A Tribute to The Geneva Association

by John J. Roberts *

It is indeed an honour for me to extend to the Geneva Association members and friends a note of heartfelt congratulations for a job well done in its first 25 years. Having had the privilege of being the first American insurance executive to join the Geneva Association as a member in 1979, and subsequently the Board, I have witnessed firsthand the remarkable achievements that have occurred since then.

The Geneva Association occupies a unique position in the world of international insurance and reinsurance. Arguably, there exists no other forum where the international leaders of our industry gather together with a common objective of trying to understand and interpret the many challenges and issues that face us all.

In the 25 years of its existence, the Geneva Association has produced an awesome collection of studies, reports, conferences and monographs that have set forth the evolving characteristics of international insurance transactions and future developments. It has been at the forefront of identifying trends in the industry and helping its members understand them and adjust to them.

There is little question that the industry is in a period of rapid transformation today. No longer are we confined to the traditional insurance and reinsurance businesses that once were highly regulated and distinct from our colleagues in banking and securities. More and more, our businesses are interrelated and integrated, with regulatory climates from Japan to Latin America to the United States changing constantly.

I am confident that the Geneva Association will remain at the forefront of understanding these developments and helping the industry anticipate how it can continue to improve its own productivity, expand its range of services, and ultimately provide even greater benefits to our worldwide consumer base.

Deserving of special mention on this auspicious occasion is the critical role played by our leader, Orio Giarini. Through his effervescent personality, dedication and relentless intellectual energy, he, after all, more than anyone has put the Geneva Association on the map.

Congratulations, and every best wish for the next 25 years.

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