

„ICA becomes a shop window for our profession“

Interview with the President of the International Actuarial Association, Malcolm Campbell

The International Actuarial Association (IAA) represents 68 actuarial associations worldwide. The German Actuarial Association (DAV) is one of the largest associations with a particularly professional management structure. What expectations does the IAA have of the role of the DAV?

The DAV is not only one of the larger, but also one of the older associations in the IAA. Like any older big brother or sister, this comes with a certain element of responsibility in the family – in particular to look out for the younger and smaller members and to take an extra responsibility in helping them to develop. It's always easy to forget that younger members of the family, whatever they say, almost always look up to and learn from the older members!

In 2018, the International Congress of Actuaries will be held in Berlin. The DAV is honored and excited to be hosting this traditional actuarial event. What do you expect from the organization team?

Well, I definitely expect the DAV to give us a well-organized event, with an informative and well thought out program – no one would expect anything less.

However I'm actually also expecting a few surprises and a bit of fun mixed in the more serious content, and I'm sure I will not be disappointed.

What significant value does an International Congress of Actuaries have for the global actuarial community?

In an inward looking sense, the value of the International Congress of Actuaries is to expand and improve the competence of the profession. It also gives us an opportunity to bond

and exchange views, which in turn creates a stronger profession.

In an outward facing sense, ICA also becomes a shop window for the profession to show our stakeholders what we can contribute in our business areas, something we should not forget.

Why is it important for actuaries to exchange knowledge and to strengthen networking on an international basis?

The global actuarial community is relatively small, and we can only advance the profession by working together. I'm still amazed at the number of times I find a problem I'm working on is similar to a problem someone in a completely different country or business area is also trying to tackle – networking provides an opportunity to leverage other people's work, preventing us from reinventing the wheel.

Another aspect is that global institutions are increasingly influencing regulation, which only serves to reinforce the similarity of problems we are faced with in different countries and the value in exchanging ideas and knowledge.

Why would you say that actuaries should attend the International Congress of Actuaries in Berlin 2018 at all costs?

Firstly there are the networking opportunities; whilst a lot can be achieved with current "on-line" technology there is still a great value in face-to-face discussion. I would encourage everyone to take the opportunity to not only develop existing networks but also to develop new ones with actuaries from across the globe.

Secondly it's an ideal opportunity to leave the distractions of an eve-



Malcolm Campbell

ry day job behind you and to concentrate on significantly developing new competencies and skills. Thirdly there is the opportunity to visit a great city. Berlin is one of my favorite cities to visit; there is always something new to do. Fourthly it's an opportunity to have fun with friends, old and new.

When and where was the first International Congress of Actuaries you attended and what do you remember about it?

My first International Congress of Actuaries was Helsinki 1988. I remember the weather (it was unusually warm), the beautiful city, and also a dramatic trip to an open-air opera performance. But most of all I recall the sense of community spirit. As a young and inexperienced actuary I was wondering how I could fit in and contribute, but in no time at all I was made to feel at home, met many new actuaries and found plenty of interesting new things to add to my skill set.

Thirty years on in Berlin I still expect to feel at home, meet new actuaries from all over the world, develop new competencies, and have fun as well.