

**Fourth South Asian Actuarial Conference 2025 (SAAC 2025):
Brewing the Perfect Blend: Actuaries, the master blenders of risk**

The Actuarial Association of Sri Lanka (AASL) is in the process of organising the fourth South Asian Actuarial Conference (SAAC 2025) under the theme “**Brewing the Perfect Blend: Actuaries, the master blenders of risk**”. This three-day conference will be held from the 18th to the 20th of June 2025 at The Shangri-La Colombo, Sri Lanka. We expect approximately 250 - 300 Sri Lankan and foreign delegates to participate in the conference this year.

Sri Lanka is renowned for its world class tea, where master blenders skilfully combine various teas, herbs and ingredients to create unique blends with consistent taste, aroma and quality. Just like the master tea blender, actuaries blend data, analytical skills and expertise to craft the ideal balance of risk and opportunity. Just as a tea master carefully selects, measures, and refines ingredients to achieve a harmonious flavour, actuaries apply their deep analytical skills together with the extensive knowledge in mathematics, statistics and financial theory, to assess uncertainties, optimise financial security, and ensure long-term stability. Whether it is pricing insurance products, managing pension funds, or evaluating economic risks, actuaries play a crucial role in designing sustainable financial solutions.

This theme highlights how the actuarial profession is an art and a science, requiring precision, experience, and intuition, much like the craft of blending tea. It positions actuaries as strategic thinkers who do not just crunch numbers but create the perfect "brew" of risk and reward, ensuring a robust and resilient future for businesses and society. With this blend of tradition and innovation, we celebrate actuarial expertise through the lens of Sri Lanka's most cherished export—tea—bringing actuarial expertise to life through a distinctly Sri Lankan narrative.

The conference aims to generate ideas on expanding the actuarial profession in developing countries such as Sri Lanka. Specifically, we want to explore how actuaries can partner with and/or advise Central Banks and other governmental and non-governmental organisations (in addition to the contribution made to the insurance and financial services sector).

The AASL would like to invite actuaries and other professionals worldwide to submit your abstract related to the following topics under this theme.

Blending Data and Insights: Crafting the Perfect Risk Models

Just as a tea blend requires selecting the finest leaves, actuaries must carefully curate and integrate diverse data points to build robust risk models. Discussions can delve into exploring the art and science of data selection, emphasising how actuaries navigate vast amounts of information to extract meaningful patterns and build resilient financial strategies.

Council members:

Kasun Amarasuriya (President), Nalin Subasinghe (Vice President), Shemani Ratwatte (Secretary), Mermareen Ashraff (Treasurer),
Eranga Karunaratne, Samath Perera, Roshan Menaka, Jalika Jayatissa

- **Selecting the right data:** identifying high-quality data sources, addressing biases, and ensuring completeness for more reliable predictions
- **Blending traditional and emerging insights:** integrating structured and unstructured data, historical trends, and AI-driven analytics to refine risk models
- **Steeping data into strategy:** transforming raw data into actionable insights, leading to informed decision-making
- **Ensuring a smooth finish:** how rigorous validation, back testing, and professional judgment fine-tune models to achieve optimal outcomes

Brewing Resilience: Strategies for Managing Volatile Markets

Just as the perfect cup of tea requires the right temperature, steeping time and balance of flavours, managing financial and economic risks requires precision, patience and adaptability. Key focus areas can include:

- **Finding the right “brew” for risk management:** how actuaries can tailor approaches to market fluctuations, inflationary pressures, and regulatory shifts
- **Sustaining strength in uncertain times:** strategies for institutions to remain solvent and sustainable despite market turbulence
- **Climate resilience:** developing climate-aware pricing models, innovative risk transfer solutions and integration of climate science into catastrophe modelling
- **Assessment of transition risks in investment portfolios:** evaluating risks associated with economic transitions, regulatory changes, and sustainable investment trends

From Estate to Economy: The Actuary's Role in Financial Stability

Inspired by Sri Lanka’s tea estates, where careful planning and risk management drive economic success, actuaries must navigate uncertainties that affect financial markets and economic policy. Key discussion areas can include:

- **Micro level risk management:** how actuarial expertise helps individuals, households, and small businesses make informed financial decisions, from retirement planning to microinsurance coverage and investment strategies
- **Macro level economic resilience:** contributions to national and global economic stability, regulatory frameworks and systemic risk management
- **Bridging Profitability and Social Impact:** Strategies for inclusive insurance, mobile-first financial products and maintaining financial sustainability while promoting inclusivity

Steeping in Uncertainty: Long-Term Risk Planning in Emerging Markets

Just as tea must steep over time to develop its full flavour, long-term risk planning requires patience, foresight, and adaptability. This is particularly crucial in emerging markets, where economic shifts, technological disruptions, and demographic changes create evolving challenges. Key areas of discussion can include:

