This Special Newsletter summarizes the fruitful activities that took place during the IAA Council and Committee meetings held in Chicago, U.S., from October 3–8. These meetings are a great opportunity for member associations to network and share experiences. In addition to the committee meetings, formal and informal events are organized to encourage interaction between actuaries. In Chicago, there were a variety of such events, including a breakfast, co-sponsored by the Society of Actuaries, on Women Leaders in the Actuarial Profession, roundtable discussions on actuarial research, public policy and diversity, networking lunch, the official dinner and a karaoke evening.

The meetings involved the following:

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND PRESIDENTS’ REPORT

President Tom Terry summarized the achievements of the IAA’s work on each of the strategic objectives. He mentioned our strengthened relationship with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the fact that we now contribute to OECD papers at a much earlier stage, which enables us to shape them rather than just provide comments on a near-final draft. Tom also highlighted: our work with the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB), specifically regarding the input we provided to International Financial Reporting Standard (IFRS) 17; the appointment of our Insurance Accounting Committee (IAC) Chairperson, William Hines, as an observer to the IASB’s IFRS 17 Transition Resource Group; the continued collaboration with the IAIS on various projects; the activities of our working groups (WGs); and the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Actuarial Association of Europe (AAE), which has been approved by the Executive Committee (EC).

WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP BREAKFAST

SOA Past President Tonya Manning led a panel discussion, Women Leaders in the Actuarial Profession, with fellow panellists Gunn Albertsen, Vice-chair of the Norwegian Actuarial Society; Roseanne Murphy Harris, President of the Actuarial Society of South Africa; and Lisa Wade, Past President of the Caribbean Actuarial Association. Each woman recounted what led them to the actuarial profession and how their role models guided them along the way. They also shared words of advice for other young female professionals who are aspiring actuaries.

A more detailed account of the discussion will appear in a future Newsletter.

AN INTRODUCTION TO BLOCKCHAIN – CHRIS VAN KOOTEN

Guest speaker Chris Van Kooten provided an overview of blockchain, a technological tool that involves using cryptography to store and validate transactions and enable the transfer of assets or information. Blockchain technology—which can, for instance, result in a database that is shared by numerous users but is not based in a single location and is constantly reconciled—has played an important role in the growing popularity of, for example, the online currency system Bitcoin. It is also used in such varied areas as government services in Estonia, interbank clearing in Singapore and land registration in Ghana.
2018 ELECTION RESULTS

Council unanimously elected Masaaki Yoshimura of Japan as President for 2018 and Gábor Hanák of Hungary as President-Elect. Outgoing President Tom Terry, from the U.S., was recognized for his exceptional contribution to the IAA’s progress and development during his presidential year. Tom will continue to serve as an Officer of the IAA as Immediate Past President. All terms of office take effect on January 1.

NEW MEMBERS

It was announced during the Council meeting that the Society of Kazakhstan and the Actuarial Society of Ghana (ASG) had been approved as IAA Full Member Associations (FMAs) by electronic ballot on August 18. Further details can be found in our news release. ASG President Stephen Yeboah was in attendance and thanked Council for its vote of confidence.

ITEMS APPROVED BY COUNCIL

- BDO Canada LLP as Auditors for the 2017 financial statements
- Updated Investment Policy
- Education Syllabus (subject to minor editorial corrections)
  - Revised education syllabus (2017 IAA Education Syllabus)
  - Revised education guidelines (2017 IAA Education Guidelines)
- Changes to the Statutes and Internal Regulations
- Revised Publications Policy and Guidelines for Publications of Committees, Sections and Working Groups
- Professionalism Guidelines
  - Framework for the production of Professionalism Guidelines
  - Professionalism Guideline 1 (PG 1) – Principles of Professionalism
  - Professionalism Guideline 2 (PG 2) – Principles in Relation to the Governance of International Actuarial Work

The motion on the approval of the budget was deferred to an electronic vote later in October.
COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Council approved the appointments for statutory and limited membership committees and ratified appointments to other positions as approved by the EC.

CHAIRPERSONS RECOGNIZED

In recognition of their dedication and invaluable contribution to the IAA's work, a plaque was presented to the following outgoing chairpersons:

- Alf Gohdes, Actuarial Standards Committee (ASC), 2015–2017 (pictured left)
- Ken Hohman, Membership Committee, 2015–2017 (pictured right)

SESSION ON THE IAA

A session on the IAA, led by Tom Terry, was attended by 89 delegates. It was a good opportunity to become better acquainted with the association's operations and activities and discuss issues with the Officers. For those who missed it, the presentation is available online.

