



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

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Chairperson's Corner

by Alex Kogan

Following up my prior "Chairperson's Corner" article, summarizing the section's plans and priorities for the year, I am pleased to report that on behalf of the council, we are making good progress on execution of our prior stated plans. A few highlights on our status include:

- 1) Our plan to reach out to members to get your input is moving forward. We have just completed our member survey questions and format. These will be released to members shortly to get direct and extremely valuable input on our future plans and activities.
- 2) Our plans and efforts to organize relevant educational sessions at Society of Actuaries (SOA) meetings in the United States and at international locales have progressed. With regard to SOA meetings, we have organized sessions at the Spring Health and Life meetings on comparison of North American health care systems and Takaful insurance. For seminars at international locales, we are excited about the upcoming U.S. GAAP seminar workshop to be offered in Hong Kong and Shanghai (for the first time) later in June. These sessions are co-sponsored with the Financial Reporting Section, with strong support of the SOA staff, and we are thankful for their collaboration. Also, the section, along with SOA staff, recently participated in the hosting of a visit by representatives of the Vietnam Ministry of Finance to the United States, with a presentation on international experience studies to the delegation led by Bill Horbatt (past chair of the International Section).
- 3) I am pleased to inform that the section has implemented a few small, but concrete, steps to strengthen the International Ambassador program, which strategically serves to connect local SOA members in international markets with the SOA. First, we have announced a funding initiative, which was communicated to the ambassadors in May 2008, which provides for an annual \$500 funding to help sponsor local, in-country meetings with SOA members, which are organized by ambassadors in their respective markets. Second, the section has developed

an enhanced communication approach when appointing new ambassadors. It includes a structured e-mail communication to all in-country SOA members to announce a new ambassador appointment and to better explain the ambassador role in serving local, in-country members' needs.

- 4) The section is finalizing plans for our annual networking event at the SOA annual meeting in Orlando this year. This year we have confirmed plans to have this session co-sponsored by several other groups, including the Chinese Actuarial Club, International Association of Black Actuaries and the Caribbean Actuarial Association. In so doing, we expect to increase networking opportunities for attendees. In addition, we have made plans for karaoke entertainment to be available for this event. We will have more updates on this session shortly.
- 5) The voting is in for the section's "Country Feature" article competition in support of our section newsletter. Congratulations go to the winner, Nhon Ly, for the article "Vietnam: An Emerging Market, No Longer a War." It will be published in the next edition. We all can look forward to reading some excellent articles based on the numerous submissions.

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



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