- **Anticipating demographic shifts:** how actuaries analyse aging population growth, aging trends and workforce transformations to design sustainable insurance and retirement income products
- **Blending tradition with innovation:** balancing established actuarial methodologies with evolving technologies such as AI, alternative data sources, and digital insurance solutions
- **Sustaining financial strength over time:** best practices for insurers and financial institutions to remain solvent despite prolonged uncertainty
- **Resilience in emerging markets:** how actuaries contribute to financial inclusion, systemic risk management and long-term investment strategies

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The Right Blend: Customising Risk Solutions for Local Markets

Just as different regions of Sri Lanka produce distinct varieties of tea, actuaries must craft customised risk solutions that align with unique economic, cultural, and regulatory landscapes of different markets. Key discussions can include:

- **The local “flavour” of risk:** how demographic, economic and social factors influence different markets and use of alternative data for risk assessment
- **Blending global best practices with local realities:** how actuaries can adapt international risk management frameworks to fit regional contexts
- **Regulatory steeping:** the role of evolving regulations in shaping actuarial strategies, with insights from various jurisdictions
- **Cultural sensitivities in risk assessment:** how factors like risk perception, financial literacy, and consumer behaviour impact actuarial decision-making

From Tea Leaves to Data Streams: Predictive Analytics for Actuarial Profession

When people once looked to tea leaves for predictions, modern actuaries employ predictive analytics, AI and big data to forecast risks with precision. Key discussions can include:

- **From ancient predictions to modern precision:** the evolution of actuarial science from traditional risk assessments to AI-driven forecasting
- **Brewing data into actionable insights:** the role of big data, machine learning, and automation in identifying hidden risk patterns
- **Beyond historical trends:** how real-time data streams, IoT and cloud computing are transforming actuarial calculations
- **Ethical and practical challenges of AI:** balancing algorithmic efficiency with transparency, fairness, and regulatory compliance

Teatime Talks: Risk Conversations with Stakeholders

Just as meaningful conversations happen over tea, actuaries must excel in communicating complex risk concepts to stakeholders. Key discussions can include:

- **Brewing the perfect message:** How to tailor actuarial insights for different audiences
- **Simplifying without oversimplifying:** techniques for breaking down complex risk concepts while maintaining accuracy
- **The power of visual storytelling:** using data visualisation, infographics, and dashboards to enhance engagement
- **Navigating difficult conversations:** strategies for handling stakeholder concerns, risk perceptions
- **Cultural and contextual considerations:** adapting communication styles across industries and global markets

Additional information for speakers is attached to this letter. **Please submit an abstract of fewer than 500 words along with the completed speaker form to speakers@actuaries.org.lk on or before Wednesday 30th April 2025.**

Council members:

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We look forward to hearing from you and with your active contribution making this conference a success.

Thank you,

Yours faithfully,



Eranga Karunaratne

Conference Chair

Fourth South Asian Actuarial Conference 2025

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SAAC 2025: Additional information for speakers

Timeline

Date	Milestone
5 th March	Call for speakers opens
30 th April	Deadline to submit abstracts
20 th May	Notification of acceptance
11 th June	Final presentations to be submitted

Presentation style

Speakers are free to select from any of the following styles of presentation:

Style	Duration	Description
Deep dive	45 mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Speakers are encouraged to take a deep dive into a relevant topic 30 minutes for presenting and 15 minutes for Q&A Up to 3 speakers
In a nutshell	15 mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present at a high level on a topic of interest relevant to the theme This style is specifically tailored to first time speakers, young actuaries, and students 10 minutes for presenting and 5 minutes for Q&A Up to 2 speakers
Forum	55 mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designed as a panel discussion with a moderator and 2 to 4 panellists The moderator is responsible for inviting panellists Questions to the panellists may be sourced from the moderator and/or the audience (this is encouraged to make it a more interactive session)
Workshop	55 mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designed as an interactive workshop with up to 3 facilitators Facilitators are encouraged to introduce the topic of discussion before kicking off workshop activities Facilitators may need to have examples ready for each workshop activity to prompt participant engagement

Other information

- There are no restrictions on who can apply to be a speaker at SAAC 2025, the requirement being speaking on a topic relevant to the theme.
- Speakers who intend to participate in the entire Conference are required to purchase participant tickets.
- A Selection Committee consisting of members of the Organising Committee and AASL Council will review all abstracts and make the final decision on which abstracts are accepted.
- The Selection Committee may contact you if there are overlaps with other abstracts submitted, for information, amendments, or collaboration between speakers.

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SAAC 2025: Speaker Form

Presentation information

Style	Deep dive	In a nutshell	Forum	Workshop
Topic				

Speaker information

Role	Name	Company	Email

Note: For the role, select between Speaker, Moderator, Panellist or Facilitator

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