SEMINAR ON INTERNATIONAL INSIGHTS ON MORTALITY, POPULATION AND THE PUBLIC INTEREST

The Population Issues Working Group (PIWG) and Mortality Working Group (MWG) hosted this seminar prior to the Council and Committee meetings. Covering topical issues and research areas of interest to actuaries in life, pensions and social security, it was attended by about 80 actuaries from 18 countries.

Subjects under discussion included: recent trends in mortality in the U.S. and internationally; the impact of lifestyle, inequality, socio-economic differences and climate change on mortality; and the impact of mortality changes on public policy. The linking of housing and pensions policy was featured, along with the value added by predictive analytics to better understand morbidity. The attendees also heard of progress in research in mortality and population issues conducted by the SOA.

The session was completed with a lively panel discussion and a networking reception. Feedback was very positive, with praise for the speakers, topics and discussion, and one participant said, “The seminar really made me think about some issues.”

The organizers would again like to recognize and thank the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), the SOA and the IAA Life Section.
DINNER

Our hosts—the SOA, Casualty Actuarial Society, Conference of Consulting Actuaries (CCA), and ASPPA College of Pension Actuaries—organized a wonderful evening for delegates as they dined at the Art Institute of Chicago (see photos on next page). The IAA Dinner proved a great success, with delegates enjoying an opportunity to see artwork by the likes of Monet, Seurat and van Gogh. The colourful and fascinating surroundings proved ideal for actuaries who were keen to take photos while mingling and networking. The dinner itself took place in a replica of the Chicago Stock Exchange from the 1900s, and featured delicious food. Live music accompanied diners as they talked about the sights they had just seen, from the institute’s dramatic grand staircase to the Impressionists wing, which included a magnificent Degas statue—there was so much art to take in that some people may already be planning a return visit.

A plaque was presented to Juan Carlos Padilla for the 50th anniversary of the formation of the Colegio National de Actuarios of Mexico. Felicidades! (pictured right)
OUTCOMES OF COMMITTEE AND WORKING GROUP MEETINGS

Actuarial Standards Committee
Alf Gohdes, Chairperson

Work on model International Standards of Actuarial Practice (ISAPs) has progressed since our last report in August.

The ASC and its task forces continued significant work on the development of exposure drafts on two further standards. These are (in the expected order of issuance):

- ISAP 6—Enterprise Risk Management Programs and IAIS Insurance Core Principles
  The ASC agreed on the final “finishing touches” on the exposure draft, which has now been sent out to constituents in October with the usual comment period of four months.

- ISAP 4—IFRS 17, Insurance Contracts
  The ISAP 4 Task Force, in discussion with the ASC, IAC and other interested participants, engaged in an active discussion of the draft issued by the task force some two weeks before the meetings.

The ASC and the ISAP 1 Task Force are awaiting responses to the exposure package on ISAP 1 issued on June 29, with the exposure period ending on October 31.

During the committee meetings in Chicago, the ASC was also involved in other projects not directly associated with an ISAP. These included an extensive and very constructive exchange of ideas with the EC on the IAA standard-setting process, the finalization by the ASC of an internal paper on a framework for measuring the success of the committee’s work, input to a paper to be released by the Standard-Setters Round Table (SSRT) on setting standards, and several smaller projects.

An overview of the ASC’s past and planned standards projects can be viewed here.

Advice & Assistance Committee (A&A)
Darryl Wagner, Chairperson

Chicago was a busy and productive meeting from an A&A perspective. In addition to the committee meeting, as has become our custom we convened our A&A leaders’ meeting, which included the committee chairpersons and vice-chairpersons and those of our regional subcommittees. Speaking of which, two subcommittees—Africa and Latin America—also held meetings in Chicago. Perhaps more importantly, I am pleased to report that the Chicago agenda included several events focused on smaller associations, including a breakfast, a lunch and an evening reception. These were attended by associate members and FMAs, underscoring one of the principal A&A themes resulting from meetings: advice and assistance offered by the IAA should encompass FMAs in their development journey, post-full membership as well as associate and non-members.

In our committee and subcommittee meetings we heard reports on support being provided to associations around the world. Two of those with whom A&A has worked closely over many years experienced milestones during the Chicago meetings: the ASG was represented at Council for the first time as an FMA, and the Actuarial Association of Sri Lanka (AASL) was recommended for full membership by the Membership Committee.
We have also been active in planning and supporting regional events, including A&A sessions held in conjunction with both the recent ASTIN/AFIR-ERM Colloquium in Panama and the first South Asian Actuarial Conference hosted by the AASL, in July. The IAA also co-sponsored, along with the IAIS and the Asian Development Bank, a regulatory capacity-building seminar in China in July. This seminar is an exciting development from an A&A point of view, and one that we look forward to replicating in other parts of the world.

