

**IAA PROFESSIONAL MEETING
KUALA LUMPUR, 11-14 JANUARY 2001**

This meeting was successfully held in Kuala Lumpur over the weekend of 11-14 January, with some 20 participants from Malaysia and 40 from outside Malaysia. The following actuarially developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region were represented:

Bangladesh	Indonesia	Sri Lanka
China	Malaysia	Taiwan
Hong Kong	Nepal	Vietnam
India	Singapore	

The agenda is attached. Some excellent presentations were made and these will all be placed on the IAA web-site. Participants have been encouraged to make use of these presentations to report back to the leadership and to members of their respective national associations (or other interested parties where there is no association).

The IAA Fund underwrote the costs of the meeting, but significant local sponsorship kept these costs quite low. The Malaysian Central Bank sponsored a dinner and another dinner was sponsored by a group of local insurance companies. The IAA owes a considerable debt of gratitude to Hassan Kamil, President of the Actuarial Society of Malaysia, who organised everything from the Malaysian end and secured all this sponsorship. Thanks are also due to the Malaysian Insurance Institute who provided staff support for the meeting and for all the organisational work carried out by Maria Perry from the Institute of Actuaries. The IAA Fund paid for the conference room facilities and other meals, as well as providing support of almost \$6000 for travel expenses and accommodation of 9 of the participants. The total cost of the meeting to the IAA Fund is expected to be close to \$12,000.

Participants seemed to be generally satisfied with the value and usefulness of the meeting. A feedback questionnaire will be issued. Some problems were encountered with communications with invitees, which were exacerbated by the extended holiday season coming just before the meeting. There was a feeling that the invitation letter could be improved, as some participants did not feel that it gave an adequate impression of what the meeting was to be about. It should perhaps be marketed more actively, emphasising the role of such meetings in achieving the rapid globalisation of the profession and the development of the profession in emerging markets.

Improvements could also be made in the invitations to speakers. Some find it easier to justify coming if they are specifically invited as a speaker. If we want Presidents of the major associations there, we should perhaps invite them specifically in that capacity.

A longer lead time would also suit many. Getting moving on the arrangements for the KL meeting was constrained by the Budapest meeting at the end of September 2000. We also changed the date of the meeting as late as mid-November and some of the joining details went out rather late. This may have contributed to the difficulties which a few potential participants had in getting visas and in being able to attend.

There was general agreement that another meeting should be held in 2 or 3 years' time. It might work well to hold just before or after the next East Asian Actuarial Conference in the autumn of 2003, subject to the interest of the Philippine Actuarial Society, intended hosts for the EAAC, in hosting the meeting.

Chris Daykin

19 January 2001