

## **2002 Annual Report LES Philippines**

LES Philippines enlivened its monthly board meetings in 2002 by inviting speakers from government offices and other organizations with objectives complementary to its own. Among the notable guests for the year were: (1) Ms. Carmen G. Peralta, Director of Documentation, Information and Technology Transfer Bureau (DITTB) of the Philippine Intellectual Property Office; and (2) Ms. Alegria Limjoco, President of the Philippine Retailers Association (PRA). The DITTB is the government agency which reviews, among others, all license agreements sought to be exempted from compliance with the provisions of the Philippine Intellectual Property Code on voluntary licensing. On the other hand, the PRA is the leading association of retail establishments in the country, whose members occasionally require assistance from LES Philippines on various licensing issues.

Throughout the year, LES Philippines' members worked on the proposed Model Manual on License Agreements. The project aims to compile various decisions of the DITTB on the agreements presented to it for review

Preparations were also commenced for the holding of a workshop on basic licensing for new and prospective members of LES Philippines. LES Philippines hopes to hold the workshop using the materials developed by LES USA/Canada.

The year was marked by the turn over of leadership of LES Philippines from Alonzo Q. Ancheta to Alex Ferdinand S. Fider. Under the new set of officers, it is expected that LES Philippines will continue to promote the education and networking thrusts of LES, as well as increasing the membership of the Philippine group.

LES Philippines is currently working on its accreditation as a Mandatory Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) provider. Under Bar Matter No. 850 of the Philippine Supreme Court, members of the Bar are required to complete a certain number of continuing legal education units over a period of time. Considering that majority of licensing executives in the Philippines are lawyers, it is anticipated that the MCLE accreditation of LES Philippines will result in an increase in its members.

As in previous years, LES Philippines continues to work closely with the Intellectual Property Association of the Philippines (IPAP). A major joint project in the works for LES Philippines and IPAP is a presentation on Fundable Startups in the Areas of Biotechnology and Bioinformatics.