

Minutes of the Advice and Assistance Subcommittee Meeting Paphos, Cyprus – January 29, 1998

Present: Catherine Prime, Chairman
Robert Collett
Chris Daykin (*part of meeting only*)
Luis Huerta Rosas
Walter Rugland (*part of meeting only*)
Hideyuki Yoshida (*part of meeting only; replaced by Junzo Tanaka*)

Regrets: Carla Angela
Alf Guldberg
Peter Kuys
Max Lacroix
James MacGinnitie
Jürgen Strauß

Staff: Nicole Séguin, Executive Director

1. Introduction

Catherine Prime welcomed members to the meeting and noted the regrets received.

2. Agenda

The agenda was approved with the addition of two items submitted by Chris Daykin: China and the June 1998 Congress.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting (Gold Coast, August 17, 1998) were reviewed as follows.

Expatriate List

Nicole Séguin presented a list of names of expatriate actuaries working in Asia, South America and Africa. The list was compiled with the assistance of the IAJ, SOA, ASSA, the UK Institute and the Faculty. Catherine Prime drew attention to the fact that the list would be constantly changing. Hence, she suggested that it be updated only when a request for assistance is received in order to ensure accuracy as much as possible. It was also suggested that the list not be restricted to Fellows, but that it include all actuaries with an indication of their respective affiliation.

Russian Request

Catherine Prime reported that the A&A Subcommittee had provided assistance to Dr. Lelchuk of Russia and inquired whether there was any additional assistance the subcommittee could provide. Chris Daykin responded that the Government Actuary's Department had been advising the Russian supervisory authorities and that he would attempt to schedule a meeting with Dr. Lelchuck and the Russian regulators during his visit to Moscow in early February.

IAA Fund

Chris Daykin reported that not much activity has taken place in recent months. Originally, the intent was to hold three IAA Fund sponsored meetings in 1998: one in China, one in Latvia, and one in Ghana. Chris Daykin will communicate with Max Lacroix for an update on the arrangements and to inquire whether any assistance is required.

4. China

Chris Daykin reported that Max Lacroix had spent some time in China late in 1997 to finalize the details of the IAA Fund meeting planned for China. The People's Bank of China is keen to develop the actuarial profession in China and organized a meeting in September 1997 with an insurance company to discuss, among other matters, actuarial education in China. At a subsequent meeting at the Shanghai University of Finance and Economics, it was suggested that a China Hope Project be established through the IFAA to help China establish the actuarial profession, develop actuarial education and an examination system. Chris Daykin undertook to forward the request to the A&A Subcommittee for consideration. Another meeting was scheduled to take place in January 1998 with the Chinese Insurance Institute to discuss, among other things, actuarial education in China. The presidents of the actuarial associations of South East Asia were invited to attend.

Chris Daykin proceeded to outline three possible avenues for setting up the actuarial profession in China:

1. Encourage Chinese actuaries to organize themselves. In this respect, Duncan Ferguson met with a group of actuaries in Beijing who were somewhat interested, but did not feel they were in a position to do anything influential. They agreed, however, to create a local actuarial society.
2. The Insurance Institute of China could be an umbrella body under which to launch an actuarial association.
3. The People's Bank of China could set up a society of actuaries.

The importance of pursuing the organization of an IAA Fund meeting in China was noted.

Duncan Ferguson and Chris Daykin are making efforts to demonstrate to the Chinese the importance of an actuarial organization by highlighting the benefits enjoyed by countries where one is already established.

The UK is attempting to send actuaries to China to conduct seminars and to promote the actuarial profession. One suggestion was that the IFAA could offer to be their coordinator. The UK is also making arrangements for approximately six actuarial students from China to attend the IAA Congress in Birmingham.

Catherine Prime suggested that, in the beginning, the establishment of an e-mail group for actuaries in China could be another form of meeting which would be less time-consuming and more cost-effective, therefore perhaps more attractive to the Chinese actuaries as they work towards the establishment of the profession in China.