The committee will be refreshing its plans and strategies by region, incorporating the feedback and ideas coming out of the Chicago meetings. We look forward to the Berlin meetings and 2018 International Congress of Actuaries (ICA 2018), where several A&A-themed events will again be held. The request process for bursaries to the ICA 2018 is still open, so please share the word and encourage those who would benefit from such assistance to apply; in particular, we are looking for more representation in Latin America. As announced in Chicago, the 5th African Actuarial Congress, hosted by the Association Marocaine des Actuaires (Morocco), will be held in Casablanca from March 15–16, 2018. This will be a truly meaningful event and gathering for the actuarial profession in Africa, and you are warmly invited to attend. In closing, I would like to say a special thank you to José Luis Lobera, who is stepping down as A&A Vice-chairperson at the end of 2017. In addition to him working tirelessly to advance the cause of A&A for the IAA, I know I speak for many in saying that José Luis is a source of inspiration. We look forward to his continued involvement in A&A.

Audit and Finance Committee
Cecil Bykerk, Chairperson

Our committee, which is responsible for considering risk factors for the IAA, began a discussion on how to move forward on evaluating the various risks. We have a lengthy list of factors, and it was decided that the chairperson and key IAA staff would prioritize these by identifying the top four or five, which would be considered Tier 1 risks. Next, several Tier 2 risks will be identified, with the remaining items being put in Tier 3. Following that, committee members will review and confirm the list. Once a solid list is agreed, each risk will be considered along with ways to mitigate it.

We also shared a bottle of champagne to recognize Hillevi Mannonen’s six years of excellent service on the committee.

Education Committee
Bozenna Hinton, Chairperson

Several new members were introduced and welcomed to the committee: John Lowell, CCA; Sevtap Kestel, Actuarial Society of Turkey; and Frank Oodom, ASG. The committee voted unanimously to approve the changes being made to the Canadian Institute of Actuaries’ (CIA) education system, based on an independent review of them.

We briefly discussed proposed changes to the terms of reference that had previously been circulated. Chairperson Bozenna Hinton noted that the Education Committee had no authority to approve the education syllabus changes. The terms had been re-ordered, with an emphasis on providing a consultative forum and an environment that facilitates the exchange of information related to education developments and innovations. She asked that any society objecting to the suggested changes notify her in writing by November 30, 2017, so she could relay such objections, if any, to the EC.
The committee spent the bulk of its time sharing experiences on a number of significant topics, including continuing professional development (CPD) and professional/normative skills. For CPD, reports were presented by members of the CIA, American Academy of Actuaries (AAA) and Moroccan Actuarial Society. For professional/normative skills, reports made by the Actuarial Society of South Africa (ASSA) and Institute of Actuaries of Japan were well received. Committee members felt that the discussion would have been more robust had they had more time to ask questions and explore trends.

We received an update from the sub-group working on a survey on relationships with universities. Suggestions were provided to the team to help enhance its efforts. Brief updates were also given on the ICA 2018 and the Banking Working Group (BWG).

The committee looked forward to Council’s adoption of the IAA syllabus. It anticipates that a significant part of its mission will be to foster collaboration and share best practices regarding implementation of the syllabus.

**Branding and Communications Subcommittee (BCS)**

*Peter Doyle, Chairperson*

Our meeting in Chicago focused on several key areas of activity for the subcommittee since the previous meetings in Budapest, namely, branding and public policy.

The subcommittee discussed a proposal from our branding consultant for a modernized IAA logo and Sections logos. The consultant has also proposed language for Section branding activities and for our review of the strategic plan.

We also received a preliminary report on the work of the Public Policy Task Force, which coincided with our roundtable discussion on that same topic. The task force expects to present a report and potential modifications to our procedures for the EC to consider in the new year.

Lastly, we received a report on communication activities and finalized our workplan for 2018.

The subcommittee was pleased that Council approved the revised Publications Policy and Guidelines for Committees, Section and Working Group Papers announced earlier in this Newsletter.

**Development of Sections Task Force**

*Bob Conger, Chairperson*

The task force continues its work as a collaborative forum for the Sections to identify and pursue opportunities to strengthen their performance and reach larger numbers of actuaries.

At the Chicago meeting we reviewed a detailed analysis of membership statistics and trends, and discussed implications and opportunities. We also discussed ideas for making the quantity and quality of CPD content produced in the Sections more visible and available, and worked on a Section branding and value proposition project. We met with ICA 2018 organizers for an update on the Scientific Program and the Virtual Congress concept.

Various members of the task force, as well as the Secretariat team, will be working on nearly 20 action items that emerged from our discussions in Chicago. We will also be meeting by teleconference in the next month or so to continue our work on branding, visibility at the ICA 2018, and a vision for the future.
Strategic Planning Subcommittee (SPS)
Masaaki Yoshimura, Chairperson

We had good discussions on ideas regarding a possible revision of the Vision Statement, Mission Statement and Strategic Objectives, keeping in mind the BCS review of the IAA brand, which is proceeding in parallel. We will be preparing material for discussion at the next meeting, in Berlin.

