



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

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Chairperson's Corner

by Alex Kogan

As incoming chair, I am very excited about the strong teamwork we have developed within our council, with excellent participation by all council members, all aimed at our fundamental goal of effectively serving the needs of International Section members. The council started the year with a budget and planning exercise to review all of our historic and planned initiatives, compare to our available resources, and set clear priorities for the year. A few highlights on council priorities for the coming year that I wanted to share:

- 1) We want to do more to reach out to members and make sure we understand your needs, and ideas, in order to better align council priorities with membership needs. As a result, a new survey of members is being defined and will be shared with members in the coming months to get your input on council priorities.
- 2) The council intends to build on the prior successful efforts for educational seminars, with two tracks. First, with a renewed commitment to offering international content at SOA meetings, we have several sessions planned at the upcoming spring and annual SOA meetings. Second, building on our successful efforts partnering with other sections to offer seminars in international locations, including the successful international U.S. GAAP financial reporting seminar, with seminars held in Hong Kong, Brazil, and Amsterdam to date, and new plans for several more sessions.
- 3) The council is looking for additional ways to support and re-invigorate the international ambassador program which connects local SOA members with the SOA in international markets. We expect to announce specific initiatives in this area in the coming months.
- 4) The section council is available to serve as a communication link between international section members and the SOA, including addressing member needs for such issues as the recently proposed CPD requirements and ensuring the SOA is aware of the unique needs and challenges for international members in fulfilling these requirements.

Our council has already shared a letter to the SOA on the new CPD requirements, based on member feedback.

- 5) The council is already looking forward towards planning our reception at the 2008 Annual Meeting in Orlando. This year we intend to include a speaker, and/or entertainment in addition to the popular networking opportunity with international section members over appetizers and cocktails.
- 6) The section continues to benefit from a great section newsletter, including articles on relevant topics from all over the world, consistent with our section mandate. We are excited about the several excellent articles we received for our "Country Feature" article competition which was announced in the November newsletter. We expect to announce the winner in early April and all members can look forward to reading some excellent articles on local country developments.

Please feel free to contact me or any of the section council members should you have any questions or suggestions on the council's plans. We welcome your input . □



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