



**LESI Committees:**

***End of Year Report for the 2022 International Management and Delegates Meeting – May 8, 2022***

*Submitted: April 6, 2022 (date)*

**FINAL**

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<b>Committee Name</b>	<b>Membership Committee</b>
<b>Chairs and Vice Chairs</b>	Yorikatsu HOHOKABE (LES Japan) Héctor CHAGOYA (LES Mexico) Alexander CIZEK (LES Austria) David SWAIN (LES China & Hong-Kong) Guillermo CRIADO (LES Spain & Portugal)
<b>LESI Board Liaison</b>	José Miguel Lissen (LESI Vice President)

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**1. Priorities**

**Objectives and strategy**

The Membership Committee is responsible for managing membership and the membership recruitment and retention programs for LESI, as well as those of Member Societies requesting the Committee's assistance.

This will be done by reviewing the qualifications Member Societies apply to become an LES member, monitoring compliance with the Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws of LES International. In particular, with the obligations for Member Societies as set out in Sections 1 and 2 of Article VIII thereof, assisting candidate societies to meet membership criteria and examining any application for membership of candidate societies. Also, the Committee must assist Member Societies to increase their activities and make recommendations on any of the foregoing.

**2. Accomplishments**

A document was prepared by Yorikatsu Hohokabe (February 2021), intended to be published in LES Nouvelles. However, Audrey (Then President) explained to Yorikatsu that the article would be best suited as a report in particular at the IMDM and to the LESI Board as it specifically addresses what each national society needs to understand and focus on as a “member” within the LESI framework. She mentioned that they will most certainly circulate it as part of the papers for the IMDM in May 2021 and she hopes those involved will carefully consider the facts (and the wisdom) set out in this article. The Membership Committee does not have any feedback on the use of such document.

**3. Recent developments**

**(1) Group Membership matter**

The Membership Committee was looking closely the development of the group Membership offered by LES-USA Canada and proposed to JP (President) (as we were not notified of the Board liaison at the time of submission), to conduct a study by contacting the leadership of all societies to request information on their views or practices for group membership in order to assess compliance of the natural person requirement of the LESI By-laws and elaborate, based on such survey, a guideline to all societies for group membership.

We were requested by JP not to make a survey due to an “overload” of surveys to societies, although the LESI office (Dana Colarulli) established that he would make contact to follow up on the study.

At this point the initiative is halted pending a clear decision by the LESI Board. The Membership Committee is still concerned about LESI By-laws interpretation and compliance on this issue and respectfully requests the LESI Board a clear indication on the convenience or not of contacting societies for this study and making the guidelines.

In October, 2021, Membership Committee is asked by JP to put together a reasonable plan for the LESI Board to consider, with a goal of implementation some of the proposals between now and the LESI 2022 Annual Conference next May in Venice as we approach LESI's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, including an overall proposed membership recruiting plan to changes to the membership structure maintained by LES Societies.

At WPM held in Honolulu in February 2022, Yorikatsu made a presentation on MC's proposal regarding;

- (i) Membership structure,
- (ii) Individual LESI membership, and
- (iii) Way of operation of LESI or local LES conference/meeting using AI-based translating device/software.

It was revealed at the 2022 WPM that LESI Board had conducted a survey on various topics including group membership. And Ichiro (President-Elect) summarized the comments obtained from the survey regarding group membership from Society Presidents in short as follows:

*< Societies were split on their support (on group membership). Some saw the benefits to increase the number of industry representatives within LESI. At least two organizations (B&I and USA-Canada) (Note by Yorikatsu: At least three organizations (Japan, B&I, USA-Canada)) already have group or corporate memberships. One society president said that they preferred individual membership and others said they were too small for group memberships in their country to really have an impact, but none opposed considering.>*

Various discussions regarding group membership were made at the 2022 WPM. JP (President) mentioned that over the next months, we should bear down on this and look at a number of models, socialize them, and then at the delegates meeting consider some of them and share them.

