Report on the XXXVth ASTIN Colloquium June 6–9, 2004, Bergen, Norway[1]

Introduction

The 35th International ASTIN Colloquium was held in Bergen, Norway, from June 6 to 9, 2004. There were 190 participants with 46 accompanying persons from 27 countries. The scientific program, in the typical format of actuarial conferences, consisted of organized and contributed sessions. All that went on can be downloaded from the colloquium website (astin2004.no) up to January 2006.
Bergen is a hilly fjord town on the Norwegian coast, founded in the Middle Ages. The social program was a reflection of these facts with the opening reception held at a scenic hill top restaurant, the closing dinner in a medieval hall that was built almost 800 years ago and with the main excursion taking participants inside some of the fjords of western Norway with waterfalls and flush, green hills.

Organized sessions

Opening and closing keynote addresses were delivered by
– Dr Stefan Lippe, Head of Casualty and Property, Swiss Re, Switzerland
– Professor Jean Lemaire, Wharton School of Business, USA

Dr Lippe who spoke on *"Mathematics in the re-insurance industry"* reviewed the role of mathematics and computer simulations, arguing for transparency and structured approaches to problems that are very complex indeed. Professor Lemaire took the audience through an extremely witty hour on *"Challenges to Actuarial Science in the 21st Century"* emphasizing creativity and communication skills as crucial for the actuarial profession in the decades ahead of us.
Three thematic sessions addressed themes of central importance for the insurance industry. All of them were run with three or four speakers who were partly actuaries and partly people from outside the profession. The guiding idea was that the prob-

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lems under discussion are much broader than actuarial method in a narrow sense and need input from other scientific areas for their modelling and solutions. Themes and speakers were:

– *Climatic Change and Insurance*
  Speakers: Hans von Storch, David Anderson, Gerhard Berz
– *The World of Insurance Fraud with Actuarial Perspective*
  Speakers: Tommy Short, Montserrat Guillen, Irene Lægreid, Richard Derrig
– *Genetics and Insurance*
  Speakers: Tim Bishop, William Nolan, Piet De Jong