General Insurance Committee (GIC)
Bob Conger, Chairperson

The GIC focuses on supporting other committees, supranational relationship teams, and member associations by providing the GI actuarial perspective and by making related actuarial resources available. During our meeting in Chicago we addressed projects in support of the following committees: Insurance Regulation, or IRC, (Margin Over Current Estimate, and the Risk Book); the IAC (IFRS 17 and an International Actuarial Note, or IAN); A&A (basic data needs of GI actuaries); the OECD relationship team (input to an OECD survey report on the cyber insurance market); and the IAIS relationship team (work on a core curriculum for regulatory personnel).

We also exchanged ideas and potential areas of collaboration with representatives from the ASTIN Section (the Risk Adjustment Monograph, and potential research on self-driving cars); IACA Section (speakers at events); Big Data Working Group, or BDWG (potential research on the changing consumer experience with personal lines insurance); and Resource and Environment Working Group, or REWG (flood risk).

We welcomed several new faces attending our meeting for the first time, and we will continue our outreach to engage with GI actuaries from additional member associations.

Health Committee (HC)
Christelle Dieudonné, Chairperson

Two new members were welcomed to the committee: Terence Narine from the CIA and Benjamin Yankah from the ASG. We discussed the briefing notes that have been developed by the HC, including the note on personalized medicine that was published on May 25. The next briefing note to be approved by the HC is on healthcare actuaries and big data, and it will be sent to the Scientific Committee for final approval and then published by the IAA.

We discussed the expanding role of health actuaries and decided to prepare a general paper presenting the health actuary and his or her role. It could be of assistance to small FMAs. We intend to move forward with a study that was launched two years ago on the health actuary’s role around the world.

Other briefing notes and studies are on the way, and continue to be developed within a few FMAs, i.e., briefing notes on medical inflation and undefined benefit plans related to health concepts. We also discussed increasing the impact of these notes within our profession globally and agreed to work closer with the Health Section to create webinars based on them.

The French health initiative was presented to the committee. It is directly linked to the role of the health
actuaries using personal and health data. This paper, prepared by the Institut des Actuaires (France), will be considered a professional standard. It promotes best practices for an actuary using both personal and health data. The Institut should validate this standard in November; a translation will be prepared and presented at the next meeting, in Berlin.

We are continuing to develop our relationship with the OECD through our OECD Subcommittee and are working with other IAA groups (e.g., the Social Security Committee, or SSC, and the PIWG) on a long-term care and health project. The first draft of a paper outlining it has been prepared by the OECD's Insurance Private Party Committee. This paper is due for approval by the OECD at its next open session in December.

The HC confirmed its support of this latest project, as it will be a great opportunity for the IAA to increase the recognition of actuaries around the world, bringing our knowledge to serve the public. We welcome all interested FMAs to join us.

Insurance Accounting Committee
William Hines, Chairperson

The IAC spent much of its meeting discussing issues surrounding the implementation of IFRS 17. These included the identification of potential issues to be discussed with the IASB, the role of the IAC relative to national actuarial associations, the appointment by the IASB of an IAA representative to be an observer on the IASB’s IFRS 17 Transition Resource Group, and the expected timeline and resource needs for the development and exposure of an IAN related to IFRS 17.

The committee’s Education and Practice Subcommittee met for almost two full days and discussed in detail the first set of chapters of the IFRS 17 IAN, a revised Statement of Intent regarding the IAN, the progress of the Risk Adjustment Monograph and an update on the development of ISAP 4 dealing with IFRS 17. The subcommittee also discussed the development of additional chapters of the IAN, goals for when those would be exposed and a potential timeline for addressing comments on the first set of chapters.

The leadership of the IAC and its subcommittee met with the leadership of the Professionalism Committee to coordinate the work of the respective groups regarding the IAN development, exposure and approval processes.

Membership Committee (formerly the Accreditation Committee)
Ken Hohman, Chairperson

The committee had a productive meeting, which included Council’s approval to change its name from Accreditation to Membership as a means of moving away from the role implied by accreditation, i.e. that the IAA is an investigative and regulatory authority.

As part of the committee’s traditional role of reviewing membership applications, documentation from the AASL was reviewed, and it was determined that it satisfied IAA requirements. Council members were presented with a brief overview of the association and a report, in order to start the exposure period for comments or concerns.

Discussions between the Membership, Professionalism and Actuarial Standards committees revealed that some member associations have indicated that they have adopted versions of the ISAPs, but have not reported that they have a process in place for their adoption. Section 2.2.2(d) of the IAA Internal Regulations requires that an association that adopts standards of practice must have a process in place that satisfies...
certain criteria. Efforts will be made to better educate member associations about this requirement.

