

**LES SINGAPORE**  
**PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT**  
**At AGM held on Thursday 27 May 2010**

At the last Annual General Meeting held on 22 May 2009, the new Executive Committee elected for the term 2009-2010 comprised: -

President	:	Mr. Chiew Yu Sarn
Vice-President	:	Mr. Suresh Sachi
Hon Secretary	:	Ms. Sharon Chiang
Hon Treasurer	:	Mr. Daniel Koh
Members	:	Mr. Wilson Wong
		Ms. Audrey Yap
		Dr. Sze Tiam Lin
		Mr. Max Ng
		Mr. Marcus Phuah
		Mr. Edward Tay

The meeting also approved the appointment of Dr. Alex Yu and Mr. Michael Goh as the Honorary Independent Auditors.

At the beginning of my term as President, we had limited resources, as the surpluses of past years had dwindled. Nevertheless, I felt and many of the EXCO agreed with me, that LES needed to re-focus on our core programme – education and networking. We had to become relevant again to our core constituents, IP licensing and tech transfer professionals both in industry and in legal practice by providing meaningful activities and an enriching educational programme. We had to do more, with less. That meant planning and organizing more events and meetings, but with fiscal prudence.

Our EXCO worked hard towards this goal, organizing a number of educational and networking activities throughout the last work-year. Earlier in the year, one of my EXCO members, who is also a member of other larger and better resourced IP associations, mentioned to me that, for a small society, we are holding a lot of activities. Meetings were well-attended, especially our last event on World IP Day, which drew nearly 100 participants from businesses, government agencies and professional firms. Despite this, we actually spent less money on events than last year.

For this I must thank my EXCO members, especially our chair of the education & training sub-committee, Audrey Yap, for all your efforts. We are a volunteer society, without a permanent staff or secretariat, so all the work was done by members, out of their own time and in the midst of a busy work schedule. For your dedication and hard work, on behalf of the Society, I thank you.

**A\*STAR-LES Joint Seminars**

We held our first event on 29 July 2009 at Biopolis. This was a Joint LES- A\*STAR Seminar on “The Global Business of IP” which featured distinguished speakers such as Adam Liberman, then President of LES International, Guy Proulx of Transpacific IP as well as Cynthia Cannady of IPSEVA. The event attracted an attendance of over a hundred participants, one of the largest turnouts for an LES Singapore event.

Over the course of the work year, we did a few more joint seminars with A\*STAR on various topics, continuing our focus on providing education and networking opportunities for IP licensing and tech transfer professionals. In this regard, I especially want to thank Suresh Sachi, the Vice-President and also past President of LES Singapore, for his invaluable help in enabling the Society to hold its events, including today's AGM at A\*STAR premises. This has allowed us to do more with limited resources.

**LES Delegates and General Meeting**

In June and October 2009, LES Singapore sent two delegates – myself as President and Audrey Yap who serves on the LESI Asia-Pacific Committee as Vice-Chair – to attend the LES Delegates

meetings in Manila and San Francisco. This is part of our commitment to LESI to participate in International Delegates Meetings and one of the agreed performance indicators for active national societies within the LESI fraternity. These annual meetings also provide opportunities for our national society to interact and collaborate with LES International and other LES societies. In particular, this has resulted in a regional meeting jointly organized by LES Philippines and LES Singapore in Manila earlier this month.

We have also invited President of LESI, Mr Patrick O'Reilley, to visit Singapore in August 2010, and will be organizing a conference with WIPO to coincide with his visit.

### **Collaborations with other organizations**

We held a dialogue with IPOS in August 2009 to explore ways in which LES can work with IPOS. This has resulted in an invitation to send speakers and to participate at the by-invitation-only SIPO-IPOS Conference in China.

### **Basic Licensing Course**

The Basic Licensing Course is an important part of LES Singapore's educational programme, providing a broad yet practical foundational curriculum to train new IP licensing professionals. The course was held on 23-24 September 2009, for the first time in collaboration with IP Academy. This collaboration enabled us to tap into IP Academy's marketing reach. We also benefited from the use of IP Academy's training facilities at Maxwell Road at a very reasonable cost. The Basic Licensing Course attracted 14 participants, a few of which signed up as members of LES.

I would like to thank all the tutors who gave their valuable time to conduct the Course.

### **World IP Day**

On April 26, 2010, LES Singapore together with IP Academy and WIPO held the first World IP Day event in Singapore. Because this is Singapore, the theme for the event was "Linking the World through Innovation and Food". This attracted a large number of participants, nearly one hundred, including many from the food and beverage industry. The event featured speakers from the food industry, speaking about their experience with innovation and IP in their business.

### **Joint LES Philippines & LES Singapore Meeting**

In May 2010 we held our first joint ASEAN society meeting between LES Philippines and LES Singapore in Manila. This event attracted between 80 – 100 participants from Philippine government agencies, universities, industry and law firms over two days. LES Singapore sent a contingent of 5 speakers to support the event.

### **Year's Events**

Date	Topic	Location	Attendance
29 July 2009	"The Global Business of IP"	Biopolis, Singapore	100+
23-24 September 2009	Basic Licensing Course	IP Academy, Singapore	14
23 Feb 2010	Joint ASTAR & LES Singapore Seminar on "Successful Licensing of Technology in Emerging Markets"	Biopolis, Singapore	23
10 Mar 2010	Joint LES Singapore & A*STAR Seminar on "IP, Innovation & Strategies"	Biopolis, Singapore	20

26 April 2010	World IP Day	MND Auditorium	100
4-5 May 2010	Joint LES Philippines & LES Singapore Meeting"	Shangri-la Makati, Philippines	80-100
Bimonthly	Regular meetings of the Executive Committee	Offices of EXCO members	EXCO members

### **Membership**

The current membership of LES Singapore stands at 31, up from 18 as at May 2009. The membership continues to be a good mix of legal practitioners and licensing and business professionals from companies, research institutions and universities.

We look forward to continuing to grow our membership, both by inducting new members as well as attracting old members to rejoin.

Finally, I wish to again thank the members of the executive committee for their support and contributions throughout the past year.

Chiew Yu Sarn  
President