



International Actuarial Association (IAA) Mortality Working Group Update #6 — Vancouver, Canada, 2015

The Mortality Working Group (MWG) meets twice a year as part of a 5 day period of meetings of the IAA committees and working groups. The second meeting of 2015 took place in Vancouver, Canada in October 2015 and this summarises the discussions.

The MWG exists to study mortality and monitor studies completed by other organizations worldwide, to make this information available to actuaries and others worldwide, and to contribute to and organize other opportunities for communication where appropriate.

The meeting opened by recognizing the passing away of Ricardo Frischtak, a longtime MWG member from Brazil. Condolences were sent to our friend Ricardo's family.

A few of the topics in this meeting were:

- Country reports: Japan's country report was updated. These reports provide a general profile of various aspects of the country's demographics and population mortality experience. New insurance studies and tables are also highlighted. The MWG also agreed to continue to improve the quality and coverage of country reports available on their website.
- Mortality tables:
 - Japan – Although not a new table, information was provided on the methods used in the creation of the Japanese population 21st Complete Life Tables (2010).
- The highlight of the meeting was a presentation by Magali Barbieri, Associate Director of Human Mortality Database (HMD), on various aspects of the work of the HMD, a joint collaboration between Max Plank Institute for Demographic Research in Rostock, Germany and the University of California, Berkley, California. This database is internationally used as a source of mortality information. Currently, it includes information for 38 countries. She described the database and the protocols used in the creation of the information. The work is conducted through grants and donations obtained from broad range of resources. The HMD also entertains joint projects with other organizations. Funding is an important issue for HMD since all information is provided free of charge to users of their information. Funding is at risk.
- Several other topics were also presented:
 - Highlights of the UK Mortality and Longevity Update conference in September, 2015
 - Two Budapest, Hungary conferences held by the International Social Security Association and the International Labour Association. These organizations may be interested in assistance in helping developing countries to set up mortality tables.
 - Mortality modelling techniques with limited data availability
 - Mortality improvement with a focus on heterogeneous populations
 - Frailty and mortality at old ages
 - Life expectancy gender gap calculator

- The MWG has a number of projects currently being worked on.
 - Underwriting comparisons around the world
 - Insured / population / annuity mortality rate comparisons
 - Old Age mortality
 - Mortality improvements at older ages
 - Long term drivers of mortality
 - Developing the Mortality Working Group Information Base

This is a summary of the MWG's discussions in Vancouver. The full minutes, presentations and papers from this meeting (and previous meetings) are available (without the need to register) at:

www.actuaries.org/mortalityupdates

This Update has translated versions in English, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Mandarin, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish and Turkish.

Your response and suggestions

The IAA Mortality Working Group welcomes your input and suggestions on our work. Please address any comments to the Mortality Working Group at iaamwg@actuaries.org.

References

Mortality Working Group Information Base: <http://www.actuaries.org/mortalityinfo>

IAA Mortality Working Group Updates: www.actuaries.org/mortalityupdates