



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

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Chairperson's Corner

by William R. Horbatt

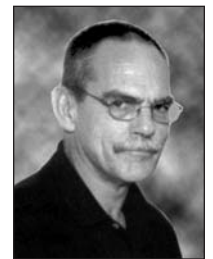
Welcome to the first 2006 issue of *International News*! If you are like me, the first piece of mail you open is *International News* (after checks and governmental letters of course!). I especially enjoy reading about current events around the world and how fellow actuaries continuously deal with challenges. The Society of Actuaries' ambassadors continuously "outdo themselves" by taking the time to write articles, especially when English may not be their native language.

The International Section is unique in that it defines itself not by professional specialty or organization, but by geography. Our membership has elected a council that represents a wide geographical span with council members working in Asia, the Caribbean, Europe, Latin America and, of course, the United States. They also represent a wide range of actuarial practices such as financial reporting, health insurance, life insurance, pensions and reinsurance. I hope that our members will

feel free to call upon them (or send an e-mail) to make suggestions, offer assistance to the section or just talk.

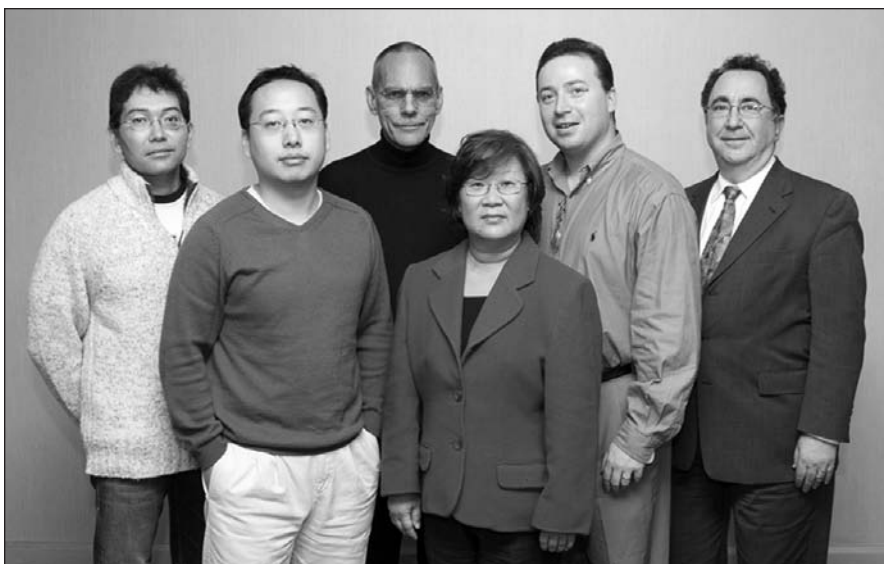
The International Section should meet the needs of its members, wherever they may be located. During 2005 the section supported a health insurance program in China and later repeated a successful SOA Spring Meeting session on International Mergers & Acquisitions as a webcast, in order to permit foreign actuaries to profit from it as well. The section continues its support for the SOA's International Experience Study and will be looking for other opportunities to serve its members outside North America as the year progresses.

As customary, the council met in November 2005 in New York in conjunction with the SOA Annual Meeting. We are pleased to announce that we approved Mr. Iyad Hourani as the SOA ambassador for the Middle East region. Below, there's a photo of the council members who were able to attend this meeting in person. □



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International Section Council Gathers at the Annual Meeting



Members of the International Section Council pose for a shot together during the Annual Meeting.

From left to right: Ronald Poon-Affat, Jason Liang Zhang, incoming chair Bill Horbatt, Cathy Lyn, Alex Kogan and outgoing chair Marc Slutzky.