



13th Global Conference of Actuaries
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Opening Speech – Monday, February 21, 2011
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President of the IAA (2011)

Thank you for your kind introduction.

President Khan, other honored guests and dear colleagues - I am privileged to represent the International Actuarial Association - the IAA - in my first public presentation as its current President at this 13th Global Conference of Actuaries.

I also bring you greetings and best wishes from the Officers and past presidents of the IAA, many of whom have been with you in prior years.

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 13th 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.

As noted in the meeting materials, the theme for this conference is “Emerging Risks . . . Daring Solutions.” A fitting theme when we look around at events of the past 24 to 36 months. It seems that there are risks emerging at every turn. Such risks call for daring solutions. Who is in a better position to address these risks through developing daring, creative and innovative solutions than actuaries? India and this region are in need of actuaries who are well trained and educated. Conferences such as this help expand that knowledge by bringing actuaries together to network and learn.

As the actuarial profession across the region continues to grow, challenges to actuaries are manifested. Interacting with actuaries at the international level provides a mechanism for knowledge and experience transfer. However, while actuaries in India can learn from the experience of those in older associations, not all that knowledge can be directly applied in India. The biggest challenge to actuaries in India is to evaluate what practices will work best in India. There are things you can learn from actuaries in other countries, but the actuarial profession worldwide needs to also hear from you so that international standards and practice reflect the importance of India and of the whole region. Conferences such as this one can help facilitate the development of the local and regional points of view as well as promote those views outside the region.

Turning to the IAA, as you may be aware, the IAA is the worldwide association of actuarial associations. Together with the support of our member associations, we work towards “*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.

The IAA is a not-for-profit and non-political, non-governmental organization with its Secretariat in Ottawa, Canada. There are currently 63 full member associations plus 26 associate member associations. I am pleased to mention that our newest full member association is a sister organization to you in Asia, the China Association of Actuaries. There are also 4 institutional members of the IAA: the International Association of Insurance Supervisors (IAIS), the International Social Security Association (ISSA), the International Organization of Pension Supervisors (IOPS) and the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB). We also have two Observer Members: the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). Virtually all fully qualified actuaries around the world are represented in the IAA through their home association so that the IAA full member associations comprise over 55,000 qualified actuaries from over 100 countries, to which 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 as well as a number of Committees, Subcommittees, Working Groups and Task Forces. Please see our organization chart. (Show organization chart) I would like to offer special acknowledgement of the Institute of Actuaries of India as a full member of the IAA.

We are currently promoting the development of local associations or the upgrading of those that are not yet full members in over 40 additional countries. Our IAA Fund regularly holds meetings on all continents. During 2011, the Fund is planning events in Bogota, Columbia in conjunction with the 21st Panamerican Congress of Actuaries, in Zagreb, Croatia in conjunction with the IAA Council meetings and in Kenya. The IAA Advice and Assistance Committee is continuing to explore ways to assist small and medium size associations that cannot develop and run their own education system. Such activities are intended to assist member associations in providing high-level actuarial education and to open new opportunities for students around the world by providing access to that education. A survey has recently been released to all actuarial associations, both members and non-members of the IAA, in an effort to gather information that could be used in developing efforts along these lines.

Like the Global Conference of Actuaries, the IAA is celebrating the thirteenth anniversary this year of its restructure as an association of associations. Even though we are still relatively young, we continue to evolve in our efforts to achieve our strategic objectives. In particular, over the last couple of years we have made significant changes to our governance structure to better serve and recognize our member associations as well as to be more nimble and quicker to act.

Particular attention during 2010 was placed on Supranational Outreach and Actuarial Standards. Much work has been done with the IASB on the Exposure Draft of IFRS4, the insurance contracts standard, and with the IAIS on solvency and systemic risk issues. The influence of these bodies on local financial reporting and solvency requirements is considerable. We have also held meetings with the IMF and Geneva Association and presented to the OECD on insurance topics, held meetings with the World Bank on pensions in developing countries, attended meetings of the IOPS and OECD on private pensions, and arranged a Discussion Forum in Geneva with the ILO, ISSA and Aga Khan Foundation on social security and micro-insurance topics. In addition we met the WTO to keep up to date with developments on the global agreement on trade in financial services.

With respect to Actuarial Standards, a Task Force set up to address the strategic goals of the IAA for international actuarial standards recommended a goal of “medium convergence”. This means that model International Actuarial Standards of Practice should be developed for Member Associations to adopt, adapt or confirm congruence with, on a voluntary basis over the foreseeable future. This was agreed to by Council in October 2010 and an interim structure is being introduced in 2011 to develop IASP’s for IFRS4, IAS19, Social Security calculations and for work in ERM, together with a Generic IASP to accompany them. A more permanent standard setting structure is to be developed to replace the interim structure after 2012. The IAA also hosts a Standard Setters Roundtable, which includes the Board for Actuarial Standards in the UK, Actuarial Standards Board in the US and other actuarial standard setting bodies from around the world.

We have been busy at the IAA. The IAA Council and its Committees will be meeting in a regional city nearby, Sydney, Australia, April 6-10. Other actuarial meetings are taking place in the same location afterwards. I hope many of you will find it possible to attend.

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. We held an extremely successful International Congress in Cape Town, South Africa, in March of 2010. In March/April of 2014, the 30th ICA will be held in Washington, DC. In 2018, the 31st Congress will take place in Berlin Germany.

During 2011, three Sections of the IAA will also be holding colloquia that I hope many of you will also plan to attend. From June 19-22 there will be a joint colloquium of the ASTIN/AFIR sections in Madrid, Spain. From September 26-27 the PBSS section will hold a colloquium in Edinburgh, Scotland. Looking ahead to 2012, the IACA and the IAAHS Sections will be in Hong Kong.

More information on all of these meetings can be found on the IAA website (actuaries.org). They provide an excellent opportunity, like this Conference, to meet actuaries from around the world and exchange ideas with them.

As I looked over the program, and saw topics covering many areas of actuarial practice with distinguished speakers who are presenting them, I was impressed. I congratulate the organizers for having done a terrific job of putting this conference together! As participants, you have a treat in store for you as you listen to the presentations, discuss them, and learn from them.

In closing, please let me emphasize that this conference will be more successful if everyone participates in it.

Thank you for being here and for your attention. Have a great conference!