on the ISC has also helped me understand and appreciate the cultural and business differences in the international markets.

For three years I lived in Tokyo, Japan while working for a different company. That was a great experience for my family and me. The experience of living in Japan helped develop my love for travel. So far in 2003, I have vacationed in Spain and Italy, and I will

visit Canada and France soon, in addition to my current plan for a trip to New Zealand.

Rejean Besner,
Meeting Session Coordinator

I have been involved with the ISC for the past two years. It's been a wonderful experience participating and contributing to the work of a group that is always looking for ways to promote the international scope of the SOA, as well as to improve the experience of SOA members that are based outside of North America. I have been in charge of organizing the various sessions at the 2003 meetings that are sponsored by the International Section. It's been great to see the level of interest and participation in these sessions, as well as the work done by the speakers that have made (so far) the spring sessions very interesting.

I am also fortunate for the fact that, as the chief actuary of the International Reinsurance Division of Transamerica Reinsurance, my work involves interacting, on a daily basis, with clients, projects and associates that are from different cultural backgrounds. It makes my work so much more challenging but, at the same time, so much more interesting. I cannot wait to come to the office in the morning and see what challenges and opportunities have come overnight in the form of e-mails from Asia, in addition to what comes through during the day from Latin America.

My enthusiasm for different cultures carries over to my personal time. I like to use most of my vacation time to travel out of the country. Over the past 12 months, I have enjoyed vacations in Italy, France, El Salvador and Mexico. Here is a picture (left sidebar) from a recent vacation in Acapulco. And, no, I am not trying to give up my career as an actuary to sell mangoes on the beach, tempting as it might be.

Carl Khor,
Webcasts & Seminar Coordinator

As a member of ISC, I have been involved in coordinating with other actuarial organizations in Asia about a seminar in Asia. I'm also in the process of coordinating some webcasts on various interesting topics with other sections of the SOA.

I am in the international group of the AEGON Direct Marketing Services. My job responsibility involves overseeing all financial aspects of my company's international

operations. My work takes me to the various countries in Asia and Europe. I enjoy my work very much and have a loving family—my wife and two sons—who are supportive of what I do.

One side benefit serving on the ISC is that the work reunited Ms. Kuo and me. We met while taking actuarial science classes at the University of Texas at Austin. We both were in the MBA program and worked for Dr. Sam Cox, a SOA board member, at different times. Shortly after I started my work on the ISC, I sent a copy of my school paper for a Social course I took at UT, for which Ms. Kuo was the person I interviewed on a topic about women in the SOA. We had fun refreshing the memory of our school days and the time that we were studying for actuarial exams together.

August Chow,
*Education & Exam Coordinator,
Regional Ambassador Coordinator*

Shortly after I joined the International Section Council in October 2000, I moved to Hong Kong to work for the Government as the assistant commissioner of insurance, responsible for the supervision of the long-term life insurers. With council members and volunteers living in North and South America, Australia, Europe and Asia, they cover a time zone of 19 hours. It has been a real challenge for Lois Chinnock from the SOA to arrange a time for a telephone conference call that is reasonable to every council member. After trying out a few different times including early morning and late night, the Council decided to hold all conference calls at 8 a.m. Eastern Time in the United States, which is 8 or 9 p.m. Hong Kong time for me, depending on the time of the year.

My role in the ISC has been in the education and exams. I am fortunate that I have also been on the Professional Development (PD) Committee and the China Region Committee as well. These associations enable me to work with volunteer members across various committees and the section in order to benefit students and fellows living outside of the North America. To save some money and time required in traveling to North America, students overseas can now earn up to 15 PD credits by listening to the SOA meeting tapes. I have been involved in putting together the SOA joint regional seminars, held annually in various countries in Asia. With a large number of students living in Asia, both Course 7 and APC are now offered in Asia.

