



ASSOCIATION ACTUARIELLE INTERNATIONALE
INTERNATIONAL ACTUARIAL ASSOCIATION

It was with great pleasure that the International Actuarial Association (IAA) accepted the invitation from the Actuarial Society of India to co-sponsor the 6th Global Conference of Actuaries, an increasingly important event for the international actuarial community.

The year 2003 represents another year of significant changes and growth for the IAA. In May, a proposal to adjust the membership categories resulted in the current structure comprising Full Members, Associate Members, Institutional Members, Observer Members, Benefactors, Special Benefactors and Donation Members. This change was needed to adapt to the changing environment and enable the IAA to better respond to worldwide opportunities through liaisons and relations with a number of international organizations where collaboration with the actuarial profession is both desirable and beneficial.

In addition to new membership categories, the IAA expanded its Sections. This category was augmented with a Health Section (IAAHS), to provide an international perspective on health actuarial practice, public and private health insurance, and health policy matters; a Pensions, Benefits and Social Security Section (PBSS), to serve actuaries around the world who have personal, professional, educational or research interests in social protection and the commercial, social and public policy issues concerning the provision of pensions and other benefits; and, Actuaries Without Frontiers (AWF), a section whose objective is to link situations in need of actuarial skills with financial resources and with actuarial volunteers to meet those needs. The existing sections include ASTIN (Actuarial Studies in Non-life Insurance), created in 1957 to promote research into all actuarial aspects of general (property-casualty) insurance and reinsurance; AFIR (Actuarial Approach for Financial Risks), created in 1988 to encourage research into actuarial problems encountered in the financial sector and financial aspects of insurance companies and pension funds; and IACA (International Association of Consulting Actuaries), founded in 1968, independently of the IAA, to facilitate international exchange of views between consulting actuaries; it was admitted as a section of the IAA in 1999. All these Sections are offering actuaries around the world the opportunity to benefit from colloquia and from access to new scientific communications in complement to our International Actuarial Congresses, the next one to be held in Paris in 2006.

The IAA is very much looking forward to the publication in the coming weeks of the report of its Working Party on Insurer Solvency Assessment entitled *A Global Framework for Insurer Solvency Assessment*. The importance of this work is discussed in the program of this 6th GCA.

The Global Conference of Actuaries is a vital component of the valuable work being carried out by actuaries worldwide and the IAA is proud to have had the opportunity to participate and co-sponsor once again.

Luis Huerta
President