

IAA Council Meeting
Presidential Address – Edward J. Levay
Monday 21st October 2002
9:00 – 13:00
Barcelona – Spain

Buenos Dias Colleagues and Friends

I am pleased to open today, the IAA Council Meeting.

I would wish first to thank on behalf of the IAA and myself, the Col.legi d' Actuaris de Catalunya for hosting the IAA meetings in Barcelona, in particular Fernando Durango, Antonia Maria Sanchez, Angie Felipe, and Rosa Maria Felipe for their hard work in organizing and assisting our meetings. Please give a round of applause to our Catalanian hosts.

The attendance at the current meetings is broken down as follows: 120 delegates and 46 companions representing 33 associations, 3 Sections, 3 institutional members, and 27 countries.

Activities since MARCH 2002

Many developments have taken place since my last report on Saturday 16th March in Cancun, Mexico.

The first and most obvious of these is the 27th ICA (International Congress of Actuaries) held on 17th – 22nd March 2002 in Cancun, Mexico. This was the first congress organized by the **Mexican Actuarial Associations:**

Colegio Nacional de Actuarios A. C. (CONAC),
Asociacion Mexicana de Actuarios, A.C. (AMA),
Asociacion Mexicana de Consultores (AMC)

Sixty countries were represented by 1200 participants and 569 accompanying persons. Two Colloquia were incorporated; the 33rd ASTIN Colloquium and the 12th AFIR Colloquium and for the first time a Health Care Seminar. In total there were 99 sessions. 358 papers were submitted on a diverse range of topics and we also had a rich program by invited lecturers.

It was a productive week for our profession and a good opportunity for the participants to exchange knowledge between and during the exotic Mexican lunches and dinners.

I would like to ask you to join me to send our vote of thanks to our Mexican Colleagues who, with their hard work and dedication, made a great success of this Congress.

I would recommend repeating this 'formula' for future Congresses. In particular the flexibility that enabled the members to select the parts of the Congress that were most

relevant and interesting to them, with choices between and within the ASTIN, AFIR and IACA Colloquia.

This flexibility is additionally beneficial for those members who have to keep an eye on the *purse strings*. Needless to say, not all participating actuaries are funded by their employers, and there are also many academics; young and newly qualified actuaries; and our colleagues from Actuarially Emerging Countries, for whom fees, travel and accommodation expenses are a consideration when they are deciding whether to partake in our congresses. Thus the format utilised was ideal, enabling greater attendance, with increased diversity; leading to more global exposure for our profession.

From the IAA perspective, we had a constructive discussion with non-Actuarial representatives, who presented interesting papers on various topics **related** to our profession.

It was also a good opportunity for us to meet with senior representatives like Señor Aguilera, Chairman of the IAIS (International Association of Insurance Supervisors), whom we had the pleasure of hosting at a dinner on the Monday 18th March.

Señor Aguilera was the keynote speaker for lunch on Tuesday 19th March, during the AFIR Colloquium and gave a presentation on the topic: **Risk Management in Insurance**. He also kindly participated in the sessions on the ‘Impact of Globalisation in the Actuarial Profession’ and ‘Insurance Regulation of General Insurance Companies’, held on the Tuesday.

On the same day, a lunch was organized by the A&A Committee through Stuart Leckie, Chairperson of the China Subcommittee, for the 19 Chinese Delegates including Mr Wu Xiapoing, Vice Chairman of the China Insurance Regulatory Commission (CIRC).

Presidents from different Associations participated at this lunch and we had very productive discussions.

Later during the ICA, I had a personal meeting with Mr Wu Xiaoping and two of his colleagues. Mr Wu Xiaoping provided me with a short overview on the Actuarial Developments in China and we had a discussion on continuing the cooperation between the Society of Actuaries of China (SAC) and the IAA.

I was pleased to learn about the intensity and openness towards the Insurance Industry in China and I was particularly impressed by the fact that China is fortunate to produce and develop a large number of talented mathematicians.

Two additional initiatives at the ICA were also productive:

- 1) A meeting between Past Presidents of IAA & IFAA and the Officers.
- 2) A meeting between Chairmen of our Sections ASTIN, AFIR & IACA and the Officers.

