



**SOCIETY OF  
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# Chairperson's Corner

By Arpita Das

Welcome to the October issue of *International News*. The year has indeed flown by—summer ends, autumn begins and this article marks my last as chairperson for the International Section. As I reflect back on the year, I am proud of the progress we've made and look forward to our activities at the 2019 SOA Annual Meeting & Exhibit in Toronto this month. I am also excited for the new slate of leadership whose terms begin after the annual meeting and who will move our section into 2020.

The guiding light for the past year has been a mission of connection and outreach. On the connection front, we have taken networking and event sponsorships to a truly international level. This has included past and upcoming events scheduled this year in Washington, D.C.; Harare, Zimbabwe; Indianapolis; Toronto and Bangkok. We are also in the midst of revamping our website, which will now include an actuarial events page to better facilitate global connections across members.

On the outreach front, we continue to remain involved with research initiatives, and we support actuarial education. This has included collaboration on health care—funding research projects and support of organizations like Actuaries Without Borders®.

These highlights were a few of many initiatives that took place this year. None of this would have been possible without active engagement from our council members and friends. I am grateful for the excellent team we had in place. In particular, I would like to thank our outgoing council members this year—Heather Ingram, Ken Seng Tan and James Xu—for their many contributions.

I invite all of our readers to attend the exciting set of sessions the International Section has sponsored for the 2019 SOA Annual Meeting & Exhibit. These include sessions on global



aging and production innovation, mortality improvement around the globe and a panel on insurtech trends, challenges and application case studies. I also encourage all of you to take the opportunity to meet fellow section members and members of our council at the meeting, many of whom have been directly involved in organizing these sessions.

Beyond October and into the next year, I am excited for the upcoming council elections and our new slate of leaders. I thank all those who have expressed interest in running for our council. Our section needs your enthusiasm, engagement and leadership.

Finally, to all of our readers, thank you for your continued support of this newsletter and of the International Section. I look forward to meeting many of you in person at the annual meeting and crossing paths in the future. ■



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