



**ASSOCIATION ACTUARIELLE INTERNATIONALE
INTERNATIONAL ACTUARIAL ASSOCIATION**

February 14, 2006

Dear Colleague,

Subject: IAA Task Force on a Global Actuarial Qualification

This letter is addressed to you, as president of your actuarial association.

It was a renewed pleasure to meet so many of you at the Presidents' Forum in Rio last November. For the benefit of those of you who could not be with us, there is a report in the December 2005 issue of the IAA Newsletter.

Much of the discussion focussed on the overarching proposed objective that the IAA should be recognized as an influential international organization that promotes the interests of its member associations. There was broad consensus in Rio to support this objective. The discussions at the Presidents Forum were instrumental in identifying various projects, each addressing a different facet of this objective.

All projects identified are proposals that appear to have value in reaching the ultimate goal. The discussions in Rio were limited for obvious reasons, and it was agreed that all these projects needed elaboration in order to provide more information to people who ultimately would need to agree or reject them. We are grateful to Messrs. Bob Beuerlein, Paul Braithwaite, Tony Coleman, Chris Daykin, Andrew Gale and Michael Pomery who agreed to prepare a paper, each on a different identified topic, for further discussion at the Presidents' Forum in Paris.

Given that the IAA Council and committees meet only twice a year, and considering the possibility of an imminent significant financial contribution from the World Bank, the Global Actuarial Qualification project was kick-started with the creation of a major task force, with wide and diverse representation, headed by the Immediate Past President of the IAA. The Global Actuarial Qualification project will address the question of global educational standards that would enhance the stature of the profession.

Subsidiarity, a key principle binding the IAA, must prevail in the application of the Global Actuarial Qualification project. Whatever examination system is recommended by the task force will be optional. The prime focus is to assist our smaller associations and associations aspiring to become Full Members by offering them (and certainly not imposing on them) access to an education and examination system that is economically affordable and world class.

The quick creation of the task force on Global Actuarial Qualification should not be viewed as a rubber stamping exercise of a decision already made. I see it as demonstrating the importance of the project and showing a desire to explore the topic quickly in order to provide ample material to Council for discussion at its next meeting on May 28 in Paris, and to ultimately reach a decision. The task force is meeting in London later in February and we are working to ensure that a report will be included on the 90-day agenda to be issued on February 27.

I hear that there may be concerns at the speed with which the Task Force was established, and I wish to assure you that the intent is for the process to be transparent. There is wide representation on the task force and observers are welcome to participate in the discussions through the website forum. Let me underline the point that the goal is not for the task force to make a decision, but to provide Council with information necessary to ultimately reach a decision. I urge you and your colleagues to participate early and often in the discussions over the coming months leading to the Paris Council meeting. We welcome contributions from as many associations as possible!

I hope that this communication will put to rest any concerns about this initiative, knowing that it is Council that will have the final say as to which direction the IAA follows. If you have any questions or wish to discuss further, please do not hesitate to contact me at president@actuaries.org, Alf Guldberg (the Task Force Chairperson) at alf@guldberg.se, or any of the Task Force members listed on the website (www.actuaries.org, *Council and committees, Executive Committee, Task Force on Global Actuarial Qualification*).

Yours sincerely,



Jean-Louis Massé
President