

Quick links: [Home](#) » [The Actuary Issues](#) » [August 2020](#) »

Opinion

## Tilling the soil

5th August 2020

**Tan Suee Chieh on the importance of being bolder**



I look forward to co-creating an exciting future for the profession with you. There is a broad agreement that the IFoA and the profession need to be more agile and respond to changes faster, more courageously and more imaginatively. A senior actuary described the IFoA as 'treacle'; I think Ira Progoff's metaphor, that "under pressure of events, our lives have become hard-packed like soil" that has not been tilled for many years, is appropriate. I invite all of us to till the soil, so we can flourish on our own ground.

In my presidential address, I made much of the DNA of the actuary, because it describes what unites us as a group across many domains and geographies. We must not drift away from this ground.

Frank Redington was brilliant in identifying our four quintessential values (accuracy, cautiousness, consistency and reticence) so comprehensively – and he asked us to create room for impulse and imagination. For me, this means taking measured risks and doing things that we do not dare to because of our innate cautiousness. I hope we pluck up the courage to take a stand on the many social issues of our time. We can be bolder, and not converge on consensus positions.

Recently, an interviewee explained how she thought about diversity. She said it is our capacity to allow and encourage perspectives that are totally different from our own (or the majority's), because of the different context brought by a different person's life story, nature, circumstance or condition. I think that captures it.

**Tan Suee Chieh** is the president of the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries



### Latest Jobs

#### Pricing Manager - Life

London (Central)  
£ dependent upon experience  
**Reference:** 112615

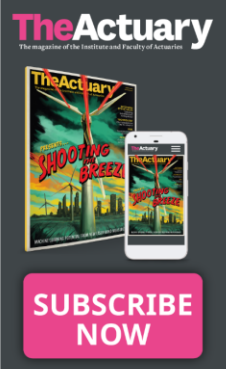
#### Big 4 Consultancy – Senior Consultant / Manager, Life Actuarial

London / Manchester / Bristol / Edinburgh  
Competitive salary plus bonus  
**Reference:** 111570

#### Commercial Business Development Modeller - Life Insurer

London (Central)  
Excellent salary and bonus  
**Reference:** 111569

[See All Jobs >>](#)



**SUBSCRIBE NOW**