My three-year term on ISC is about to expire at the end of October but my work with the section will continue. I'm staying on as a volunteer to serve the students and members in my new capacity as the regional ambassador coordinator in Asia, Australia and New Zealand.

Paul Sauve,
Regional Ambassador Coordinator

This is now my second year of involvement on the SOA International Section Council, after several years being a section member. I have been working overseas for six years now—two years in Asia and the rest in Europe. My current position is with Manulife Reinsurance in Cologne, Germany.

The active participation in the ISC is my way to contribute something back to the SOA, the organization that gave me the credentials that facilitated a mobile international work experience. Beyond my general input to ISC and its many initiatives, I have also taken on a new role as the regional ambassador coordinator for Europe, Africa and the Middle East. In this role, I hope to expand and reinforce the SOA's network of international contacts and representatives so that the FSA and ASA designations continue to be well received around the world, which allows other SOA members to have the opportunities to explore international actuarial assignments. In addition to these more altruistic reasons, volunteering in the SOA ISC is also an opportunity to interact with people from varied cultures, companies, backgrounds, etc. Being exposed to people with views different than your own is a very important part of growing and learning ... something we should never stop doing!

Mike Enright,
Regional Ambassador Coordinator

I've been a member of the ISC since 2001. It's been a very positive experience for me. One of the things that I've been involved with is working with the Ambassadors for Latin America. Ambassadors are SOA members who are working in a foreign country and are willing to coordinate activities between the SOA and the actuaries, both local and SOA members in that country. It's been a real pleasure working with the ambassadors and finding out about local activities in different countries.



Paul Sauve



Mike Enright

continued on page 8

**My work for
AIG is primarily
in the Latin
America region.
Since AIG has
business in
most of the
Latin American
countries, I have
the opportunity
to work with a
huge variety
of people and
projects.**

- Mike Enright

I've recently started coordinating a project between the SOA and the Actuarial Association in Colombia to produce a new mortality table. I'm also in the process of helping to organize a joint project between the SOA and the superintendent of insurance in Peru to produce a new annuitant mortality table.

My work for AIG is primarily in the Latin America region. Since AIG has business in most of the Latin American countries, I have the opportunity to work with a large variety of people and projects. I've always enjoyed other cultures and languages, so this is just my ideal job. Besides learning Spanish, I've also been studying Mandarin Chinese for a few years. I love being able to call Mexico or Peru, for example, during the day and deal with the local actuaries. You never know what may come up next in today's business environment.

My wife, who was born in Havana, shares my love of other languages and cultures and we spend most of our vacations visiting other countries. The photo on the previous page shows me visiting St John's Castle in Ireland where some of my ancestors might one day have stormed the walls.

Shyamal Kumar,
Web site Liaison (see article on pg. 32)

Randy Makin,
Newsletter Editor

Although I work for part of a large global firm, Generali, located in Trieste, Italy, my true international experience has been confined to working with the ISC Section itself. Several years ago, Kevin Law was seeking an assistant editor to the newsletter. Since my forte' is proofreading rather than scouting articles, I readily volunteered.

After a couple of issues, Kevin was pressed by other duties and invited me to succeed him as editor. After a big "gulp," I agreed. The wonderful result has been working with ISC members who have worked especially hard to produce or find articles, as well as many other international writers. Some of these relationships have grown into genuine friendships, and for that I am especially grateful.

And, by the way, I am seeking an assistant editor. □

International Section Reception Visit to Epcot Tuesday, October 28!!

Experience an evening of desserts, networking and fireworks with the International Section at Epcot! On the United Kingdom terrace you will enjoy desserts, coffee, tea, lemonade and a cash bar while meeting other members of our global community. The evening will end with a spectacular show of lights and fireworks.



Buses will load at 7:30 p.m. at the Walt Disney World Dolphin Hotel for the short ride to Epcot and return at approximately 9:30 p.m.

There is a nonrefundable charge of \$25 for International Section members and \$30 for all others. Please include the additional fee with your registration. □