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2007 - 2008 Section Leadership

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Editor's Note

by Michelle John

International Cooperation, Globalization, Convergence and the Global Village are some of the buzz words that have crept into our consciousness. Some have a negative spin while others sound more positive. In this edition, we explore these concepts as they relate to our profession and work.

Paul Grace looks at the international developments in the area of Continuous Professional Development (CPD). An actuary may be working in one country, for a company that reports to a regulatory body in another country and neither of these countries may be his country of qualification. Which CPD Scheme governs? Hillevi Mannonen, International Actuarial Association (IAA) president, highlights the activities and challenges of the IAA. It provides a common forum for discussion among actuarial associations. Catherine Robertson provides the first in a series of articles on changes in Pension Accounting. These articles will describe the first steps taken towards convergence to a global standard. The International Experience Study Working Group has updated the Embedded Value Financial Assumptions survey for 2006 data.

Working together is not possible if we don't understand the various markets in which we are to operate. Nian Chih-Yang explores the Chinese insurance market, Greg Whittaker looks at the role of actuaries in road accident claims in South Africa and Edina Rozinka provides an extensive review of the insurance market in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and the Slovak Republic.

Apart from this, Alistair Cammidge, council member, shares his thoughts on what is happening in the world of pensions and Shani Bryan provides an update from the Actuarial Society at the University of West Indies in Jamaica.

2007 is winding down, as we look forward to 2008; a number of changes are taking place. Carol Tom, assistant editor, has decided to bow out after diligently editing for the last two years. I would like to thank Carol for all her hard work and dedication. We welcome Carl Hansen to the team; he will be the assistant editor in 2008. The council elections have taken place and there's a new team in place.

With 2008 coming, here are a few suggestions for your 2008 New Year's resolutions.

- Write an article for the newsletter.
- Introduce yourself to your SOA country ambassador. There isn't one? Why don't you apply then?
- Admit to your friends and family that you enjoy reading this newsletter. You may be shunned for awhile—that just gives you more time for reading the newsletter. □



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