



ACTUARIAL SOCIETY
of
H O N G K O N G
香 港 精 算 學 會

The Actuarial Society
of Hong Kong
香港精算學會

FACT SHEET
2020

The Hong Kong actuarial profession body was formed in 1968 as the Actuarial Association of Hong Kong and, 26 years later, its successor, the Actuarial Society of Hong Kong (ASHK) was duly incorporated in January 1994. The ASHK is a full member of the International Actuarial Association (IAA), which has 74 full member organisations and 26 associate member organisations around the world. As of January 2020, the membership of the ASHK is over 1,308 with 1024 Fellows fully qualified through examinations by the professional bodies in the U.K., U.S.A. and Australia. It is one of the largest such actuarial professional bodies in Asia. The ASHK is governed by an elected Council with a President, Vice President and 11 Council Members. The ASHK sets Professional Standards and Actuarial Guidance Notes for the actuarial profession in Hong Kong.

The Council members in 2020 are:

Position / Committee	Chairperson(s) (Employer)
President	Mr. Peter Duran (AIA)
Vice President	Mr. Dicky Lam (China Life)
Actuarial Innovation Committee	Ms. Nora Li (AIA)
Actuarial Summit Organizing Committee	Mr. Billy Wong (Gain Miles)
Financial Reporting Committee	Mr. Steve Cheung (EY)
Health Committee	Mr. Sam Yeung (AIA)
Life Committee	Mr. Kevin Lee (AXA) Mr. Sai-Cheong Foong (AIA)
Membership & Communications Committee, Secretary & Treasurer	Mr. Alexander Wong (HSBC)
Non-Life Committee	Ms. Trinity Pong (Peak Reinsurance)
Pension & Employee Benefits Committee	Mr. Gary Lee (Sun Life)
Professional Development Committee	Ms. Nora Li (AIA)
Professional Matters Committee	Mr. Rockson Leung (Manulife)
Strategy & Statutory Path Committee	Mr. Dicky Lam (China Life) Mr. Simon Lam (Munich Reinsurance)

The ASHK strives to accomplish its mission by:

Representing the actuarial profession in Hong Kong

- ◆ To be the impartial voice of the profession before the public by commenting on actuarial aspects of social, economic and financial issues that may arise from time to time
- ◆ To pursue recognition as a statutory body under the laws of Hong Kong
- ◆ To engage with regulatory, academic, professional and financial sector stakeholders

Developing the actuarial profession in Hong Kong

- ◆ To encourage and uphold the highest standards of professionalism and ethics amongst our members
- ◆ To provide our members with opportunities for Continuing Professional Development through conferences, seminars, lectures and the like
- ◆ To establish a qualification examination for fellow membership
- ◆ To expand our membership to include all qualified actuaries practicing in Hong Kong

The ASHK mission is:

***"Representing,
developing and
inspiring the actuarial
profession in Hong Kong
to serve the
public interest"***

Inspiring the actuarial profession in Hong Kong

- ◆ To develop a Young Actuaries' Scheme targeting students and members at the beginning of their careers
- ◆ To nurture young members via experience sharing and mentoring from successful senior actuaries



MEMBERSHIP of the ASHK

There are 4 main classes of members in the ASHK, namely Honorary Members, Fellow Members, Associate Members and Student Members. Our current membership stands at 1,307.

The breakdown of the membership as of January 2020 is:

Honorary Members	3
Fellow Members	1023
Associate Members	123
Student Members	158

Membership Analysis

By type of employer

Insurance/Reinsurance Companies	79.1%
Consulting Firms (Insurance and/or Retirement Schemes)	13.8%
Financial Institutions	1.3%
Education Establishment	0.4%
Public/Government Service	1.2%
Others (e.g. Broking/Rating/Recruitment Agency)	1.7%
Undisclosed/Not Actively Employed	2.5%

By area of work

Life Insurance	77.3%
General Insurance	5.1%
Finance/Investment	4.8%
Retirement Schemes	2.9%
General Corporate Management	2.4%
Others (e.g. Education, IT)	3.4%
Undisclosed	4.1%

By overseas actuarial professional bodies

(Note: Below are estimated figures only as a member may possess more than one professional designation.)