Since then, Yorikatsu has prepared "**Memo regarding Group Membership (GM) taken from National President Survey and Discussions at the 2022 WPM**" and also "**Excerpt of clauses of LESI By-laws**" which are relevant to group membership (GM)" for better understanding of what By-Laws stipulates regarding membership prior to discussion on group membership matter by other Societies. Yorikatsu is also preparing model sheets which show features and value propositions of the group membership systems which have already been implemented by LES Japan, LES USA/Canada and LES Britain & Ireland, respectively ("**Type of group membership implemented by LES Japan, LES USA/Canada and LES Britain & Ireland**"), for the other Society's consideration. These materials will be provided at the committee meeting and/or IMDM in Venice in May, 2022.

## **(2) New groups interested in establishing local LES society.**

### **1) Greece**

On behalf of the Membership Committee, Alexander Cizek has been in contact with Nikos Minas and Kostas Vavekis, who have expressed interest in forming a new Member Society in Greece. Alexander has been providing information and guidance on the first steps and the committee is following up on that request. In last fall, Alexander has answered several organizational questions and provided further guidance, however, at the end of last year, there was no more reply from them. Alexander will continue to monitor the next steps of Mr. Nikos Minas and Mr. Kostas Vavekis and to be of further assistance to them.

### **2) Vietnam**

JP (LESI President) was contacted in early September, 2021 by Ms. Michelle Ray-Jones (President of LES Thailand) for her interest in forming LES Vietnam. JP sent email to Hector, and then Dana emailed to Michelle with copied to Yorikatsu, sending the MANNUAL ON APPLYING FOR MEMBERSHIP OF LESI (rev. March 2021).

Michelle returned her email to JP/Dana as well as Hector/Yorikatsu. Yorikatsu, on behalf of MC, returned his email to Michelle, mentioning the followings:

*I would like to particularly point out that for a membership of LESI and establishing a LES society, there is a requirement of having at least 30 individual members for*

*admission and a reasonable balance between industry and non-industry members, and having a reasonable geographic spread given the country or region covered. As a first step, we suggest that you study and familiarize yourself with the manual and then provide us with your views and plans on how to build up a community and found an association in Vietnam that later on could possibly join LESI. The LESI Membership Committee may be able to help with suggestions for topics and speakers for seminars and workshops to be held in Vietnam and provide guidance in the further process.*

Yorikatsu believes that LES Thailand would be an excellent mentor society for assisting promoters who wish to establish a new LES society in Vietnam.

Chikako (VP, Asia-Pacific Committee) emailed to Yorikatsu on November 12, 2021 informing that there was a discussion in APC meeting about the interest in forming LES Vietnam, and Audrey suggested LES Japan to be a mentor Society. Yorikatsu returned his email to Chikako, requesting her to confirm whether Audrey or APC is formally requesting LES Japan to be a mentor Society, and telling her that (1) Membership Committee (MC) is aware of such interest in forming LES Vietnam since JP informed it to MC by his September 9 email which describes Michelle (President of LES Thailand)'s desire of forming LES Vietnam (Sept. 7), (2) Dana kindly sent Manual on Applying for Membership of LESI to Michelle (Sept. 8), (3) Michelle sent her email to JP, Dana, Yorikatsu and Hector for introducing her regarding the subject (Sept. 9), (4) Yorikatsu returned his email to Michelle (Sept. 10), informing that since Michelle's colleagues of her firm have devoted themselves to establish LES Thailand and also her firm has a local office in Vietnam, the experience of LES Thailand for forming a local LES Society would be valuable resource and LES Thailand would be most suitable to become a mentor LES society for Vietnam to establish predecessor association regarding IP which shall have activities at least for a few years before they apply for LESI membership. Yorikatsu added in his email to Chikako that it is his understanding that MC has not yet received any official request from the founding group for LES Vietnam and when MC receives such request, MC would consult and request a society to be a mentor society (LESI By-Laws, Article VIII-Section 1 (procedure for the admission of new Member Societies). Michelle returned her email to Yorikatsu (Sept. 10), saying that (1) following your good advice, we will study the manual, and we will provide you with our views on establishing a community in Vietnam that could eventually turn into an LES society there.

