

Welcome again to the 27th International Congress of Actuaries.

We, the Mexican Actuaries are really honoured to be hosting this Congress and we hope you will find it a most enjoyable and enriching experience.

I am proud to introduce you to the Scientific Programme of the Congress. It has been designed to make it as interesting and appealing as possible.

Today, we will be traveling to the Ancient Mesoamerican Culture in a Plenary Session that I am sure all of us will enjoy and will help us to appreciate more deeply our visit to Cancun. Then, back to the future, where we will listen how top leaders of the largest actuarial employers envision the actuarial career.

During the four days of the Scientific part of the Congress, we will have 62 parallel sessions; in 26 of them, there will be 80 papers discussed by authors from 30 countries.

In the first part of the Congress, the sessions will focus on three main areas: Social Security, General Insurance and Health, while in the second part, the sessions will focus on Life, Pensions and Financial Risk.

To enrich the programme, we also decided to invite the different Committees of the International Actuarial Association, as well as regional International Associations, to organize specific sessions, relevant to the profession. We will have 31 of such sessions during ICA. We would like to thank all the actuaries who have been helping in the organization of these sessions, as well as those individuals who have volunteered to organize some other sessions in very interesting topics such as Rating Agencies, Retirement Trends, Insurance Regulation and Actuarial Role in Insurance Companies.

On Friday, we will get together again in a plenary session, where experts on genetics will talk about the new advances in this field and its impact to our profession. Finally, we'll have a panel in wider fields that will help us to further our role as actuaries in the future.

For the first time ever, we will also be hosting the 12th AFIR Colloquium and the 1st International Health Seminar during the first part of the week and, during the second part, the 33rd ASTIN Colloquium.

For those who are not members of ASTIN or AFIR, this is a unique opportunity to attend these sessions and are more than welcome to do so.

For those of you who are interested in attending the AFIR Colloquium, there will be 7 sessions, including 18 presentations by 25 speakers.

The 1st International Health Seminar, in turn, will be conducted in 18 sessions, with 39 presentations by 32 speakers. Mr. Julio Frenk Mora, Mexico's Health Minister will not be able to join us, however, he sent his message for the opening ceremony. Those of you, interested in the Health Area, please feel free to contact the organizing group.

On Thursday the ASTIN Colloquium will start with a keynote lecture on Property and Casualty Insurance in 21st Century followed by 5 sessions with 11 presentations by 14 authors.

So, in total, we are glad to have 279 papers and presentations by 316 authors in our 97 working sessions.

In the Convention Center Hall, you will be able to visit the Poster exhibit, dedicated to present the highlights of the Association Reports, as well as the Health and the Education reports.

For all of us, who have had the great opportunity to work with a fantastic team from all over the world, this has been an invaluable experience, and I am sure this Congress will be an unprecedented opportunity to enrich our professional experience and to tight closer the relationship and the communication among Actuaries of the world.

Welcome again, and please enjoy Cancún.