Society of Actuaries <i>[Fellows (54.7%), Associates (6.6%) and Students (9.4%)]</i>	70.7%
Institute and Faculty of Actuaries <i>[Fellows (10.1%), Associates (0.2%) and Students (1.9%)]</i>	12.2%
Actuaries Institute Australia <i>[Fellows (7.1%), Associates (1.2%) and Students (0.3%)]</i>	8.6%
Casualty Actuarial Society <i>[Fellows (1.7%) and Students (0.3%)]</i>	2%
American Academy of Actuaries	1.6%
Institut des Actuaire (France)	0.8%
Het Koninklijk Actuarieel Genootschap (Netherlands)	0.3%
Institut des Actuaire en Belgique (Belgium)	0.2%
Deutsche Aktuarvereinigung e. V. (DAV) (Germany)	0.2%
Institute of Actuaries of India	0.4%
China Association of Actuaries (China)	0.2%
Canadian Institute of Actuaries	1.6%
Others / Undisclosed	1.2%

The Influence of Actuaries and the ASHK in Industry

Actuaries are multi-skilled strategic thinkers, trained in the theory and application of mathematics, statistics, economics, probability and finance. They have been called financial architects and social mathematicians, because their unique combination of analytical and business skills are used to address a growing variety of financial and social challenges worldwide. Actuaries provide professional services in a wide range of business and social contexts.

Life Insurance

Actuaries have long been recognized for their expertise in managing the solvency of life insurance companies. In Hong Kong, Insurance Companies Ordinance (Cap. 41) requires every insurer authorized to carry on Long Term Business to appoint an actuary to be Appointed Actuary to certify that life insurance companies have sufficient resources available to meet their obligations to policyholders. In addition to this, actuaries in life insurance may find themselves working in a wide range of areas such as product development and marketing, portfolio management, and a range of management roles. Many actuaries occupy management roles in life offices – such as Chief Executive, Investment Manager or Marketing Director.

The ASHK Life Committee:

- Promotes and facilitates industry exchanges of view, opinions, research and practice among ASHK members on regulations and guidance that are relevant to Hong Kong life insurance industry.
- Maintains on behalf of ASHK healthy dialogue and relationship with relevant regulatory, industry, and other professional bodies on matters that ASHK has identified as relevant to the members.
- Promotes practical actuarial applications in Hong Kong life insurance industry through research and study.
- Provides recommendations to Council on the development and maintenance of actuarial guidelines and industry practice that affects the profession.

Health Insurance

Actuaries assist health insurers worldwide to meet their financial obligations despite ever-increasing costs of medical care and accelerating demands for coverage. They are particularly well-equipped to help insurers address the health care needs of the elderly and the chronically ill in a financially responsible way. In the private sector, actuaries are working with other health professionals to model better solutions for private medical insurance, income protection, critical illness, and long-term care insurance. In the public sector, actuaries have long been involved in financial planning for national health services.

The ASHK Health Committee:

- Focuses on public and private health issues related to healthcare financing and healthcare delivery in Hong Kong. Closely follows industry discussion of the Government-proposed Voluntary Health Insurance Scheme (VHIS)
- Supports formal ASHK activities with a health content.
- Interacts with Health Committees of IAA member actuarial organisations in line with its purpose.

The Influence of Actuaries and the ASHK in Industry

General Insurance

Actuaries are deeply involved in the increasingly complex general insurance business, particularly in the areas of pricing analysis, establishing the level of claims reserves and structuring reinsurance programs. Increasingly, actuaries are using sophisticated modeling techniques to help general insurers plan for and address natural disasters and effects of climatic changes.

The ASHK Non-Life Committee:

- Promotes and facilitates industry exchanges of view, opinions, research and practice among ASHK members on regulations and guidance that are relevant to Hong Kong non-life insurance industry.
- Maintains on behalf of ASHK a healthy dialogue and relationship with relevant regulatory, industry, and other professional bodies on matters that ASHK has identified as relevant to the members.
- Promotes practical actuarial applications in the Hong Kong non-life insurance industry.
- Provides recommendations to Council on the development and maintenance of actuarial guidelines and industry practice that affects the profession.

Employee Retirement and Benefit Plans

Actuaries bring their skills in statistics, mathematical analysis, probabilities and finance to assist employers and governments in providing financial security for the elderly and the retired. Actuaries make recommendations on the adequacy of funding levels for pension plans and provide plan legislation in countries around the world.