Looking ahead at the IT platform to be implemented by the IAA Secretariat, information provided on the 2018 Confirmation Form (to be submitted early 2019) will be recorded with the intention of presenting member associations with a prepopulated 2019 Confirmation Form. This will allow them to easily note and report if a change has been made. Many member associations have few or no support staff, and constantly strive to make the confirmation process less cumbersome.

It was announced that Mike McDougall, from the ASSA, will be chairperson of the committee beginning in 2018.

**Pensions and Employee Benefits Committee (PEBC)**

*Yas Fujii, Chairperson*

The PEBC moved its projects forward and discussed updates of developments relevant to the international community and strategic relationships with supranational organizations.

The Pensions and Benefits Accounting Subcommittee, led by Tim Furlan, and the OECD Subcommittee (appointed jointly with the IRC), led by Christelle Dieudonné, reported to the PEBC on their outcomes and strategies. And, as a strategic relationship activity with the Institute of Pension Supervisors (IOPS) and OECD, a report was provided on our attendance at the IAIS–IOPS–OECD–NBS (National Bank of Slovakia) Conference in Bratislava, Slovak Republic, in September.

With the pension funding monograph almost finalized, the committee discussed an update of relations with the OECD on its publication, plus its contribution to the ICA 2018 and the possibility of a webinar. Also discussed were the pension de-risking project; its development, scope, and timeframe; and a new project regarding the defined contribution plan and actuaries.

We talked about developments in selected countries/regions relevant to the international community, such as the U.S.; a presentation by U.S. delegates and Dave Gustafson of the USTD; AAE pension-related issues; and special topics from Canada and New Zealand.

Updates were provided on the Pensions, Benefits and Social Security Section (PBSS) track events; ICA 2018; and the colloquium in Cape Town, South Africa, in 2019.

**OECD Subcommittee**

*Christelle Dieudonné, Chairperson*

The OECD Subcommittee was set up jointly by the IRC and the PEBC. Its mission is to coordinate interaction with the OECD based on the MoU between these organizations.

Updates were provided on a few potential projects:

- A few months ago, an IAA task force was created to work closely with the OECD to define the scope of a project it would like to launch on long-term care and health. Based on this first step, the OECD provided a draft of the project, asking us to continue our involvement and support. The OECD Subcommittee approved our support, and this project should be agreed during the OECD’s Insurance and Private Pensions Committee open sessions in December. Following this, the first step of the project will be to create a questionnaire that will sent to various countries to learn more about how their public and private healthcare systems operate.
• The IAA has commented on a report on cyber-risk insurance. A seminar on this topic will be held in February and it is hoped the IAA will be able to participate.

• Discussions took place with the OECD on the funding monograph prepared by the PEBC, which will be an IAA-only publication but may include a foreword from the OECD. IAA volunteers hope that this might lead to further co-operation.

The IAA will be represented at the OECD meeting in December.

**Professionalism Committee**  
**David Martin, Chairperson**

Good progress was made on many issues during the meeting.

Following discussions at previous meetings on disciplinary schemes, the first presentations by associations on their schemes were made by the Society of Actuaries in Ireland and the AAA.

The Professionalism Guidelines previously prepared and agreed were noted and were later agreed at the Council meeting.

A good summary of progress was given on the current ISAPs being worked on. It was noted that a cross-committee group involving this committee, the ASC and the SSRT has begun work on preparing open questions for associations on their use of ISAPs to replace the current way of collating such information.

Noting that the AAE had recently updated its model Code of Conduct, the committee asked a small group of volunteers to consider whether there was a need to review the Code of Conduct requirements for IAA member associations.

Good progress was made on a definition of an IAN and volunteers came forward to review the Due Process for IANs and monitor the due process for those now being prepared, related to IFRS17.

Two initiatives to assist newer and smaller associations in the areas of standards setting and professionalism education, involving the SSRT and Actuaries Without Borders (AWB) respectively, were noted.

A conference call is planned in January to measure progress and continue discussions.

**Scientific Committee (SC)**  
**Thomas Béhar, Chairperson**

The SC’s purpose is mostly to monitor the work of the six WGs: BWG, BDWG, Microinsurance (MiWG), MWG, PIWG and REWG. The SC consists of six appointed members, with each acting as liaison to a WG, and the chairpersons of each group as ex officio members.

The workplans of the six groups and the consolidated SC workplan were adopted during the meeting. Budgets were revised and aligned to the EC’s target. Different task forces/groups were launched during the meeting or will be created. Following Council’s approval, a review and adaptation of the quality, planning and publication processes will take place. Three years after it was created, an assessment of the SC and its WGs will be carried out and the committee will prepare a second version of its terms of reference in case the EC decides to transform it into a representative committee with delegates from each association.