Chris Daykin suggested that the IFAA Chairman write to the People's Bank of China describing the IFAA, outlining the implications of becoming an organization which will meet the IFAA standards, forwarding the IFAA syllabus, and outlining the benefits of membership in the IFAA, namely international recognition.

5. IAA Congress

Chris Daykin reported that, some months ago, the UK circulated information to the effect that bursaries from various sources would be available for actuaries from actuarially developing countries to attend the Congress. The expectation is that approximately 23 bursaries will be given to individuals from 13 different countries. Chris Daykin suggested that the IFAA host a public relations reception during the IAA Congress to introduce the IFAA to the bursary recipients, to individuals not yet represented by an association in the IFAA and to actuaries from actuarially developing countries. It was noted that a designated IFAA speaker would welcome invitees and brief them on the restructure of the IAA/IFAA. This initiative, which was endorsed by the A&A Subcommittee, will be coordinated by a UK Institute staff person, (most likely Georgina Ivers, International Committee Secretary), in conjunction with the Accreditation Subcommittee. Catherine Prime undertook to report to the Committee meeting.

6. List of Possible New Members

The subcommittee members took note of the list of possible new members, which is now available on the IFAA Web Site. The following points were made:

- Catherine Prime will contact Mike Ross to follow-up with developments in Hong Kong.
- The CAA has applied for Observer Member status.
- Luis Huerta suggested that it would be useful to organize IAA Fund seminars in South America.

- Nicole Séguin reported that responses from South American associations to join the IFAA were taking a little longer than usual because of the time required to translate the IFAA membership documents into Spanish. She suggested that if the information was sent in Spanish, it might facilitate the application process for certain Spanish-speaking associations. Nicole Séguin will circulate the draft invitation letter and membership application documents to Catherine Prime and Luis Huerta for review before proceeding with translation.

7. Organizational Models

As discussed earlier in the meeting, the paper on organizational models will be expanded to include electronic actuarial discussion groups as another form of organization. Bob Collett undertook to draft the proposed description of this additional model.

8. Interaction/coordination with SOA, IA, IAA, IAJ and others in responding to requests for assistance

Bob Collett drew attention to the fact that the Society of Actuaries receives many requests for assistance. He expressed a concern that there may be duplication of requests received by the various actuarial organizations and the Forum and suggested that a list be developed by the A&A Subcommittee to monitor all requests received. Catherine Prime noted that the role of the A&A Subcommittee is to act as a conduit. The subcommittee membership will need to be augmented to include individuals representing those associations which receive requests and that these individuals would be responsible for collecting the requests being received by their countries. The role of the additional members would be to ask the individuals in their respective association to keep them informed of assistance requests received.

Catherine Prime concluded that the A&A Subcommittee would request another representative from the UK/Faculty since they receive many requests. The subcommittee will also request representation from the CIA, the CAS, and the ASSA, if the latter receives requests.

It was suggested that a standard report form be developed to record all requests received. There was also mention of developing a process, but it was noted that this would be easier to achieve once a record of requests and how they were dealt with was available. One exercise would be to compile the requests received in the past 12 months by the SOA, to propose how the request should be handled and then to compare the results with actual SOA response.

The following types of requests were envisaged: 1) a request from individuals who are not actuaries; 2) a request from an actuary or an actuarial association; or 3) a situation the subcommittee becomes aware of, but for which an official request was not received.

The first step will be summarize examples of requests for assistance, ie., Russia (to be summarized by Nicole Séguin from previous minutes), the Vietnamese request (Catherine Prime to submit), the formation of the IASC subcommittee (Chris Daykin will draft the

particulars of this situation), and the request received by the IAJ for assistance from China (Hideyuki Yoshida will summarize this request). Bob Collett will compile requests received by the SOA.

The list will be maintained by the Secretariat.

9. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:45 p.m.