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Editor's Note

By Carl Hansen

WELCOME TO THE REDESIGNED INTERNATIONAL NEWS. The SOA staff has made a few changes so that the newsletter looks more updated and better fits with the new SOA branding. We hope the changes are appealing to our readers.

This issue includes two articles from our 2008 Country Feature Competition. Thank you to all authors who submitted articles for the contest, but especially at this time to Alistair Cammidge and Javier Campelo for their patience while waiting to see their articles in print. I hope that all readers will agree that the entries were all excellent and that Nhon Ly's article "Vietnam: An Emerging Market, No Longer a War" (featured in the December 2008 issue) was a deserving winner of the competition. We look forward to sharing the 2009 contest entries in the upcoming issues.

This issue features a summary of the results of a membership survey done by the International Section Council last year. The survey gave the council excellent feedback that helped to guide initiatives for this year. The council represents the membership of the International Section, so please pass along additional suggestions to any of the council members. Or, take leadership in the section by running for one of the council positions. If you are not currently a member of the International Section, please consider joining.

Perhaps more than any other SOA Section, the International Section represents a very diverse group of actuaries, coming from many countries and working for many different types of employers. Hopefully, this diversity is reflected in our newsletter content. In this issue, we have articles from five different continents and topics covering a wide variety of issues. We are always looking for new and interesting content for future issues, whether it is an article, an update on what is happening in your country, or just an announcement of an upcoming event.

We hope you enjoy reading this issue. Please feel free to contact the editorial staff (or the SOA) if you have any comments, suggestions, or content for future newsletters. □



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