

ASTIN – TODAY AND TOMORROW

As Actuarial Studies in Non-Life Insurance (ASTIN) approaches its 50th anniversary as a Section of the International Actuarial Association (IAA) in 2007, I would like to look at four areas of strength today, with some comments on how I see ASTIN becoming even stronger and more relevant to non-life practitioners tomorrow.

ASTIN COLLOQUIA

ASTIN's annual Colloquia are well attended and filled with meaningful papers and presentations, as well as opportunities for networking and social interaction with fellow actuaries from around the world. ASTIN's principal purpose is the promotion of actuarial research, particularly in the area of non-life. In fact, ASTIN is in the unique position of being an actuarial research organization that includes both practitioners and academicians in the same group so that the research being done is more likely to have practical application. As such, we can be proud of the contributions made to our profession at these colloquia over the years. Looking toward tomorrow, ASTIN needs to work to achieve a balance of theory and practice at its Colloquia in order to attract even more attendees.

ASTIN BULLETIN

The *ASTIN Bulletin* is an internationally recognized refereed scientific journal of the actuarial profession. A recent study (L. Lee Colquitt, "An Analysis of Risk, Insurance, and Actuarial Research: Citations from 1996 to 2000," *Journal of Risk and Insurance*, 2003, pages 315-338) found that the *ASTIN Bulletin* is the journal with the most impact in the field and is the most widely cited insurance journal. I trust you agree that the accolades the *ASTIN Bulletin* has received are well deserved. Now we need to work to get others to recognize the value of this journal so that it will appear under the Social Science Citation Index and review journals (*Mathematical Reviews*, *Mathematische Zeitschrift*) and be accepted by Thomson ISI. Thomson, for one, has indicated that it would like the *ASTIN Bulletin* to exhibit more dynamic citation activity than "peer" journals.

ASTIN SEMINARS

ASTIN is contributing to the enhancement of actuarial professionalism worldwide by offering seminars on non-life topics in countries with developing non-life practice. Recently, excellent ASTIN seminars have been offered in Moscow, St. Petersburg, Bucharest and Bangkok. These seminars are an effective way to introduce non-life topics to students in these countries who are just getting started with a non-life system. ASTIN pays honoraria to those who serve as part of the seminar faculty. I concede that the honorarium might not have been

worth it to Jean Lemaire and his wife, who were vacationing in Phuket the end of December prior to his leading the seminar in Bangkok. They literally had to run for their lives to escape the tsunami. Fortunately, they were not injured, though their rental car was a total loss. Although we cannot promise you such exciting first-hand exposure to natural catastrophes should you volunteer to teach at a future seminar, we do have a duty to the non-life profession to provide more such seminars in the future and are looking for more instructors.

LOCAL MEETINGS

Finally, today there are some local ASTIN organizations in individual countries where ASTIN members meet for get-togethers that are less formal than the annual ASTIN Colloquia. I would like to encourage more of these gatherings in the future. The interchange of ideas at the local level is always positive and often leads to worthwhile papers or presentations being made at an annual ASTIN Colloquium. Furthermore, this is a good way to increase membership in ASTIN.

Although it is a privilege and a pleasure for me to serve as Chairman of ASTIN, it is also humbling to look back at the exceptional people who have led ASTIN in the past. Most have been professionals with an academic leaning, while I lean more to practical applications. I feel that both are needed as we work together to build an even stronger and more vibrant ASTIN relevant to all non-life practitioners in the IAA.

David G. HARTMAN
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