

AIDA World President Speech - Zurich Conference 7 October 2022

(Summary)

1. I congratulate and thank the organizers of this conference, Mr. Rolf Staub, Chairman of AIDA Swiss Chapter and the Co-Chairs of AIDA Europe, especially Alkistis for their efforts and accomplishment in this successful meeting. After 2 years of COVID, we are meeting in person and can feel the warmth of your friendship.

2. I would like to address to one of the ideas raised by an Israeli historian Yuval Noah Harari in his book "21 Lessons for the 21st Century", which I think is relevant to AIDA World:

"What gave Homo Sapiens an edge over all other animals and turned us into the masters of the planet, was not our individual rationality, but our unparalleled ability to think together in large groups."

We at AIDA World have built a community in which we think together in large groups via comparative studies and exchange of knowledge and perspectives on Insurance.

3. Two years of COVID, stopped the implementation of new ideas raised in a SWOT exercise (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) which we carried out in AIDA after I was elected, and now with full engines, we are working hard to strengthen AIDA for the future.

4. "To get fit for an unsettled Future", also at AIDA, like any other human being or organization, we have to re-invent ourselves and be flexible in order to adapt to the changes and navigate through the challenges. We are looking forward to reconsidering the way our Working Groups or other institutions operate, in order to enlarge the scope of members from all corners of the globe and encourage their active involvement. I can see a strong motivation of new members to be involved and contribute.

5. Since last year we have added to AIDA World: Cyprus, Togo, ARIAS Ireland, and yesterday we added Angola. The growth of our membership base in Africa (Morocco, South Africa, Togo and Angola) is an important accomplishment in enlarging the basis of comparative research and learning.

6. In the center of our organization are the individual members. Although technology enables us to meet remotely, we are in need for the personal meetings, which we started this year, first in Costa Rica and now in Zurich. The friendship between our members and the personal connections are very important to us. As an example, the answers most of the members gave to the question “What is AIDA for me?” was “friendship” and then “knowledge”.

7. Last, but not least, the Insurance Encyclopedia. We have started a great project of writing an Insurance Encyclopedia which will be built on topics covered by AIDA members worldwide. We have a very distinguished Editorial Board led by Prof. Rob Merkin (KC), Prof. Ozlem Gurses, Dr. Kyriaki Noussia, and Prof. Pierpaolo Marano, all top academics in the insurance field. We expect to work hard on it this year in order to collect all the relevant information for the Insurance Encyclopedia to be published in hard print and a digital format.

We have a lot of hard work and we count of your cooperation.

Thank you!

Peggy Sharon
AIDA World President