



Volunteers' experiences

"I am someone who has benefited from volunteering. It has helped me in my journey."

A view from a volunteer:

Thanuja Krishnaratna



Thanuja Krishnaratna is an Associate member of the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries (IFoA) based in Sri Lanka. Thanuja works as an Independent Consultant Actuary and is Managing Director / Founder of STAR Actuarial Academy.

Thanuja has volunteered for the actuarial profession for many years. She was a founder member of the Actuarial Association of Sri Lanka (AASL) and was AASL's first hon. Secretary, becoming President from 2016–2018. Thanuja began volunteering for the IFoA in 2011 and is currently a member of the IFoA's Life Asia sub-committee. In addition,

she is also currently extending her volunteer services to the International Actuarial Association (IAA) as a member of the Asia sub-committee and the Advice and Assistance committee, which provides support to develop the actuarial profession in developing countries.

The experience of a volunteer working in Sri Lanka

I am someone who has benefited from volunteering. It has helped me in my journey. Without the help of volunteers in the actuarial profession, it would be very hard to face the challenges that I have faced in this part of the world in pursuing actuarial education and an actuarial career.

I am very passionate about volunteering for my profession. I started volunteering for the IFoA in 2011 while I was still a student member. My first volunteer role was as a member of IFoA's 400 club: the online feedback group for members of the IFoA to share their views. I then became a volunteer member of the IFoA's Student Consultative Forum, providing my feedback as a student to improve the activities related to exams and the challenges we faced in South Asia. At the end of 2016 I became a member of the IFoA's Life Asia sub-committee.

The benefits of the Life Asia sub-committee

The Life Asia sub-committee was the first regional sub-committee of the IFoA formed outside the UK, with the specific purpose of supporting Life actuaries in the APAC region (particularly regarding their career growth), deliberating issues in the region as well as promoting and raising awareness of the profession in the region as a whole. Members of the sub-committee are based in locations such as China, Hong Kong, India, Malaysia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, and in the UK.

Each and every person uses their specific capabilities and specialisations in their respective field. I love the fact that I receive knowledge of many markets and jurisdictions as a result of being involved in the activities within this group.

Has volunteering assisted your lifelong learning?

Yes, very much. It has helped me to improve my capabilities and the quality of my life through enhancing my non-technical skills, especially my interpersonal and communication skills. Volunteering also creates opportunities, day by day, around me.



An IFoA Member
Engagement Profile



Institute
and Faculty
of Actuaries

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to be an Associate
member of the IFoA."*



An IFoA Member
Engagement Profile

What do you think about Associateship being the new destination qualification?

Being an Associate member provides me with a valuable recognition in my country to allow me to work as an actuary. The Associate qualification is a good start. Associates will have the necessary technical knowledge and the other required skills to perform as an actuary. I am very proud to be an Associate member of the IFoA.

To get involved in volunteering for the IFoA visit:
www.actuaries.org.uk/get-involved/volunteering-ifo