



**SOCIETY OF
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Editor's Note

By Milanthi Sarukkali

It is October, the end of summer and beginning of fall. The year is flowing by rather quickly, and it is time to publish our last newsletter for 2019. Once again, we are excited to bring to our readers a diverse lineup of articles covering events, new developments and views from across multiple regions.

In this issue, we cover a couple of meetings of importance to the actuarial community, with recaps of the International Actuarial Association Council and Committee meeting that took place in Washington, D.C., in May and the Society of Actuaries (SOA) Asia Pacific and China Symposiums held in June.

This issue of *International News* explores challenges that emerging markets face with the impending accounting changes of IFRS 17, as well as government-sponsored health initiatives in Colombia. It also takes a look at the implications of demographic changes in Mexico. Next, we focus on microinsurance, with an article introducing the recently concluded SOA research on technology in microinsurance and an interview with Renata De Leers of Actuaries Without Borders® on inclusive insurance in central and southern Europe.

We also feature the runner-up of the Country Feature Article Call for Papers of 2019, an article that highlights why life insurers should care about Brexit. Congratulations to Ronald Klein, who has participated in this competition for a number of years, submitting entries with many interesting perspectives that are

internationally relevant and emerging as the runner-up in 2015, 2016 and 2017.

I would also like to draw your attention to a flyer we have published in this issue on an event that is closer to home for me personally. The South Asian Actuarial Conference will be held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, on November 13 and 14. We have an interesting lineup of presentations and panel discussions under the theme “Stepping Into the Future,” discussing the changing role of the actuary and associated opportunities and challenges. The SOA ambassadors from the South Asian region will be hosting a networking event for SOA members attending the conference, and I look forward to meeting some of our readers there.

By the time this newsletter reaches our readers, the 2019 SOA Annual Meeting & Exhibit will be right around the corner. The International Section has contributed an interesting lineup of sessions for this event and also plans to host a few networking events for members. I look forward to meeting our members and readers personally at this event.

This is a bittersweet time for the International Section, as we bid farewell to a few council members and welcome new leadership. Arpita Das will be completing her term as chairperson of the International Section in October. Arpita is a long-standing volunteer who has contributed much of her time and energy to the International Section, as council member and then as chair, and prior to that as the editor in chief of this newsletter. We owe much of the success of this newsletter to her tireless efforts in providing leadership to the editorial board. On a personal note, I have thoroughly enjoyed working with her and wish her continued success in the future. By the time you read this newsletter, we will have welcomed a few new council members, and we look forward to introducing the new leadership of the section in our next issue.

As always, I would like to encourage our readers to reach out to us with ideas on how we can improve this newsletter and provide relevant and useful content. Also, while we are thankful to our regular writers for their contributions to this newsletter, we encourage our readers to consider submitting their own articles for future issues, highlighting new developments, ideas and events in their regions.

I hope you enjoy this final issue for 2019. Happy reading! ■



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