

IAA




Special Newsletter


| International Actuarial Association | September 2010


29th International Congress of Actuaries (ICA) – A success in South Africa!

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The 29th International Congress of Actuaries was held successfully at the Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC) in Cape Town, South Africa from March 7 to 12, 2010

This was the first ICA to be held on the African continent, under the most appropriate theme: "United in our Diversity".

The Congress proved to be the most successful ever, having attracted 1568 delegates and 466 accompanying persons from 97 countries. Indeed, this was a diverse crowd. Eighty-three (83) of the participants from 48 countries were recipients of bursaries made available through the generous contributions of a number of actuarial associations, individual actuaries and IAA Sections. Overall, the Congress was seen as value for money by most delegates.



Paul N. Thonton,
IAA President

The Congress featured the work of more than 300 programme contributors (papers, presentations, panels, plenaries, chairs) and 16 exhibitors.

The congress covered a diverse range of topics. The single most important direction to come out of this congress, as cited by President Paul Thornton in his closing address, was "the contribution actuaries can and should make to managing the risks of the world's financial systems".
[[Speech](#) | [Slides](#) | [video](#)]

The scientific programme was extremely comprehensive and covered all areas of the actuarial profession. It was

the embodiment of the congress theme “United in our Diversity” and included a wide range of choices; papers, presentations and panels; and technical and practical topics, and was developed by and for actuaries and non-actuaries.

Highlights of the programme:

- received more than 190 abstracts in the Call for Papers
- 98 sessions over 5 days
- well over 250 speakers from 35 countries
- 114 papers (the rest were presentations and panels)
- more than 300 programme contributors (papers, presentations, panels, plenaries, chairs)
- extensive online programme database with access to all abstracts and final papers and PowerPoints

A Call for Papers was issued electronically on October 1, 2008 to the ICA 2010 database, with reminders sent out at monthly intervals, along with the monthly newflashes. More than 190 abstracts were submitted. The deadline for abstracts closed on June 16, 2009, but submissions were still accepted right up to the month before the congress, if they fit into an existing session.

Prizes for Papers

The ICA 2010 scientific programme committee awarded two prizes:

- Overall Prize-winning Paper
[A Study on Value-at-Risk and Lévy Processes](#)
Olivier Le Courtois and Christian Walter
- Prize-winning Paper from Africa
[The Link Between Disability Experience and Economic Conditions in South Africa](#)
Karl Schriek and Paul Lewis

The Chair of the Scientific Programme Committee, Peter Withey, took the lead in programme development, identifying the tracks and the relevant subjects and nominating a sub-committee of track co-ordinators to assist him.



Social Program

A varied social programme was offered to delegates which provided the delegates an excellent mechanism to increase social interaction and enjoyment of the destination. Highlights include the welcome reception hosted by Premier of the Western Cape, Helen Zille, on her estate at the foot of Table Mountain and the gala dinner at the Castle of Good Hope. Ms. Zille gave the welcome address that opened the Congress.



[Mamphela Ramphele](#), Executive Chair of Letsema Circle, a Cape Town-based specialist transformation advisory company, and



Enrique Ruelas, Secretary of the General Health Council of Mexico.



Included in the illustrious list of guest speakers were [Paul Embrechts](#), Professor of Mathematics at the ETH Zurich specialising in actuarial mathematics and quantitative risk management;



[Pravin Gordhan](#), Minister of Finance of the Republic of South Africa;

[Yoshihiro Kawai](#), Secretary General of the International Association of Insurance Supervisors;



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Yves Guérard,
Secretary General

The opening and closing ceremonies were unforgettable, not only through their cultural presentations, but through moving and thought-provoking addresses given by both the President of the IAA, Paul Thornton [[Speech](#) | [Slides](#)], and Secretary General Yves Guérard [[Speech](#)].



Desmond Smith,
Chairman of the ICA 2010
Organizing Committee

The actuarial profession worldwide is grateful to Desmond Smith, Chairman of the ICA 2010 Organizing Committee, who lead such a fabulous team that produced such a memorable Congress!

Congratulations
Desmond!

If you missed this Congress, be sure to sign up for the next one less than 4 years away in Washington! You won't be disappointed!

[Access to Congress papers and presentations](#)



ICA 2014 to be held in Washington, D.C.

The International Actuarial Association and the actuarial profession in the United States invite you to attend the 30th International Congress of Actuaries, March 30 to April 4, 2014 in Washington, D.C. at the Washington Marriott Wardman Park hotel.



The timing of ICA 2014 was chosen to coincide with one of the most beautiful times of the year in Washington, D.C. – springtime and the annual Cherry Blossom Festival. This is when the cherry blossom trees that line the Potomac River are in full bloom. The festival is a celebration of spring and commemorates the 1912 gift of the cherry trees from Japan.



Robert F. Conger,
ICA 2014 Congress President

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The theme of the 2014 Congress is Learn, Interact, Grow. All facets of the Congress are being designed to give delegates and their guests a variety of opportunities to do exactly that:

- **Learn** about the latest ideas in actuarial practice,
- **Interact** with actuaries and other risk professionals through the educational and social events, and
- **Grow** from the stimulating education and engagement with professionals from countries and cultures around the world.

The Congress schedule will span five days and the Scientific Program will offer sessions designed to appeal to all actuaries from every practice area. Parallel sessions will be offered that address topics within life insurance, general insurance, pensions, health insurance, enterprise risk management, and professionalism. Sessions will include invited speakers, organized panels, authors of new papers, and opportunities for discussion.

Invitations for presentations and papers will be announced to encourage educational content from actuaries from around the world. In addition to inviting submissions, the Organizing Committee will be working with the various IAA special interest sections and the actuarial organizations in the U.S. to plan speakers and panels on current topics and emerging issues.

ICA 2014 promises an enjoyable Social Program for delegates and their accompanying guests. In addition to the Welcome Reception and Gala Dinner, the Congress week will include open afternoons and evenings to allow delegates to enjoy all that the Washington, D.C. region has to offer. Many free and family-friendly attractions can be easily reached from the Washington Marriott Wardman Park hotel. Delegates can walk to the neighboring National Zoo

or to the Woodley Park Metro station for access to an extensive subway system. Subway passes for the Congress week will be provided to all delegates as part of their registration package.

The actuarial profession in the United States is hosting ICA 2014. There are five actuarial organizations in the U.S. that are serving as hosts: American Academy of Actuaries, American Society of Pension Professionals and Actuaries, Casualty Actuarial Society, Conference of Consulting Actuaries, and Society of Actuaries.

Visit the ICA 2014 Web Site at www.ICA2014.org for more information. While on the web site, sign up for RSS feeds and the e-mail newsletter to receive news about the Congress as soon as it is posted online. Registration for ICA 2014 is expected to open in late 2012 or early 2013.