



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

Article from:

International News

January 2013 – Issue 58



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Chairperson's Corner

By Ben Marshall

It is a new year, and a time of farewells and of new beginnings. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as the new chair of the International Section Council for the coming year.

In looking back over the past year, I'd like to offer my sincere thanks and best wishes to Genghui Wu, our outgoing chair of the International Section, for his engaging style of leadership, his outstanding collaboration, and his constant friendship to me personally and to many of our members and all of our council. At the same time, we have two additional members retiring from service on the council. I'd like to thank Michael Lockerman for his strong ideas and his equally strong sense of humour while serving actively from Hong Kong, and to thank Alycia Slyck for her enthusiastic service even in the midst of pregnancy and dealing first-hand with the "perfect storm" of crises in Japan.

In looking forward to the coming year, it is my pleasure to welcome new council members Carlos Arocha, who is based in Switzerland; Warren Rodericks, based in Toronto; and Rong Rong, based in London. All three were chosen by the membership in the fall elections, and each has great strengths and has expressed commitment to the section's objectives by volunteering for service in various activities of the council. I look forward to working with them!

As we look even further ahead, the International Section appears poised to be able to make a significant impact

with and for our stakeholders. The international presence of SOA-designated actuaries is on the increase, both with ex-pats in remote locations and with indigenous actuaries choosing the SOA for their actuarial education and research needs. Nearly half of SOA candidates are currently writing their exams outside of the United States, and fully half of the top ten exam centres are outside of North America.

Not surprisingly, the SOA recognizes these trends and has undertaken a strategic initiative toward globalization of its services. The International Section will be aligning many of its activities to complement those of the SOA's International Committee in realizing this goal. We will continue the International Section's focus on educational seminars and webcasts, the fulsome content of the *International News* (which will now be published in an electronic format), and our Ambassador Program for networking activities in key locations across the globe. However, we will be directing them toward a broader array of practice needs for actuaries working or volunteering internationally. In doing so, we plan to leverage partnerships with other SOA sections and with indigenous actuarial associations and other stakeholders for actuarial services globally. Look for announcements via email, website updates, LinkedIn, and future newsletters that will outline events and activities to serve your needs or enlist your involvement. □



**17TH EAST ASIAN
ACTUARIAL CONFERENCE**
15-18 October 2013
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The Singapore Actuarial Society is the host of the **17TH EAST ASIAN ACTUARIAL CONFERENCE (EAAC)**, "Redefining Risk, Creating Value" being held at Resorts World Singapore from **October 15 - 18, 2013**. The EAAC brings together actuarial professionals in the Asia-Pacific region to discuss various international and topical issues.

If you are not familiar with Singapore, Resorts World is the premier destination in Singapore, with Universal Studios located on site. Other attractions include the casino, shopping and famous Singapore food. For more details see www.rwsentosa.com. We will continue to provide more details closer to the date. www.actuariesasia.org