

11th Global Conference of Actuaries

Opening Speech – Thursday, February 12, 2008

Harry Panjer, FSA, FCIA, HonFIA, CERA

Representing

Katsumi Hikasa, FIAJ

President of the IAA (2009)

Thank you for your kind introduction.

President Agarwal, other honored guests and dear colleagues - I am privileged to represent President Katsumi Hikasa, President of the International Actuarial Association who is unable to attend this 10th Global Conference of Actuaries.

On behalf of the IAA, I offer my congratulations and sincere thanks to all those whose efforts made this Conference possible - to the distinguished speakers and to all of you who have accepted the invitation of the organizers of the 11th Global Conference of Actuaries to meet in this great city and respond in a timely manner to the challenges of strategic importance to actuaries, both nationally and internationally.

We are in a period of dramatic change in the world. The current financial crisis affects the entire world. It is entirely fitting that the theme for this conference is “Global Frontiers of Risk Management .” The current crisis is indeed global. It is the failure of risk management that contributed greatly to the crisis. The crisis has demonstrated the need for innovation in risk management, particularly in connection with liquidity risk. Hence the need to be on the frontier. In particular for actuaries to be on the frontier in order to contribute to better risk management.

Risk management has been front and centre for many actuarial association around the world long before the current crisis. Later at this conference. I

will be speaking about the development of a global risk management credential or designation for actuaries.

Turning to the IAA, as you may be aware, the IAA is a worldwide association of actuarial associations; fully qualified members of its member associations are automatically members of the IAA; thus we hope to serve as a bond among actuaries throughout the world, together with the support of our member associations, in *“moving the actuarial profession forward internationally.”* Thanks to the Institute of Actuaries of India for its contribution to our common goal in this part of the world.

Nicole: Please update the next para: Thx.

The IAA is a not-for-profit and non-political, non-governmental organization with its Secretariat in Ottawa, Canada. There are currently 58 full member associations plus 23 associate member associations. There are also 3 institutional members of the IAA: the International Association of Insurance Supervisors (IAIS), the International Social Security Association (ISSA), and the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB). Virtually all fully qualified actuaries around the world belong to the IAA so that the IAA full member associations comprise over 43,000 qualified actuaries from 102 countries, to who should be added a significant number of actuaries from Associate Member associations. The IAA serves its members through seven Sections covering various areas of practice and 15 Committees, plus many subcommittees and task forces. I would like to offer special acknowledgement of the Institute of Actuaries of India as a full member of the IAA.

In response to the global financial crisis, the IAA created an Advisory Task Force on the Risk Crisis. It has overseen the development of the draft public statement on the subject of the current credit crisis targeting the Financial Stability Forum, governments, regulators and major financial institutions focusing on the potential contribution of the actuarial profession to the management of risk in the financial services sector. That draft public statement is now in the process of approval and should be available soon.

In celebrating its tenth anniversary of its restructuring as an association of associations last year, the IAA published a paper recounting the history of the IAA and highlighting significant accomplishments of the IAA during the past ten years which we can celebrate. The IAA Council and its Committees will be meeting next in late April in Tallinn, Estonia. Then in November 2009, the IAA will be hosted here in India in Hyderabad by the Institute of Actuaries of India. The IAA is grateful to the Institute for offering to act as a host for the IAA meetings.

Looking more into the future, every four years the IAA holds an International Congress of Actuaries where actuaries from all over the world and from every area of actuarial practice join together and share knowledge. Please plan to attend the next 29th International Congress in Cape Town, South Africa, in March of 2010, only 13 months away. Cape Town is not so very far from India!

Information on the Congress, several colloquia are sponsored by the Sections of the IAA. Whether you work in life insurance, general insurance, investments or pensions, there is a colloquium for you. Information on IAA colloquia can be found on the IAA website (actuaries.org). These colloquia provide an excellent opportunity, like this Conference, to meet actuaries from around the world and exchange ideas with them about your area of specialization.

I would like to reward the time and efforts many actuaries have invested in this 11th Global Conference of Actuaries. I hope that very soon, all presentations and papers presented here will be available electronically to all actuaries around the globe. This will support the “Global” in the name of this conference. Indeed, by exchanging information, we learn from each other for the collective benefit of all.

In closing, on behalf of President Katsumi Hikasa, let me congratulate the organizers for this conference. Enjoy both the presentations and also networking with each other.

Thank you for your attention. Have a great conference!