The REWG paper on climate change and mortality has been approved by the SC. A webcast will take place
to update each of the IAA Council delegates (and their associations) on this document. Other important papers that will also be produced and reviewed by the SC shortly will involve: a follow-up after the Paris Agreement; a banking Fintech consultation; inclusive insurance (with the IRC); insurance principles and big data; and, later in 2018, inequalities. After the success of the Chicago seminar regarding international insights on mortality, population and the public interest, many contributions by WGs are proposed for the ICA 2018 and a new seminar will take place in Mexico.

At this stage, as the SC has limited attendance, any FMA interested in participating in the work of a particular group is strongly invited to contact a member of the relevant group. Their 2018 workplans give an overview of their activities in the coming months (see below for the individual meeting reports).

**Banking Working Group**
*Michael Tichareva, Chairperson*

Taking advantage of the presence of IAA meeting delegates, we and the ASSA hosted a seminar in Chicago on October 3 entitled The Actuary in Banking. Representatives from South Africa, Canada and the U.S. presented on the development of banking in the actuarial profession in their respective countries. The success factors, considerations and challenges to increase the actuarial influence in banks were highlighted. The seminar was chaired by Michael Tichareva and the key speakers for the day were Rolf van den Heever (South Africa), Erik von Schilling (Canada) and Brian Brown (U.S.). Martin Collins (UK), Jenny Lyon (Australia) and Kudzai Chigiji (South Africa) joined them for the panel discussions, where they answered a range of questions covering education, CPD opportunities, entering banking as an actuarial student, and challenges for (and from) banking employers when recruiting and training actuarial students.

Finally, the BWG has secured two slots at the ICA 2018 to discuss the progress of the actuarial banking profession and to take any questions from those interested in this new practice area.

**Big Data Working Group**
*Esko Kivisaari, Chairperson*

The BDWG held a face-to-face meeting in Chicago. Since the last meeting in Budapest, it has held three conference calls. The attendees discussed topical issues and new initiatives for this group, and regretted that the Chicago meeting overlapped with the GIC meeting. Highlights of this meeting included:

- It was noted that there are many submissions related to our area in the ICA 2018—under the topic of big data there are 99, while a number from different areas (behavioural economics, the “internet of things”, robotics, etc.) have a connection to our area.
- A survey of analytics education programs in different countries was presented and discussed. It will be finalized with input received from us.
- We discussed the need for an international designation for specialists in data science. An alternative to this could be mutual recognition of programs organized by different members of the IAA. Discussion on the way forward will continue.
- We have prepared a paper on the insurance principle in the age of big data, which was finalized in Chicago. The conclusion is that developing techniques will mean a lot to insurance while pooling of risks will remain necessary. The work on this paper continues with the discussion of whether there is still need for an institution like an insurance company to make this pooling of risks happen.
Mortality Working Group (picture of MWG members/visitors/guest speaker Jay Olshansky)
Brian Ridsdale, Chairperson

Approximately 18 members and many interested parties attended our meeting. Project updates were received on old-age mortality and older-age mortality improvement, long-term drivers of future mortality, and the development of a new paper on e-cigarettes.

Reports were received on new mortality tables in Japan and Thailand, and there were research updates from the UK Institute and Faculty of Actuaries and the SOA.

Updates were provided by the MWG’s projects, editorial, support and marketing teams. The group’s Information Base remains a key communications medium for papers and presentations of interest. The other medium is its six-monthly update.

We have submitted some 11 papers for the ICA 2018.

We welcomed two external speakers: Carl Friedrich, speaking on long-term care combination products, and Jay Olshansky, on facial analytics. Both were very well received.

Networking for members and partners remains a priority, and a well-attended dinner was held on the Thursday of the IAA meetings.

Population Issues Working Group
Assia Billig, Chairperson

The PIWG meeting attracted almost 30 members and observers. We discussed our current projects: actuarial perspectives on inequality, coordination of housing and retirement outcomes, and pros and cons of basic income guarantees. Together with others in the IAA, the PIWG will work with the OECD on long-term care issues. The topics addressed by the group highlight the importance of actuarial input to important societal issues. As such, we will look at how our work can relate to the United Nations’ Sustainable Goals.

The meeting featured a presentation from Jean-Claude Ménard, chairperson of the ISSA Technical Commission on Statistical, Actuarial and Financial Studies on ISSA priorities for its 2016–2018 triennium. It was concluded that there are a wide range of topics on which cooperation between the PIWG and ISSA may benefit both organizations.