The ASHK Pension & Employee Benefits Committee:

- Supports further knowledge development and sharing amongst ASHK members on regulations and recent developments related to MPF (Mandatory Provident Fund), ORSO (Occupational Retirement Schemes Ordinance) and Group Benefits industry.
- Supports thought leadership, member education, and research within the ASHK on relevant social, economic, and financial issues.
- Supports opportunities to enhance the exchange of information and interactions with other IAA member actuarial organisations in line with its purpose where appropriate.

Investment & Risk Management

The investment actuary is concerned with maximizing returns on a portfolio of institutional assets subject to the need to consider the consequential risks associated with the chosen investment strategy. Actuaries often specialise in the use of mathematical techniques in carrying out the investment process. This results in actuaries being involved in the provision of specialist services such as portfolio management, asset-liability modeling (including stochastic modeling), performance measurement, investment indices, manager selection, quantitative investment techniques, derivatives and risk control techniques for fund managers.

The Influence of Actuaries and the ASHK in Industry

Big Data

While the use of Big Data in the property and casualty insurance area is more developed than in some of the other areas of actuarial practice, significant advances have been made in recent years in the use of Big Data in health and life insurance. Similar advances in the pension area have not been as noticeable. However, it can be expected that over the next decade, all areas of actuarial practice will be significantly impacted by the use of Big Data.

The ASHK Actuarial Innovation Committee:

- To promote and facilitate exchanges of view, opinions, research and practice among ASHK members on actuarial innovation and technology developments that are relevant to the members.
- To collaborate, on behalf of ASHK, with relevant regulatory, industry, and technology companies on innovation matters relevant to the members.
- To demonstrate the actuarial profession to play major role in supporting innovation and technology developments in Actuarial profession.
- To promote practical applications and practices in Actuarial profession through research and study.
- To provide recommendations to Council on the development and maintenance of actuarial guidelines in response to latest innovative development that affects the profession.

ASHK and Public Policy

Actuaries take seriously their responsibility to the public and recognize that their unique blend of skills can be enormously beneficial when applied to the general public good. The ASHK provides assistance to the Government, analyses legislative and regulatory proposals, advises on social trends and suggests solutions to a wide range of social problems.

ASHK and International Actuarial Association

Founded in 1895, and reformed in 1998 with a new constitution, the International Actuarial Association (IAA) is the worldwide association of professional actuarial associations, with a number of special interest sections for individual actuaries. The IAA exists to encourage the development of a global profession, acknowledged as technically competent and professionally reliable, which will ensure that the public interest is served. The ASHK has become a full member of the IAA since 1999.

The Influence of Actuaries and the ASHK in Industry



ASHK and Professionalism

To maintain a high level of professionalism among members, the ASHK regulates actuarial practice of members by issuing Professional Standards and Actuarial Guidance Notes.

The ASHK Professional Matters Committee:

- Reviews and approves proposed new and amendments to existing By-Laws and Actuarial Guidance Notes, and make recommendations to Council.
- Develops new and update existing Professional Standards and Professional Code of Conduct as requested by Council or deemed appropriate by the Committee.
- Develops new and update existing CPD requirements and perform annual audit of CPD fulfilment on members.
- Organises professionalism courses for members.

The ASHK Strategy & Statutory Path Committee:

- Advocates for enhancing the reputation of the actuarial profession and serves as a critical role in pursuing statutory recognition of the ASHK under the laws of Hong Kong as a long-term goal.
- Represents the ASHK in discussions with regulatory and professional bodies, both in Hong Kong and internationally, on matters relating to statutory recognition.



Actuarial Education in Hong Kong

Currently, our members usually take the examination of the various overseas professional bodies like Actuaries Institute (Australia), the Casualty Actuarial Society, the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries (UK) and Society of Actuaries (US).

ASHK has developed and introduced a set of local actuarial examinations as a prerequisite for the new Fellows of the ASHK from 1 January 2019. By passing the examinations, candidate would demonstrate his/her knowledge in the local landscape and the actuarial guidance notes as well as to gain appreciation in professional standards.

There are a number of educational institutions offering actuarial science programmes locally, such as,

- Chinese University of Hong Kong
- Hang Seng Management College
- Polytechnic University
- University of Hong Kong


to name a few.

Graduation from the actuarial science programme does not imply that one has passed the professional examinations set by the actuarial bodies. A graduate may be granted exemptions from some of the examination subjects in particular bodies if he/she has cleared the examinations in university with sufficiently high grades. He/She has to complete the remaining professional examinations at work in order to become a qualified actuary.


Contact Us

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