

President-Elect's Report

Going Forward:

A Stronger LES Family



By Yvonne Chua,
LESI President-Elect

As a home grown IP lawyer, I am blessed that Hong Kong has been uniquely supportive of women advancing their goals and combining family life with career. Being in one of the most dynamic market places in the world, I am always enthusiastic about ensuring we stay ahead of our time. With the Philadelphia meeting fast approaching, I would like to share with you highlights of my recent LES involvements and work progress since my first report in April in preparation of our next LESI term. Special thanks to all members who have made all these possible.

Experiencing Wonderful Meetings—'Learning and Enjoying Society'

My recent LES travels were enriching and most delightful as I deeply felt that LES indeed stands for a 'learning and enjoying society' (as per our Japanese friends) and that each organizing team of the Meeting has truly worked wholeheartedly to achieve excellence. The **Davos Pan European Conference** has provided a remarkable intellectual program at the World Economic Forum, with highly inspiring and diverse speakers under the theme of 'Spirit of Licensing'. Participants from 45 countries also enjoyed wonderful social programs and local flavor in a sparkling mountain atmosphere and the charming aura surrounding Davos. This is all attributable to the great work of LES Switzerland under the leadership of Organizing Chair Philipp Dreier and both past and current Presidents Martin Schneider and Regula Altmann-Jöhl.



Joining hands with President Regula and board members of LES Switzerland.

The **2013 LES Japan Annual General Meeting** in July, which has attained a record high registration, brought me to Shimane where the home of Japanese mythology and the world of modern life co-exist. In this historical place, under the theme of 'Recognition of Diversities, for Fruitful Collaboration', participants were inspired to establish new "En" (Japanese word meaning in the broad sense 'connect, work, and live with people') for developing new, fruitful collaboration, whilst at the same time experiencing unique cultural programs including an excursion to the Adachi Museum housing the 'best Japanese garden in the world'.



Meeting with President Katsumi and board members of LES Japan.

On 19 July, at the 30th anniversary celebration of **LES Philippines**, I was honored to be invited as the Inducting Officer of their New Board of Directors and to present LESI NPC coins to past presidents as they continue their engagement in the society as members of the Council of Advisors. Commencing with a special LES Philippines prayer composed by one of the Directors, the meeting included an impressive video on the society's past activities and another interesting video introducing the new board members, aside of musical performances and a lucky draw. It was truly creative and filled with beautiful surprises.

In each of these three visits, I was grateful for the opportunity specially arranged for meeting with the board, sharing my presidency motto and initiatives and deepening my understanding of their society. I was strongly touched by the col-

laborative spirit of the LES family, the warmth and dedication of the members, and am even more excited to foster and cultivate this core spirit of LES globally.



Induction of President Leslie and board members of LES Philippines.

Joining Hands 攜手

Project leader François Painchaud has reached out to all national society presidents and LESI Committees leadership to actively participate and extend the LESI culture by working on collaborations of all kinds and sharing success stories and best practices. In support, Jim McCarthy reported on an extraordinary story of a rewarding LES experience that speaks to the power of LES global network (see Page 4).



At the forthcoming LESI National President's Council Meeting in Philadelphia, Russell Levine, incoming LES USA/Canada President, will join hands with François to lead a substantive agenda on advancing this project. Invitations have been extended to LES France for sharing how they managed to achieve the 'Society of the Year' Award, and also to other societies, big and small, that have excelled through their devoted and boundless efforts. Excitingly, new awards on 'Most Progressive Society of the Year' and 'Most Outstanding Activity of the Year' will be presented next year in Moscow by the LESI Awards Committee.

Membership Drive

Another key initiative in the next term will be the membership drive throughout the LES Family. Inherent in this initiative will be addressing the questions of 'why should I be an LES member' and 'what is the value of LESI to member societies'. John Walker will lead a small working group to address these questions, and more importantly, recommend ways to implement initiatives and illustrate useful practices adopted by different LES societies. Building on recent considerations by past LESI boards and the National Presidents' Council and joining hands with the Long Range Planning Committee and Chris, this working group will specifically invite sharings by all society leaders and as a first start, at the NPC Meeting in Philadelphia.

Updates on these initiatives will be reported in future issues of the LES Global News. In the meantime, your input on this important issue of how LESI can enhance 'member experience' will be appreciated, and please send your thoughts to John at john.walker@ltman.com.au

Committee Conference Call Platform

LESI Committees are the core of our Society. Recognizing the importance of their contribution to LESI and that active participation is vital, the LESI administration office will provide a quarterly conference call platform for all LESI Committees to facilitate their volunteered work. Starting this fall, this regular communication regime will enable Committee chairs, vice-chairs and LESI board liaisons (with Chris joining in where necessary) to easily connect to one another. With the anticipated change of having only one International Delegates Meeting in one LESI society year as from next term and thus the reduced opportunity for Committee leaders to physically meet, this service will hopefully help them to fulfill their commitment. My appreciation to Chris for having explored at length a medium that is both efficient and cost-effective. There will be a local call-in number for the home country and Chris will be contacting all Committee chairs on details of the set-up including the date and time of each call at a pre-set date that best suits each committee. I am hopeful that this new service will amplify the results of the Committees' hard work, and would appreciate your feedback and suggestions on how LESI may better support your committee.

Establishment of a New LES Society in Thailand

Following attendance at the LESI Rio Conference, the Thailand Organising Committee has held informal meetings with prospective founding members from academia, industry and local IP practitioners. In May, with the Institute of Creative Economy—Bangkok University, a networking event called 'IP Move' was organised as an open platform for participants to join, learn and share their experiences, cases and latest activities related to IP. Another IP Move meeting will be held later in the year, which will include a reception for prospective LES Thailand members. Thanks to Patricia Bunye, Heinz Goddar and LES Japan for their leadership in this project.

Ever since the announcement of my president appointment, I feel blessed to be showered with not simply assurances but many actions of support, including those specifically by my mother society **LES China**. These actions have empowered me with further strength and drive to pursue my LES passion for the coming term. The past months have been resoundingly meaningful and enjoyable, yet there is no resting on any laurels as there is so much more that each of us can contribute. With excitement, I eagerly look forward to your continued participation as we join hands in building a *Stronger LES Family and closer*. ■