Following the success of seminars organized jointly by the PIWG and MWG, they have decided to continue co-organizing such events, with the next seminar to be held in Mexico City in conjunction with IAA Council and Committee meetings in November 2018. Please stay tuned for further details, and make plans to attend.
Resource and Environment Working Group
Kenneth Donaldson, Chairperson

The REWG held both face-to-face and conference call meetings. The attendees discussed recent activities, current projects and the group’s proposed projects. These are the highlights:

- We have recently received approval of our paper Climate Change and Mortality. It is being edited and should be available to the membership in the near future.
- The status of our joint project (with the MiWG) on climate change, vulnerable populations and insurance was discussed. It is moving ahead as expected, with further drafting being done by the small group formed to work on this. It is expected to be completed in the first half of 2018.
- Regarding monitoring of the global progress of the Paris Agreement, the REWG is proposing to provide a progress report on the IAA website on cumulative CO2 in the atmosphere. We hope to complete the initial effort in the first half of 2018.

An area for emphasis addressed by the REWG is sustainable finance—comments were made on the European Union (EU) High-Level Expert Group on Sustainable Finance’s Interim Report. We will continue work on this topic soon. This is a potentially far-reaching and radical attempt to do that which sounds simple but is profoundly difficult in our complex modern society: form coherent policy across all areas of finance. The EU established a task force of experts to tackle this topic with, in effect, an “access all areas” brief. Its interim report and recommendations touch a huge number of areas of financial activity, many of which will directly impact actuaries and all of which could do so indirectly. The REWG will continue to monitor this space. Esko Kivisaari, a well-known IAA volunteer, is a member of this expert group.

Finally, it was agreed to begin a project to develop a paper on flood risk. We intend to be partners on this issue with the GIC and the ASTIN Section.

Social Security Committee
Barbara D’Ambrogi-Ola, Chairperson

We were happy to welcome many guests to our meeting, especially members of the AAA Social Security Committee, who held their meeting in Chicago so they could attend the SSC discussions.

As per tradition, the meeting opened with a presentation on the social security program of the host country—in this case, on the U.S. Old Age, Survivor and Disability Insurance, or OASDI, given by Janet Barr. In particular, Ms. Barr discussed current proposals on OASDI reforms.

Our meeting was mostly dedicated to the extremely important topic of reporting actuarial obligations for social security. The SSC is currently developing a paper on this topic that will hopefully be released over the coming months as an IAA position paper. Therefore, we were extremely pleased to welcome to our meeting Paul Mason from the IPSASB, Philip Stokoe from the IMF and Mitchell Wiener from the World Bank (WB).

Mr. Mason discussed an upcoming exposure draft of the IPSASB standard related to social security benefits. The SSC has commented on the discussion paper on this topic published by IPSASB in 2015, as well as assisting the IPSASB with actuarially related topics. It is expected that the exposure draft will be released shortly, and the SSC has indicated that it will be happy to comment on it.
Mr. Stokoe and Mr. Wiener gave a joint presentation based on a forthcoming policy paper, prepared by the IMF and WB, on requirements of different reporting standards with respect to social security obligations (e.g. the United Nations System of National Accounts, European System of Accounts, etc.). They discussed different measures of actuarial obligations of social security systems (such as choices regarding the inclusion of contributions and benefits of future participants in the calculations), as well as the usefulness and appropriateness of such measures. SSC members agreed with the presenters that disclosed information on actuarial obligations of a social security program should be consistent with the nature of the program and its financing approach, and related to its long-term sustainability indicators. Incomplete and/or irrelevant information may be misleading and lead to non-intended negative consequences.

Following these presentations, the SSC discussed the draft of the potential IAA position paper on the reporting of actuarial obligations for social security programs, which tackles the topics addressed by our guests. It was agreed that it is important for the actuarial profession to express its opinion on this subject. Therefore, after reflecting on members’ comments on the current draft, the SSC will aim to quickly finalize the paper.

OUTCOME OF SECTION COMMITTEE MEETINGS

AWB
Doug Carey, Chair

The current AWB committee held its first in-person committee meeting in Chicago. Normally we meet only over the telephone monthly to discuss our projects, and hold an annual general meeting during the first meeting of the year. However, since many of our committee members planned to attend the IAA meetings in Chicago, we met in person and had the opportunity to have an excellent AWB dinner at a famous Chicago restaurant.

Our committee meeting was attended by seven of our 12 members and more than 15 observers. There was lively discussion of all our ongoing projects, with many questions and very helpful comments from observers.

Recent Project Summary

Since we last met in Budapest, we have had three requests submitted from Eastern European countries (Bulgaria, Macedonia, Russia) in areas related to the introduction of Solvency II and enterprise risk management. Unfortunately, we are facing difficulties in finding qualified volunteers. For Bulgaria, we had only three candidates. For Macedonia, we re-launched the recruitment and finally found a suitable candidate.

