

# **An Introduction to the IAA – Welcome to Chinese Taipei**

**President Rob Brown  
IAA Fund Event  
October 11–12, 2014**



# 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: 66
- Associate Member Associations: 30
- 7 special interest Sections for individual actuaries
- Assisting development of profession in 30 additional countries
- Fully qualified actuaries: 62,000+ in more than 108 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

- Regional seminar held in Singapore in 2013
- Institute of Actuaries of Korea admitted as a Full Member in October 2013
- IAA representative presented at the Actuarial Association of Sri Lanka's actuarial seminar in 2014
- Contact made with representatives from Bhutan, Mongolia, Nepal, and Vietnam
- Seminar held in 2014 in Yangon, Myanmar, which was attended by 70 participants, addressing topics such as the role of the actuary in economy and the financial sector, life insurance, general insurance, and micro-insurance.



# 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](http://www.actuaries.org)

*Moving the profession forward internationally*

