

Julian James Chief Executive Office, International Insurance

## **A View From The Top**

Welcome to the Sompo International space on the AIRMIC festival floor, and congratulations to the risk management community for embracing change so wholeheartedly and putting together such a bold and innovative event. We are delighted to be partnering with you and look forward to introducing you to Sompo International.

Having spent several years out of the insurance market, I was delighted to join the Sompo team in February to help build out its international business. With a US\$24 billion balance sheet and an A+ rating, the group has a tremendous amount to offer insureds and, as with any new job, it was going to be a great challenge to get to know both my colleagues and our business partners and clients. Little did I (or anyone else) know then just how challenging that was going to be.

The tragedy of the global COVID-19 pandemic has created tremendous change. I am incredibly grateful to my colleagues for their warm welcome in such difficult times, and for their flexibility at adapting swiftly and efficiently to remote working. While the way we all work has probably changed forever, what has not changed is the job that we are here to do.

For everyone at Sompo International, that remains ensuring that we are fully operational and providing the best service to our business partners and clients to address their business needs. Those needs are always changing but never more so than now, and it is vital that we have our customers right in the centre of our thinking. A whole new landscape of risks has opened up for businesses, some new, others just much greater than they were before. To think of just a few: getting airlines back in the sky, the risks of mothballed facilities, enabling a safe return to work for employees, disrupted supply chains or the need to build new ones from scratch, legal actions and decimated demand. Different industries will face their own risk horizons and there can be no "one size fits all" answer to understanding the issues and finding solutions.

Businesses need comprehensive risk management services and multi-line capabilities more than ever before. I am sure over the next few days, across all parts of this virtual event, we will all talk a great deal about the changing face of risk and how it affects us all. As we return to the "new normal" I am very much looking forward to hearing more from our clients about the issues they face and how Sompo International can help.

## LEARN MORE

Our specialised underwriters, claims professionals and risk control specialists can help you address the exposures created by today's rapidly changing marketplace.

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## **ABOUT SOMPO INTERNATIONAL**

Sompo International Holdings Ltd., a global specialty provider of property and casualty insurance and reinsurance, underwrites agriculture, professional lines, property, marine, energy, casualty and other specialty lines of insurance and catastrophe, property, casualty, professional lines, weather risk and specialty lines of reinsurance. Sompo International is a wholly owned subsidiary of Sompo Holdings, Inc., whose core business encompasses one of the largest property and casualty insurance groups in the Japanese domestic market.

