



WEEKLY NEWS BRIEF

March 11, 2020

CONTENTS

- [Council and Committee Meetings in Brussels, Belgium](#)
- [6th African Actuarial Congress Postponed](#)
- [Big Data Working Group Survey](#)
- [60-day Council Agenda for Brussels Meeting & Pre-Council Webinar](#)
- [Executive Committee Report to Council](#)
- [Request for March Newsletter Submissions](#)
- [Upcoming Deadlines](#)

Council and Committee Meetings in Brussels, Belgium

Audience: All

The IAA continues to closely monitor the COVID-19 situation. At this point, we have not made any decisions to change the dates or format of the meeting, however we also understand the need for FMAs and volunteers to be able to react to any such changes. Clearly the top priority in our decision making is the need to protect our volunteers. Rest assured we do not want to impose any unnecessary risks on our volunteers that could potentially impact their health and that of others. Within the boundaries of this overarching principle, the decision to go ahead or not with the Brussels meeting also rests on contractual matters, as most associations have been faced with before and will understand. In particular, the timing of this decision will have important financial implications to the IAA, in addition to our FMAs and volunteers. We are aware of the rapidly expanding coronavirus outbreak, the many travel restrictions (both professional and territorial), and a growing number of governments' advice/order to refrain from attending events with large crowds. As such, we have started to assess contingencies in case we would need to organize some virtual meetings, including a virtual Council meeting, instead of the in-person meetings planned for Brussels. We are in discussions on a continuing basis with the Belgian Institute, as well as the French Institute who are hosting the coordinated Sections Colloquia, with the intention to formalize our position by March 31st.

6th African Actuarial Congress Postponed

Audience: All

The **6th African Actuarial Congress (6AAC), Accra 2020** slated for **March 18 -19, 2020** at **Movenpick Ambassador Hotel, Accra** will be postponed to a new date. The programme and all other aspects of the Congress remains unchanged.

This decision was concluded with the ultimate purpose of safeguarding the health of all congress attendees against the recent outbreak of the COVID-19 epidemic across the globe.

The Actuarial Society of Ghana will be happy to reserve your 6AAC account and your registration fee will be carried over to the newly proposed date, **September 2020**. The actual dates will be confirmed after a month of closely

monitoring developments on the epidemic. We will announce the new dates as soon as these become available and we will appreciate that you consider your participation.

Should you have any concern(s), please direct them to the Congress Secretariat via congress@asg.org.gh or **+233 302 937238**.

Big Data Working Group Survey

Audience: Members of the IAA Committees, Working Groups and Sections

The IAA's Big Data Working Group (BDWG) is conducting a survey across the members of the IAA Committees, Working Groups and Sections in order to better understand members' attitude towards the Data Science field, the extent that members use various statistical techniques and to identify the barriers to entry and the rewards associated with performing more advanced analytics.

We kindly invite you to complete the survey by clicking on the link below, **it should not take more than 10 minutes of your time:**

[Link to the BDWG survey](#)

The BDWG will look to provide feedback on the findings via a webinar presentation later this year.

Your response to the survey by 31 March 2020 will be much appreciated.

If you have any questions regarding the survey, please contact Amali Seneviratne (amali.seneviratne@actuaries.org) at the IAA Secretariat.

Thanking you in advance for your participation,

Ashleigh Theophanides

Chair, IAA Big Data Working Group

60-day Council Agenda for Brussels Meeting & Pre-Council Webinar

Audience: Council Delegates

The [60-day Council agenda](#) for the meeting on May 7 in [Brussels, Belgium](#) was sent to delegates on March 9.

The IAA leadership is paying close attention regarding the coronavirus COVID-19 situation and as of today, we are going ahead with the IAA Council and Committee meetings in Brussels as originally planned. Similarly, we are in close communication with the organizers of the Paris Colloquium, which takes place immediately after Brussels. We will continue to keep you informed of the situation in the upcoming weeks. In the meantime, we continue to recommend that if you have not already confirmed your travel arrangements, to carefully consider purchasing tickets with refund/credit back options in the case we would ever need to go down that path. As the situation is rapidly evolving, we want to be prudent where possible.

President Tonya Manning will be hosting a **Pre-Council Webinar** to take an advance look at the items on the Brussels agenda. **The date and time of this webinar will be announced shortly.**

Registration for the IAA Council and Committee Meetings in Brussels opens on March 23. If you cannot attend the Council meeting in person, please note that your association's options are as follows:

- 1) to be represented by an Alternate Delegate;
- 2) to return to the Secretariat a completed electronic ballot (available when the 30-day agenda is announced on April 8);
- 3) to assign proxy voting rights to an existing Council delegate (instructions at Internal Regulations 3.9) to represent your association. Download the [Proxy Form](#)

Please contact [Norah](#) should you have any questions about accessing the Council agenda.

Executive Committee Report to Council

Audience: Council Delegates

The EC minutes of its February 18 meeting are available [online](#). The EC met through conference call on March 3. Those minutes will be sent shortly. The next EC conference call is scheduled for March 27. Should you have any questions or comments, please contact the [Executive Director](#).

Request for March Newsletter Submissions

Audience: Member Association Correspondents; Chairpersons of IAA Committees, Sections and Working Groups, Patrons

The next regular IAA newsletter will be issued at the end of March. If your group has any news or events of international interest for this issue, please send your article(s) by **March 13th** to newslettersubmissions@actuaries.org.

Note to Member Associations: We are seeking member associations interested in being featured in our "MEET THE ASSOCIATION" section in upcoming Newsletter issues. If you are interested, please submit your interest to newslettersubmissions@actuaries.org for further details.

Note to Chairpersons: Please provide us with any presentations made to external organizations by members of your committee/group/section, or of any planned presentations. Please also convey news from any task forces, working groups or subcommittees reporting to your committee. If you would like to submit an article but do not have time to write it, please ask your vice-chair(s) to help you out.

Upcoming Deadlines

- March 31: [Propose Candidates for Advance Committee Leadership](#)
- March 31: [Deadline for Hotel Reservations for IAA Meetings in Brussels](#)

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