

from the president

Looking back

It's time to look back!

As President of the Society for nearly four out of the previous five years, it's surely time to look back and with some hindsight evaluate results of the efforts made to shape and mould the Indian actuarial profession.

23rd June 2001 is the day that we had "kink in the graph". This day I should have continued as President for the second and last year as the precedent in ASI would have it and carried forward the ASI Agenda that I along with my colleagues had set, but it did not happen. What happened was unfortunate, though with the hindsight I believe it's good that it happened. The event brought on board the issues that we needed to tackle and curb the evils that afflict any collective body of individuals in its course of life. This event reinforced our desire to set ASI Agenda more clearly and carry it to the members more forcefully.

3rd 08 2002 was the day that the democratic process within ASI, put me back as President to carry on the responsibility and actualize the ASI Agenda that we had set for ASI.

While I write this I am trying to capture some of the achievements that stand out in my mind;

Educating Actuaries

We set upon to articulate a framework for educating actuaries and thus came the ASI Year 2005 Education Policy Document that we now actualize. It sets the objectives for ASI and skill sets of the actuary that ASI needs to develop;

Objective

To develop actuaries of the future with appropriate skill sets for variety of roles including that of regulatory and business leadership in the financial services industry.

The Skill Sets of actuary of the future

ASI believes that the actuary of the future, in order to play key roles in the financial services industry, should have at least the following skill sets,

- 1. Full appreciation, knowledge and understanding of actuarial principles & practices on an ongoing basis.*
- 2. Ability to apply actuarial principles and practices to a variety of business problems in the financial services industry*
- 3. Ability to apply actuarial principles and practices with a high degree of technical competence.*
- 4. Orientation to assume business leadership responsibilities and discharge such responsibilities with commitment to serve the cause of public interest.*
- 5. Commitment to professionalism in general and as it embeds into the actuarial profession in particular. ASI further believes that these skill sets are not static but need to be re-evaluated dynamically as the needs of the financial services industry evolve and change over time.*

Structure for the Actuary's functions

We looked at the structure within which actuaries could function within India and thus came the Professional Conduct Standards (Ver. 2.00) which facilitates actuaries to practice within any legal structure they wish to adopt; be it a Company, association of persons, sole proprietorship or partnership or any other. The professional responsibility was placed on the individual member and serving the cause of public interest was brought into central focus..

Public Interest Role of the Actuary

The key object of the Society is serving the Cause of Public interest, which is also embedded in its strapline, "Indian Actuarial profession – Serving the Cause of Public Interest". Such Public Interest is served by ensuring that our members achieve and maintain high standards of professional capability and

perform their roles under Actuarial Practice Standards. With a view to strengthening the Public Interest Role of ASI number of Guidance Notes have been put in place and many are under due process of adoption. Monitoring compliance mechanism is another step that comes to my mind which has started for the life insurance GNs

International Relations

A few major events strengthening our international relations that come to my mind are;

1. Membership of EAAC
2. MoU with Bangladesh Insurance Academy
3. MRA with Institute of Actuaries, London, Faculty of Actuaries in Scotland and Institute of Actuaries of Australia
4. Participation in and contribution to various meetings of International Actuarial Association by many of our members.

Strengthening Governing Structure

D Basu Committee report on the ASI election process and its actualization was surely a historical step to set our house right and recently two major steps were taken so as to have a fresh look at our governing structure by appointing i) D R Iyer Committee to review and report on Disciplinary matters, ii) K P Narasimhan Committee to look at and report on governing structure of ASI . Both the Committees have submitted their reports which are under exposure for comments by members.

MMIB

MoU with Life Insurance Council was signed to create the Mortality and Morbidity Investigation Bureau bringing to an end the debate which had been going on for about three years. The Research entity under Sec. 25 of Companies Act is under advanced stage of creation.

8th GCA – a major step in right direction

After some deliberation over months, the Executive Committee took a very bold step in deciding to organize, henceforth, the Global Conference of Actuaries on its own along with IAA. Parting company with FICCI was a painful process but seen to be in our own interest. This decision came about not because we did not value any more the mutually beneficial advantages of association with FICCI but the realization of aspirations of our members to stand on our own feet. The 8th GCA will therefore be held on 16-17, Feb. 2005 in Mumbai.

A new House that we can modestly be proud of

We shifted to our new abode in Indian Globe Chambers in last week of June 2005 which was opened ceremonially by Atul Shukla Chairman, Life Insurance Corporation of India on 03 09 2005. LIC has been as ever of great help to ASI in facilitating this new office. The whole work of its structuring and interior design was overseen by a Committee consisting of S P Subhedar along with K S Gopalakrishnan and Gururaj Nayak. Much that we feel happy about when we enter the office is all due to Subhedar and his team.

Remembering Roots and invoking blessings

Deep rooted in our Indian culture is our sense of gratitude to our forefathers that we display and invoke their blessings. It was thus in the fitness of things that the Executive Committee in its meeting held on 13th August 2005 dedicated the four rooms in the new office to L S Vaidyanathan, very first President of ASI when it was created in 1944, G S Diwan the very icon of Indian actuarial education, R M Mehta, the one who diligently kept the profession going during very difficult days and B K Shah, the insurance corporate giant of whom every Indian actuary should be proud of. While doing so we the current generation of actuaries dedicate our humble efforts to progress the cause of Indian actuarial profession to these giants and invoke their blessing to all that we do.

I end this column with a deep sense of satisfaction that I have in having had the opportunity to contribute my small bit as President of the Society.

17 09 2005, is the day when I lay down office as President immediately after the 23rd AGM.

Good bye and Khuda Hafiz

Liyaquat Khan