Chikako returned her email to Yorikatsu on November 23, informing that Audrey understands that (1) LES Thailand might be suitable as a mentor society, (2) LES Thailand would support on its own initiative, while Audrey would function as a kind of parent, and (3) the founding group would have active domestic work in Vietnam for about 5 years and then would apply for LESI membership.

Yorikatsu returned his email to Chikako, asking her to confirm that Michelle would agree on behalf of LES Thailand that LES Thailand would be a mentor society for establishing LES society in Vietnam, and support the founding group in Vietnam, and adding that MC would be happy to assist or advise if they would like MC to do so.

### **3) Romania**

On behalf of the Membership Committee, Alexander Cizek has been in contact with Claudiu Feraru and Alexandru Marin, who have expressed interest in forming a new Member Society in Romania. Alexander has been providing information and guidance on the first steps and the committee is following up on that request. At the end of last year, both Claudiu Feraru and Alexandru Marin finally managed to become members of LES Britain & Ireland, which membership they desired as they would be able to follow the language. However, before that the society had to make certain amendments in order to be able to allow non-UK/Ireland-residents to become members, which they finally managed thanks to the great efforts of the society's national president Patrick Cantrill. Alexander will continue to monitor the next steps of Mr. Claudiu Feraru and Prof. Alexandru Marin and to be of further assistance to them.

### (3) Follow-up on Societies

We need feedback on the continuation of the special projects of ailing societies.

**LES Poland:** With the new board, the society has start to become more active; however, the way to get there and have regular events, thereby attract more members, and be under control of its financial situation seems still to be a longer one.

At the end of last year, LES Poland provided the following update concerning its activities in 2021:

#### Recent activities:

- June 2021 - General meeting of the association.
- Setting up LinkedIn profile for LES Poland: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/les-poland>.
- Regular updates of LES Poland website (in Polish and English): [Home - LES Poland \(les-poland.pl\)](https://les-poland.pl).
- Running monthly webinars (called LESinars) with members of the association presenting selected topics (e.g. practical issues and problems related to licensing, licensing of SEPs, exhaustion of trademark protection right) followed by a discussion – so far four meetings took place, with 5 participants taking part on average.

#### Future activities

- Continuation of the LESinars – next meeting planned for 12 January. Further meetings will be organized if there are presenters-volunteers.
- Sending regular emails with information on interesting external webinars/meetings on topics of interest for the association.
- Preparing joint publications e.g. on projected amendment to the Polish Industrial Property Law, launch of the UPC, perhaps in some IP-related periodical (to be discussed).
- Organizing a conference (in-person/hybrid depending on a current COVID pandemic status).

#### Current membership information:

- 19 members – one new member joined this year, another one will join starting from January 2022.

At the same time, LES Poland asked for the following potential assistance from the LESI Membership Committee:

- Polish group would like to be more involved in the international ideas and initiatives, such as joint publications, conferences, etc. Regular email updates on the activities of LESI would be appreciated, as we could then share these news with the members of our association and show them the opportunities associated with their membership.
- It would be appreciated if LESI could promote the LESinars e.g. on LinkedIn (they are held in Polish but nevertheless it could help to increase coverage).

The MC advised as follows:

- You need to contact the LESI Secretary Dana Colarulli ([dana@lesi.org](mailto:dana@lesi.org)) on this, so he may include you/your society in the email loop for the regular news email on meetings, seminars and workshops of other societies and committees. In fact, your national president should be receiving this kind of news emails anyway; if not, please let us know.
- You should contact the LESI Secretary Dana Colarulli ([dana@lesi.org](mailto:dana@lesi.org)), as he may include your society's products and information in this kind of regular news email format. If you incur any problem on this, please let me know.

At last, LES Poland was planning a webinar focused on potential introduction of patent-linkage in Poland in the light of draft amendment of the reimbursement act. It was to be held on 16 March 2022, 5pm.

- LESinar #6 - Draft amendment to the Reimbursement Act - a proposal to introduce a patent-linkage in Poland - LES Poland ([les-poland.pl](https://les-poland.pl))
- <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:6904354734379991040>.

