

An Introduction to the IAA – Welcome to Singapore

**President Kurt Wolfsdorf
IAA Fund Event
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Origins, Mission and Recognition

- 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

