An Introduction to the IAA – Welcome to Singapore

President Kurt Wolfsdorf
IAA Fund Event
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Founded in 1895, restructured in 1998 to serve as worldwide association of professional actuarial associations

To encourage development of a global profession

Based in Ottawa, Canada – constituted in Switzerland

Over 750 volunteer actuaries (Council, Committees, Sections) and 9 staff

Not-for-profit, non-political, Non-Governmental Organisation
Membership and Representation

• Full Member Associations: 64
• Associate Member Associations: 27
• 7 special interest Sections for individual actuaries
• Assisting development of profession in 30 additional countries
• Fully qualified actuaries: 60,000+ in more than 105 countries
• Institutional Members:
  – International Association of Insurance Supervisors (IAIS)
  – International Accounting Standards Board (IASB)
  – International Social Security Association (ISSA)
  – International Organization of Pension Supervisors (IOPS)
  – Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)
• Observer Member:
  – Asian Development Bank (ADB)
IAA Membership Requirements

• Full Member Association
  – Code of Conduct
  – Formal discipline process
  – IAA Education Guidelines and Syllabus
  – Formal process to adopt standards of practice
    ...if and when national standards are created

• Associate Member Association
  – Actuarial association not meeting all conditions above
Potentially Difficult Issues for a Small Association

- Standards of Practice
- Member engagement
- Resources
Standards of Practice

• Issues

  – Local actuarial market may not have sufficient experience in key areas to define the standard of practice

  – Local practitioners may not have adequate experience and perspective to draft the standards

  – Need a formal process for drafting and adopting SOPs
Member Engagement

• Issues
  – Early career actuaries not ready to volunteer their time for the association
  – Lack of employer support
Association Resources

• Issues
  – Not enough people to do all the work
  – Heavy burden on a few people
  – Dues income not sufficient to cover necessary expenses
  – Inventing each program for the first time
Potential Resource: Leverage the IAA

- Samples and models of documents such as standards
- Local seminars
  - IAA Fund seminars
- IAA Section webinars
- Advice & Assistance Committee – ask for help
  - Asia Subcommittee
Potential Resource: Mature Associations

• Basic education
  – Educational materials
  – Examinations
  – Credential
  – Perhaps focus local effort on educating and testing regarding local laws, regulations, products, business practices

• Standards (make local adjustments)

• Seminars, including webinars
Potential Resource: Universities

• Experts in education
  – Develop an appropriate credential path
  – Also a good mechanism for attracting additional students to the profession
  – May be able to bring in lecturers from around the world
  – Association may still need to cover some topics

• Perhaps combine with internships at local insurance companies and consulting firms
Potential Resource: Regulators

• Very helpful to have the regulator supporting the role of the actuary
  – Informally
  – Formally (laws and regulations)
Potential Resource: Mentors

• Find a mature association willing to partner
  – Exam materials and administration
  – Credentials
  – Professionalism education
  – Continuing education (seminars)
  – Ongoing advice

• Seek mentors from mature associations
Recent IAA Activities in Asia

• Courses held by volunteers from the Actuaries Without Borders Section in Bangladesh and Sri Lanka to support actuarial students
• Contact made with representatives from Bhutan, Nepal, and Vietnam
• Institute of Actuaries of Korea applied for Full Membership of IAA
Final Thoughts

• Even with a wide variety of resources, must have a core group of passionate leaders
• Pursue ambitious but realistic goals
• Begin involving the next generation of leaders
Thank You!

International Actuarial Association

www.actuaries.org

Moving the profession forward internationally