

Rede von Herrn Prof. Kurt Wolfsdorf zur Eröffnung des Colloquiums  
der IAAHS im Hygienemuseum

Mittwoch, den 28.04.2004, Dresden

9.00 Uhr

Dear guests, ladies and gentlemen,

In the name of DAV I would like to welcome you to Germany this morning. As you no doubt know, German actuaries celebrated their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary last November. During those celebrations we were pleased to receive numerous guests and congratulations from abroad, and on that occasion we looked not only into the past but also into the future.

The reputation which our profession has reached worldwide over the last years is remarkable. This can certainly be traced back partly to the fact that almost all national organisations by now take international co-operation very seriously and continue to intensify it. DAV has also increasingly integrated itself into international work in various fields, whether in the Council or in the Committees of IAA or in the European association, the Groupe Consultatif.

Rainer Fürhaupter, Chairman of the International Committee of DAV, is the co-ordinator of our activities within and outside the company. During the last weeks and months, he has put a lot of time and energy into preparing this 2<sup>nd</sup> International Colloquium of IAAHS. Especially in the last two years, international activities of DAV have reached a new dimension. The promotion of international co-operation of our profession, which German actuaries support most actively by now, characterises DAV's current work.

One climax of last year was certainly the 34<sup>th</sup> ASTIN event in Berlin. At the end of August 2003, more than 360 people from 34 countries took part in this conference of experts. In three days, approximately 25 plenary lectures were presented and just as many poster sessions in the foyer. The number of participants as well as the variety of scientific work are a unique record. This is just one more proof of the growing dynamism and professionalism which make the work of an actuary one of the most modern jobs worldwide with a future in the financial sector.

The climax of the international year 2004 of DAV is starting today here in Dresden! With the foundation of another group, the Health Section, IAA has taken once more an important and necessary step. DAV, with approximately 300 actuaries in private health insurance, is the second biggest group worldwide after the USA. We are therefore extremely pleased that this new section

offers a global platform for exchange and co-operation of our actuaries in the health sector.

A special challenge are the social systems which are different in each country and on which health insurance in public or private form is based. The comparableness of the approaches and the actuarial methods used must be more than ever subject of the international exchange of opinions and experience. Especially in Germany, a very intense debate on reforming the legal health system is taking place. Unfortunately, above all emotional arguments predominate which eclipse an objective analysis of the economically necessary measures. I am sure that in many other countries similar discussions are going on for which there is only one answer for our profession: We must be known in the political bodies of the individual countries as well as in the European and international institutions in order to be included in the debates with our expert knowledge.

While doing so, we must at any time make clear that we as a profession want to work independently und neutrally on substantiated solutions. Only by means of international co-operation, permanent exchange of national solutions and the joint development of globally accepted standards will it be possible for us to further strengthen this role as a recognised consultant.

Dear guests, we are pleased that you came so numerously to Dresden. The number of almost 200 participants and accompanying persons is a huge success, which could no doubt mainly be reached by means of the excellent professional programme. During the next two days, you will get to know many new approaches and inform yourself about current trends and methods.

As you no doubt know, the yearly meeting of our German association is taking place here in Dresden at the same time as this event. We have deliberately cho-

sen this combination and are now pleased that so many of you attend this meeting and celebrate with us. I am sure that the merging will make a close communication between colleagues from all around the world possible, also apart from expert talk. This will further strengthen and extend personal relations and contacts within the still young Health Section. In this spirit we are looking forward to greeting once more international friends to the workshop of the Groupe Consultatif with the topic “Providing Long-term Care to the Suffering Insurance Company” which will take place in Munich in approximately four months.

Ladies and gentlemen, please let me touch on a last aspect of the international commitment of DAV: When it comes to education, unlike in hardly any other sector, it is necessary to present in detail the most current trends and demands and to discuss them internationally. Already since the beginning of last year an

additional group has been operating. The aim of this group is to reform the actuaries' education in Germany by 2006 so that by then the exam regulations and the education seminars based on these will follow a profile developed worldwide. An adjustment of our training in the sector of health insurance mathematics is here of course included. We expect that as a result of these modifications, the new generation of our actuaries educated in Germany will be able to carry out their work in a professional way both in Germany and abroad.

As far as "international commitment" is concerned I envisage above all working in the relatively young insurance markets of Central Middle and Eastern European economies. A step-by-step enlargement of the EU with ten further accessions in 2004 is imminent – in three days time, we will already greet countries such as Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovakia or Slovenia as new members of the EU. In a very successful co-operation with the affiliated

institutes in Austria, Switzerland and the Netherlands, DAV – via the academy – has regularly organised seminars in English for our colleagues in Middle and Eastern Europe since last year. Meanwhile, a record total of 120 participants in Budapest, Warsaw, Salzburg and lately also in Prague have accepted this offer to receive up-to-date information from our lecturers. This demonstrates impressively that expert exchange is speeding up in this sector as well.

I hope that this Colloquium will present new topics and approaches, which will, also in the sector of health insurance, lead to an interesting workshop for our colleagues from Middle and Eastern Europe, as the international network of mostly young actuaries is planned to be further extended. Of course this will be done in close co-operation with the actuary associations of these countries. Many of them are still developing their organisations and, not least for this rea-

son, welcome the support and promotion by the countries which arrange these events.

Ladies and gentlemen, our profession worldwide benefits from this international exchange. I therefore want to use this opportunity and thank all international delegates from the associations friendly with us for their committed work and their personal involvement. Especially in sectors currently most discussed such as “Education”, “Modern Accounting Standards” and “Solvency II” a constant flow of information ensures that DAV and its members are always up to date concerning topics discussed worldwide. All representatives take care that national positions are understood and taken into consideration. This ensures that international developments continue to take a common and therefore powerful direction.

I thank you for your attention and wish all of you an interesting and diversified meeting. Thank you!