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**“Strong IP Drives The Bottom Line” Moves To Japan**

*By Peter Hess,  
President, LES International*

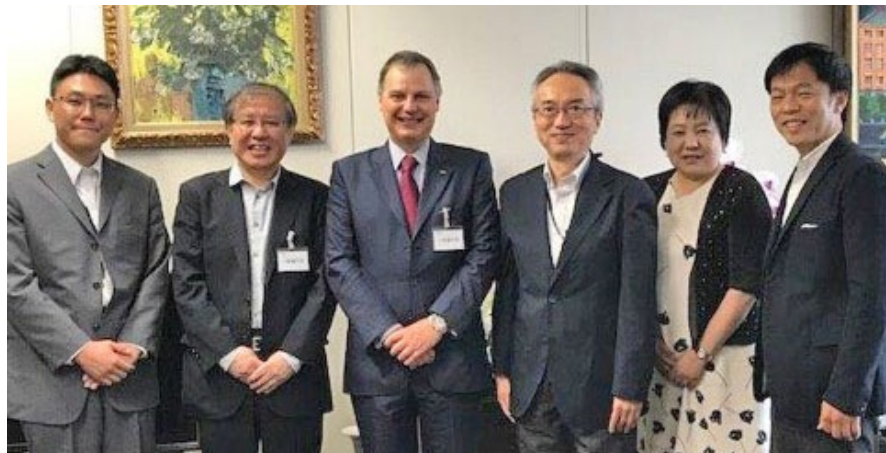


Traveling to Japan is always an experience, particularly if you have the chance to join the LES Japan Annual Meeting. On invitation by LES Japan’s President Junko Sugimura, I had the honor to join this year’s Annual Meeting on July 14 and 15 in the wonderful city of Kobe. The meeting itself was very well organized and had—beyond excellent presentations—also a wonderful social program. It was a particular honor that the whole group was welcomed by the Major of the City of Kobe, Mr. Kizo Hisamoto.

Before joining the conference in Kobe, the Board of LES Japan also organized a meeting with the Deputy Commissioner of the Japan Patent Office (JPO), Mr. Kunihiko Shimano, and the Chief Judge of the Intellectual Property High Court, Mr. Misao Shimizu. The Deputy Commissioner was particularly interested in LES’s collaboration with the European Patent Office, with which we work together to establish a joint educational teaching program dealing with technology transfer and licensing. He was also very interested to learn about the collaboration of LES with the Chinese Patent Office, with which we will hold a seminar on various topics of licensing and technology transfer in Beijing in November 2018. Mr. Shimano expressed a desire of the JPO to continue to work even closer together with LES Japan.

Also, Chief Judge Shimizu recognized the importance of the work of LES Japan. He was particularly interested to learn to which extent “Non-Producing Entities” (NPEs) can enforce their patent rights in Europe, and particularly Germany.

With best wishes to all LES Members worldwide, I remain  
Peter K. Hess,  
*President of LES International*



LES International President Peter Hess visits Japan. From left: Wataru Imamura, Director JPO; Makoto Ogino, President-Elect LES Japan; Peter Hess; Kunihiko Shimano, Deputy Commissioner JPO; Junko Sugimura; and Masahiro Shibata, Director JPO.