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## Editor's Note

by Michelle John

This is a busy and interesting time for the profession. Actuaries are grappling with a number of weighty issues. The International Section newsletter facilitates the sharing of burdens and solutions across borders. Actuaries are adept at building, using and adapting models to solve problems.

Old models sometimes don't work when they are exported to a different place or time. François Xavier Hay and Kumar Shailabh in "If You Want to Go Far ... Go Together," explain a grassroots model for health-risk pooling that is being used in India. They explain why traditional health insurance models have not worked in this context. Davout Yean describes the health insurance models being developed in China in "Social Health Insurance Plans: 中国制造 (Made in China)." The old models did not work in the new economic reality. There still is no perfect solution, but they have come up with new models and are working to improve them in the next few years. Sylvain Goulet gives us a basic introduction to the Takaful insurance model, a mutual, insurance-type model that meets requirements of the Islamic faith in "A Primer on Takaful." Models for solvency have been under review for a number of years. Solvency II, the European model, is described by Edina Rozinka in "Solvency II: A New Piece of European Insurance Regulation or Much More?"

It's not just the technical models that might need adapting. Actuaries are also rethinking their work-life models. Xueyun Huang interviews Ling-Ling Wang in "Insurance Market in China." Ms. Wang worked for many years in the United States and is now the chief actuary for Taikang Life in China. She describes how she has overturned some "comfortable assumptions" and chosen "to try new things." Jill Hoffman is a Canadian expatriate who has just moved from a posting in the Bahamas to a posting in Singapore. In "Life on Tiny Islands," she discusses the personal and professional challenges of being an actuary on the road.

The Caribbean Actuarial Association (CAA) held its annual conference in the Bahamas in December. Marcia Tam-Marks provides a review in the article "17th Annual Caribbean Actuarial Association Conference." The range of topics and global participation illustrate actuaries' eagerness to learn more and apply new models.

Max Rudolph presents the results of a May 2008 survey of international actuaries on emerging risks in "International Survey of Emerging Risks." The best way to stay on the cutting edge is to identify that next big risk and start thinking about the model to respond to it.

Many models stand before us, so how do we choose that next top model? There's no easy answer. Just keep your eyes and ears open to the world and be flexible in your thinking!



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