Upon inquiry, the information on this webinar was to be published in the “Events around the globe” section at LESI website.

Upon confirmation of David Massey, LES Poland has caught up with its arrears in dues and has even paid this year’s dues already.

Despite the above very pleasing developments, we suggest continuing the special project of guiding/accompanying LES Poland in its further development. Resp.: Alexander Cizek

**LES Malaysia:** The society seems to be having trouble to build membership. Membership Committee latest recommendation to the LESM President, was to contact Education Committee, Asia-Pacific Committee and the YMC of LESI and also David Swain (Chair of YMC and Co-Chair of Membership Committee) for help in building events and education program. Audrey (LESI President) also kindly responded to LESM President with her suggestion to use LESI virtual meetings such as HTBC Asia, IP Licensing Course of LESI IUGT and LESI virtual annual meeting. We also suggest to continue the work with LES Malaysia. Resp.: Yorikatsu Hohokabe

**LES Korea:** The Membership Committee has not current information on the Society Facts. Follow up on the information of the society by Yorikatsu Hohokabe did not result in the society updating. The LESI office latest report is that they had not updated back in July 2021 and it seems the haven’t done so yet. We also suggest to continue the work with LES Korea. Resp.: Yorikatsu Hohokabe

#### 4. Plans

As following up the 2022 WPM, Membership Committee may have meeting regarding group membership matter with LESI Board or at the IMDM in Venice. At such meeting, the materials such as follows which Yorikatsu has prepared may be provided for the sake of discussion:

- **“Memo regarding Group Membership (GM) taken from National President Survey and Discussions at the 2022 WPM”**
- **“Excerpt of clauses of LESI By-laws”**
- **“Type of group membership implemented by LES Japan, LES USA/Canada and LES Britain & Ireland”**

#### 5. YMC

In 2021, the YMC tried to continue its tradition with events/webinars hosted around the world, including its coveted regional conferences, this year held as online and hybrid events (a mixture of online and in-person meetings where safe and possible to do so). This resulted in:

- the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual LES YMC Pan-American Conference hosted in New York, USA. The event had **145 registrants**, 63 of which were not LES members, with around **81 attendees**. The event drew in young members from Asia (27); Europe (35); Latin America (35); and USA and Canada (47). 90 of the registrants expressed interest in one or more LESI or LES (USA & Canada) sectors or communities;
- the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual LES YMC Pan-European Conference hosted in Milan, Italy. The event had **116 registrants**, 33 of which were not LES members, with around **80 attendees**. The event drew in young members from: Austria (1); Benelux (4); Brazil (2); Britain & Ireland (4); Czech Republic (4); France (1); Germany (3); Hong Kong (1); India (1); Italy (40); Japan (2); Mexico (4); Philippines (3); Portugal (1); Spain (2); Singapore (1); Turkey (1); and USA (8); and
- the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual LES YMC Asia-Pacific Conference hosted in Manila, the Philippines. The event had **154 registrants** from Australia, Canada, China, France, Hungary, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Peru, Philippines, Singapore, Spain, South Africa, Sudan, Switzerland, South Korea, Malaysia, Thailand, Turkey, USA, and with around **70-80 actual attendees**.

With the above in mind, there are a number of non-LES members attending these events, and the goal should be for the coming months to capitalize on this and to try to encourage those non-members to join LES.

#### 6. Concerns and challenges

The Membership Committee requests the LESI Board to communicate if there are any Societies of particular concern or activities related to Membership building where the Membership Committee should be engaged. The following initiatives will need approval by the LESI Board:

- a. **Societies fact sheets and reports:** The management of the societies fact sheets historically requires consulting each report to extract the data, which in addition is grouped by meeting where the Society submitted the Society fact-sheet and reports. This makes it difficult to assess if there is not a repository where previously a member of the committee has that information already consolidated. With current tools and technology this fact sheet may be automated to a survey/online format report that could be then exported to a sheet where analytics could be done easier and faster by the Membership Committee independently of former data capture.