



# Let's Celebrate International Actuaries Day!



Last week, I celebrated the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of attaining my full designation as an actuary. Little did I know 32 years ago when I started out as a pension analyst, I had such a challenging journey ahead of me to become an actuary, and that at the end I would be part of one of the top professions globally.

But my 20-year anniversary is small compared to the 125th anniversary the global profession celebrates today! On September 2, 1895, the International Congress of Actuaries was first held in Brussels, and in 1920, the organization which organized the congresses was renamed the

International Actuarial Association.

As current president of the IAA, I have a daily view of our global profession and understand its importance to economies, governments, businesses and individuals in the over 110 countries where you can find actuaries. Since the 17<sup>th</sup> century, actuaries have been critical in establishing and maintaining pension, social security, and insurance systems while also playing key roles in finance, investments and risk management. The future presents even more areas where actuaries will have growing roles, including managing risks associated with broad challenges to mankind, such as climate change, the unprecedented globalization of production, consumption, finances and human resources; the provision of critical resources to populations, such as safe air, food and water; broad shifts in demographic trends; technological advancements; and innovative changes in the use of data.

While we welcome the diversity of actuarial roles, we also embrace the diversity of our members themselves. It is the diversity and inclusion of multiple people with different backgrounds, cultures, training and views that makes our profession not only strong and resilient, but best positioned to address the global challenges the world faces both now and for years to come.

While our profession is diverse, I believe we can and should do even more to improve our diversity and inclusion. This is not an easy task for a relatively small profession with rigorous requirements, but we nonetheless must be bold in making changes and supporting the growth of our profession in more parts of the world, and to improve its accessibility so that anyone with the desire and a strong understanding of math can become an actuary. With a more diverse and inclusive profession, we will be better positioned to maintain our key role in our global economy that itself certainly includes everyone.

So, on this anniversary of the IAA, as we celebrate the tremendous past and flourishing future of the actuarial profession worldwide, I declare **September 2 as the International Actuaries Day**. It is my hope that many join me in celebrating today, and that there will be an even larger profession to celebrate this day years to come as we expand and change the face of our profession.

Tonya Manning, President