



Volunteers' experiences

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A view from a volunteer: Spenser Chen



“I am a Fellow of the IFoA based in Singapore. I made a career change to become an actuary after working in the civil service for six years. My first actuarial role was in actuarial consulting in London where I was involved in reserving and capital projects for non-life insurers and Lloyd’s syndicates. I moved back to Singapore in 2013, and continued to be involved in non-life actuarial consulting for a while before moving into the health insurance area recently.”

The experience of a volunteer in Singapore

“I started a volunteering role with the IFoA for the first time in April 2015. As a newly qualified Fellow, I was looking for ways to give back to the profession, and one of the first opportunities that came up was providing support to the IFoA’s Exam Team. Even though some of us were based outside the UK, there were tools and systems to help everyone contribute actively to the team. For example, I found it very easy to take part in the meetings via teleconference. From Guinea Pigs to exam counsellors, there are many roles and tasks that support our Education and Exam Teams.

More recently, I have also volunteered to be a study mentor for student members in South East Asia. The mentoring scheme was introduced a few months ago, and we expect more student members to become aware of the scheme and to take part in it. We believe the scheme can help students develop a better understanding of the subject matter through the study sessions where mentors can share their own experiences with the exams and work. I would encourage all students preparing for the CA, ST and SA exams to sign up for the scheme. It is also another way for students and mentors to expand their network of contacts both within their home countries and across South East Asia.

I really enjoy doing something different to my day to day work, and volunteering for the IFoA gives me the opportunity to develop myself and help shape the future of our profession. There are many different ways to become more involved in volunteering, which include online feedback groups, providing support to the Exam Team, Career Ambassadors etc. There is something for everyone, whether you are a student member or Fellow”

