



ASTIN SECTION REPORT FOR THE PERIOD JUNE - OCTOBER 2005

1. **36th ASTIN Colloquium - September 4-7, 2005 - Zürich, Switzerland**

ASTIN held one of its most successful Colloquia ever in Zürich, Switzerland, September 4-7, 2005. The meeting was held in the hallowed halls of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zürich (ETH Zürich) where Albert Einstein studied Physics and many famous actuaries have either taught or earned degrees. The meeting was attended by about 250 delegates (including about 75 academics) plus about 50 accompanying persons from over 30 countries. There were 48 papers presented, about half of which were authored by people from academia and about half by people from industry. Delegates were treated to thought provoking lectures from the following highly respected invited lecturers:

Phelim Boyle - University of Waterloo - Incomplete Markets: Some Reflections

Hans Bühlmann - Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zürich - On Three Fundamental Issues of Insurance

David R. Cox - Nuffield College, Oxford - Some Challenges Facing Statistical Science

Robert F. Engle - 2003 Nobel Laureate in Economic Sciences, Stern School of Business, NYU - Downside Risk - Econometric Models and Financial Implications

Thomas Mack - Munich Reinsurance - Recent Developments in Claim Reserving

Elias S. W. Shiu - University of Iowa - Dynamic Fund Protection

Wednesday was a joint day with AFIR, which also met on September 8-9.

Thanks are due to **Marc Chuard**, Chairman of the Swiss Association of Actuaries (SAA), for hosting ASTIN in Switzerland, to **Paul Embrechts** and **Andrew Cairns** for co-chairing the Scientific Committee for this meeting, and to **Hanspeter Tobler**, **Alois Gisler** and others for their work on the Organizing Committee. The year 2005 marks the 100th anniversary of the SAA and the 150th anniversary of ETH Zürich, so the mood was quite celebratory.

In addition to the scientific program, the social program was spectacular. On Sunday evening, we were hosted by Swiss Re at Rüslikon situated on a hill above the lake of Zürich providing a panoramic view. On Tuesday afternoon the attendees enjoyed an unforgettable steam boat ride on Lake Lucerne. The "föhn" (a wind from the south) was blowing which resulted in clear blue skies and stunning views of the Alps. On Wednesday evening ASTIN and AFIR attendees joined for a gala dinner in a 200 year old building which hosts the annual shooting festival each year. We were accompanied by authentic Swiss music and dance.

2. **ASTIN Bulletin**

Since the last IAA meeting in Rome, volume 35.1 of the Bulletin appeared dated May 2005. It was 319 pages long and contained one editorial, nine articles, six workshop contributions, six announcements and one obituary.

Paul Embrechts has served as Editor of the ASTIN Bulletin for the past ten years and stepped down from that position and as a member of the ASTIN Committee at this meeting. We owe Paul a great debt of gratitude for all he has done to increase the stature of the Bulletin during his term. Shaun Wang was elected an Editor.

The collaboration with Peeters as our printer continues to be very positive. Thanks are extended to all the referees and authors for securing the high quality standard of the ASTIN Bulletin.

3. **Seminars**

ASTIN is contributing to the enhancement of actuarial professionalism worldwide by offering seminars on non-life topics in countries with developing non-life practice. Two seminars have been held in Romania (one on reserving methods and one on solvency modeling), one was held in Kuala Lumpur on health topics, one is planned in Bucharest for early November, and another planned in Rio during the second week of March 2006.

4. **Financial**

ASTIN has completed conversion of its fiscal year of July 1 to June 30 to a calendar year basis.

Dues were set at \$40 CDN for Ordinary Members and \$80 CDN for Donating Members for the next year. The dues levels have been unchanged since 1977.

5. **Elections**

Andrew Cairns of the U.K., **David Finnis** of Australia, and **Jose Luis Lobera** of Mexico were elected members of the ASTIN Committee in Zürich.

6. **Hachemeister Prize**

The Hachemeister Prize was awarded by the Casualty Actuarial Society to **Jon Holtan** of Norway for his paper on "Pragmatic Insurance Option Pricing."

7. **ICA Bursaries**

ASTIN has transferred to the IAA \$40,000 CDN to pay bursaries for ICA attendees. This includes a contribution from ASTIN for \$25,000 CDN plus \$15,000 CDN of matching funds.

8. **Future Colloquia**

ASTIN will not hold a Colloquium in 2006 in order to encourage its members to participate in the International Congress of Actuaries in Paris. There will be several ASTIN sessions at the Congress May 28 - June 2, 2006, in the first half of the week.

The 37th ASTIN Colloquium will be in Orlando, Florida, USA at Disney World in June, 2007 in conjunction with the 50th anniversary of the founding of ASTIN.

David G. Hartman, Chairman

Update provided at the Council meeting

The Chairmen of the ASTIN and AFIR Sections reported that their recent discussions on the overlap in the areas of interest of their respective Sections had led them to consider investigating the interest in, and desirability of, a merger of the two sections. This concept will be presented to the committees of the two Sections for discussion. Council will be kept informed of developments.