

Take The Business Of IP To The Next Level

By Fiona Nicolson, President, LES International



I am delighted to be writing to you as the new LESI President and am looking forward very much to the next twelve months and working with our Board and LESI Committees. I also hope to visit many of our societies and listen to how LESI can best provide support to you all.

I would like to thank our outgoing President François Painchaud very much for being our President during the last year and for François' much appreciated contribution to LESI—his focus on 'upping our game' and on moving forward, both our social media and publications platforms.

During my tenure I will say this regularly and often "LESI is a fantastic organisation." In my view LESI is vital for today's world. Our sphere of work is truly global and impacts on the economies and prosperity of every nation around the world.

While our organisation has grown substantially over the last 25 years, so too has the need to have more professionals in licensing who support intellectual property.

In this period we have welcomed new societies, some of which have made great strides in membership whilst others have stood still. I'm clear we need to do more to persuade multi-national businesses, our research universities and SMEs that we have the skills and networks to help them excel in the business of IP.

We are perfectly placed in that many companies now operate or have business in IP in many geographical locations. We have a network of members based in over 90 countries and 33 member societies all over the world—and have amassed so much knowledge and experience in the last 50 or so years that we are all only too happy to share.

I am hoping we can make some further concrete progress in developing our offerings and much of this will come through the leadership and outreach of our LESI Committees in the next year.

Our committees have been tasked with concentrating on

three or four objectives which will make a difference and can be achieved by our next Annual Meeting in Berlin.

We will focus on three things—building our industry committees namely High Tech, Life Science and Chemicals; building our communities and improving communications so that we don't remain one of the best kept secrets in the IP world. We should make sure all IP professionals know of our many achievements as an organisation.

We also look forward to developing our Women In Licensing Alliance which was launched in Yokohama, and to further encouraging and growing our Young Members Congress.

Our past success and our continued strength rest on each one of us who contributes to our organisation. With everyone's help we can achieve so much more in the next year. I understand this is an organisation, for the most part, of volunteers and everyone's time is very precious. We need to work together and focus on the critical priorities that are most valuable to our members—and have fun at the same time.

Our excellent Annual Meeting, which has just concluded in Yokohama, exemplifies everything that is best about LES. The international content of the programme was first class, as were the networking opportunities. We all had a wonderful time meeting old and new friends, which would not have been possible without the immense hard work and dedication of LES Japan and the conference organising committee led so ably by Junko Sugimura. We are so grateful to everyone at LES Japan.

I will say more about detailed plans for the coming year in the next edition of *LES Global News*, but for now I am sure that with the support of all of you, we will have a brilliant year ahead of us and "take the business of IP to the next level."

Thanks,
Fiona



Fiona Nicolson, receives the gavel from François Painchaud.