Again, such meetings were very fruitful, where we provided the opportunity to hold discussions in person, rather than using e-correspondence.

As you can see, there were numerous successful developments addressed during the 27th ICA.

As President, I next represented the IAA at the International Actuarial Forum in Xiamen, China on the 25th and 26th of April 2002. The Forum was sponsored by the IAA and organised by the Society of Actuaries of China (SAC) and the Actuarial Society of Hong Kong (ASHK). The main objective was to discuss Global Developments in Actuarial Education. Presidents of International professional bodies, Chinese Government Officials and Regulators, eminent academics, and professional leaders and practitioners participated in these discussions.

The Forum extended to 130 delegates, 100 local and 30 international, with the participation of Mr Ma Yongwei, Chairman of CIRC (China Insurance Regulatory Commission) and His two Vice Chairmen.

Eight Presidents of International Actuarial Associations presented papers on their developments for the education of future actuaries, keeping in mind the deadline of the IAA for the year 2005 to incorporate the Education Core Syllabus of the IAA.

This is the beginning of the development of a long-term cooperation between the IAA and the Society of Actuaries of China (SAC) and the Actuarial Society of Hong Kong (ASHK). In fact, our earlier discussions have led to the organisation of conferences and seminars in China where the IAA has and will be represented to further aid the development of Actuaries in this region. In September, Chris Daykin and other members of the IAA attended and lectured at the General Insurance Conference, held in China. This proved to be a very successful forum and the agenda, report and presentations have been posted to the IAA Web site under the Events, Archives button.

In addition, the A&A Committee, with the financial support of the IPEF, organized a meeting for future leaders of the actuarial profession and actuarial educators in Latin America in Buenos Aires, Argentina on September 10, 2002. A more detailed report is available through the Committee on Advice and Assistance.

Only last week I participated in the 9th annual conference of the IAIS – the International Association of Insurance Supervisors, held in Santiago, Chile. This was part of our continued efforts to develop our relationship with the IAIS. I was joined by Nigel Masters, Chairperson of the Insurance Regulation Committee, and I wish to thank him for his hard work at this important Conference and his tremendous help and support with last minute arrangements.

The Conference was attended by over 250 delegates from over 70 countries, of which a number did not even have practicing actuaries operating there. Nevertheless, there were quite a few actuaries in attendance and at some of the lectures and debates, I felt as if it was an IAA Congress rather than IAIS conference.

There were of course present some actuaries who are also the supervisors representing their own countries. This provided me with the opportunity to raise with them the need for the involvement of actuaries within the Regulators, and the benefits that the actuary's qualities of competence and integrity can bring to the regulatory body's activities. This is not withstanding our obligations and responsibilities to the consumer, which are obviously and primarily shared by the Supervisors. We hope to keep the relationship between the regulators and ourselves fresh with better communication and stronger standards.

PROMOTION OF THE ACTUARIAL PROFESSION

Turning to matters related to the long-term development of the profession, I would like to refer to the letter that I recently sent to all the Member Associations concerning a *Task Force for the Promotion of the Actuarial Profession*.

Within this letter I outlined a skeleton strategy that I would like to further develop, that will help the actuarial profession to retain its standing amongst *the professions*, through more actively promoting it as an attractive and viable option for a career.

I would particularly like to stress the need for a common strategy amongst member associations in attracting youngsters to the profession and the provision of congruent information from each association, possibly through a shared web site. The first step may be to bring in professional consultants to guide us through the steps required and help us devise such a strategy. At the present moment, I have already received some positive feedback from the Actuarial Society of South Africa (ASSA) and the Singapore Actuarial Society (SAS) regarding this matter and to add to this with your comments and ideas about my proposals and am available to discuss them at any convenient time. The South African and Singapore Associations have described the measures that they have taken and the success that they have achieved with the promotion of our profession. We as a global profession should follow their examples. We must move quickly to formulate guidelines for such a Task Force.

I would like to end my Presidential address with the thanks of the IAA on your behalf and personally to our Secretary General, Yves Guérard, the IAA Executive Director, Nicole Séguin and Christian Levac from the IAA Secretariat.

Thank you for your attention.