We have had a very interesting urgent request from Russia and we are expecting requests from Latin American countries after these IAA meetings. It looks as though we may also have opportunities in Indonesia, Namibia, Tunisia and Turkey.

Finally, our recently launched global mentorship program (GMP) is underway. We have 82 mentees but only 41 mentors. So, we urgently need GMP mentors, and if you have any interest in being one please send a note to awb-met@actuaries.org.

General inquiries about AWB or our projects should be sent to awb-ed@actuaries.org.
At the IAAHS Committee meeting we had a full agenda covering various topics, including: the ICA 2018, the 2020 colloquia, webcasts, a 2018 plan and budget, new and obsolete topic teams, key updates from Section chairs and the Development of Sections Task Force.

On the topic of the ICA 2018, the ICA Scientific Committee has completed a thorough review of the submitted papers and presentation abstracts. We were extremely pleased to learn the number of submissions was more than twice that of program slots available, which would ensure a very robust, extensive and well-rounded ICA program. We thanked Alex Leung (IAAHS Committee member) and Lisa Morgan (IAAHS Micro-Health Insurance Topic Team Leader) who participated in reviewing the health topic submissions with the scientific subcommittees. The final decisions will be announced to the authors in November. The Section Committee will begin its work on selecting the Section’s Best Paper Award, which is separate from the ICA Best Paper Award.

The committee finalized the approval to hold the 2020 IAAHS Colloquia with the Singapore Actuarial Association Health Conference in Singapore. We are very excited about this joint event. It will present another great opportunity for the Section to bring an exciting program to our international participants, particularly those in Asian countries.

Vice-chair Adrian Baskir focused on the 2018 IAAHS plan, which included organizing additional webcasts and helping to ensure a successful ICA in Berlin. April Choi presented the key assumptions for the 2018 Budget, which was approved by the committee.

Based on a membership survey conducted earlier in the year, the committee approved adding two topic teams and abandoning a couple of the lower-ranking teams. The two new teams are Big Data/Technology and Public Private Partnership. We will be seeking team leaders for these topics and would encourage interested individuals to contact April Choi.

Separately at the HC meeting, April provided an update on how the IAAHS and HC would continue their collaboration on projects, including submitting abstracts to the ICA 2018, and plans regarding offering joint webcasts on HC briefing notes such as Personalized Medicine and Healthcare Actuaries & Big Data. IAAHS topic teams could also participate in preparation of briefing notes when needed.

The IACA Committee was especially pleased to welcome observers: John Lowell, Don Segal and Richard Roth from the CCA (U.S.) and Andrew Vaughn from Association of Consulting Actuaries Limited (UK). These organizations are the largest for consulting actuaries and we value their interest in IACA, which will help raise our profile.

During this meeting Martin Oymanns from the ICA Organizing Committee gave us some insight into the wonderful investment it is offering IAA Sections. This is the Virtual ICA, which the congress hopes could reach the thousands of actuaries and others who are stakeholders in our work. This requires an important joint marketing effort. However, the Sections have already provided a great deal of intellectual capital, more than has ever been collected for any ICA. Now the Sections can leverage these presentations, discussions and debates on significant world matters for innovative and thought-provoking activities relevant to their members. The result could be increased section membership.
The Presidents’ Forum agenda and the Friday lunch speaker brought the hot topic of blockchain to the Chicago IAA meeting. Any readers who would like to form an IACA blockchain task force should contact the IAA Secretariat. At the Small Association representatives’ breakfast, I agreed to lead a group to prepare a toolkit for such associations to see how the IAA can help them further once they have gained FMA status. This will give IACA much closer contact with these associations and the communities they serve, and thereby serve smaller groups of consulting actuaries with relevant material. Any volunteers interested in joining this group are welcome.

We would like to let you know about Opportunity in Diversity which will take place in conjunction with ICA 2018 on June 3, 2018. This is an effort to bring out diversity in thinking that leads to more jobs for actuaries, and is another growth initiative.

We will soon be issuing two calls for nominations: one for elections for committee positions and another for the Max Lander and Geoffrey Heywood Awards.

**PRESIDENTS’ FORUM**

The Presidents’ Forum was attended by the Presidents (or a senior member of the current leadership) of 36 Full and Associate Member associations.

The agenda also featured presentations on: the “superstorm of cyber”; how InsurTech is bridging the industry’s trust gap; expectations of FMAs for the IAA; the outlook for the world economy; and an update from ICA 2018 organizers.

**NEXT MEETINGS**

The next meetings of the IAA Council and Committees will take place at the Estrel Hotel in Berlin, Germany, from May 30–June 2 at the invitation of the Deutsche Aktuarvereinigung. The IAA website will be updated with further details as preparations continue.