Meetings In Geneva Launch Groundbreaking Initiatives

By James E. Malackowski,
President, LES International

LESI held three separate but related meetings in Geneva, Switzerland, during the final week of January: the Expanded Board Planning Meeting, the second meeting of the National Presidents’ Council (NPC) and the Global Technology Impact Forum (GTIF) with the concurrent Invent For Humanity Technology Transfer Exchange Fair. It was an incredible five days and the culmination of more than 18 months and thousands of hours of work, not only by those who carried our LES flag to Switzerland, but by many other LES members around the world. By all accounts each of these meetings was an amazing success with GTIF representing a fundamental step forward in the leadership role that LESI has long earned regarding global technology transfer issues.

Attendees of the Expanded Board Planning Meeting were the LESI board, past-presidents, national presidents and committee chairs. The meeting included a detailed discussion of LESI administrative needs and the benefits which may be achieved from a part-time professional executive director. The consensus of those present was that the board should move forward to consider such a role. Considerable discussion was also had regarding use of Paid Conference Organizers (PCO’s) to assist in the on-site logistics of our annual conferences. We will be considering the benefits of establishing a preferred relationship with one or more PCOs.

Following the Planning Meeting, the second meeting of the newly formed National Presidents’ Council (NPC) was held for all current and past national presidents. The agenda of the NPC was almost entirely centered on the sharing of best practices regarding Society management. The next meeting of the NPC will be during the International Management and Delegates Meeting taking place at the annual conference in Auckland.

In GTIF we took on a project larger and more significant that any of us imagined. Total meeting participation was well over 150 and exceeded all forecasts. In the end, we had more than 40 non-government organizations (NGOs) and several patent offices participate as well as five national delegations (China, Arab Countries, Turkey, Hong Kong and Philippines) present their case for doing IP business in their country. LESI and its strategic meeting partners (WIPO, WTO, ICC and CAI) are all enthusiastic about repeating the event next year with an expanded LES team! Thanks to everyone who contributed, but a special thanks to the event sponsors including Bardehle Pagenberg, Transpacific IP, the Intellectual Property

President’s Message, continued on Page 8
LES France, continued from page 6


Then we had—as always very appreciated by our members—the latest law cases in Pharma by André Bourgouin, Propriété Intellectuelle, and IPSEN or in the EU by Emmanuel Gougé, Cabinet Marcus Partners. And at last, (but not least!) a success story with a presentation of a very interesting French biotech named Innate Pharma by Yannis Morel – Executive VP Innate Pharma, who explained the key role played by licensing in their amazing development.

In addition to this important full conference program, the French Sector Committees were very active in 2011. The well established French Life Sciences Committee organized two conferences, one in March with an interesting presentation on French regional competitiveness engines (“Pole de Compétitivité”) as well as Pharma cases laws in U.S., Europe and Japan. The second one was organized in October with the following topics: “Genetic Resources under the CBD and the Nagoya Protocol, An Industry Perspective,” by Axel Braun, Head International Developments, Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd, “Traditional Knowledge And Industrial Property Rights: Challenges And Definitions,” by Leila Mamoni, International Centre on Traditional Knowledge, and finally “News and Update of French Bio-Ethical Laws,” by Anne-Laure Morin Avocat.

The Youths Committee, (led by Catherine Lafarge, LES France Secretary) created in 2010, was a great success in 2011 with more than 70 participating members. This newly started committee has developed a large range of activities providing a dynamic network and exchanges with more experienced professionals on business practices. They are also holding specific conferences with subjects of particular interest for members, such as “How to Use New Tax Options to Optimize Innovation Development.”

Finally a third new committee “Arbitration and Mediation” was successfully created in 2011, and has organized two much appreciated working sessions during the year.

Encouraged by the increasing and recurrent attendance of LES France members to the conferences, the Board of our Society will continue to optimize this part of LES France activities which has been recognized as a real added value for our members.

The 2011-2012 Society year is passing quickly and there is much to be done. I look forward to seeing you in Auckland and, as always, am eager to hear your thoughts on how to deliver even more value to our Member Societies, and through them, their individual members.