

2007 Annual Report LES Philippines

LES Philippines had the honor and pleasure of welcoming LESI President Ron Grudziecki to Manila in January 2007. Notwithstanding Ron's limited time in the country, the Board of LES Philippines gave him a glimpse into the preparations for the LESI 2009 International Conference to be held in Makati City, Metro Manila, and an opportunity to enjoy Philippine hospitality.

Throughout the year, LES Philippines also strengthened its ties with the Department of Science & Technology [DOST] through various activities, including providing advice on, and advocating the passage of, the National Technology Transfer Law. A bill entitled "An Act Providing the Framework and Support System for the Ownership, Management, Use, and Commercialization of Intellectual Property Generated From R&D Funded By Government" has been filed in the Philippine Senate, with the support of LES Philippines.

DOST has also tapped LES Philippines as a possible sponsor of the local equivalent of Newcastle University's Knowledge House, a one-stop center to match licensors and licensees, assist them in contract drafting, mediation, valuation and their other requirements, in cooperation with local universities [University of the Philippines, Ateneo de Manila University, University of Santo Tomas, De La Salle University, Mapua Institute of Technology].

LES Philippines also conducted training workshops for DOST on negotiating and drafting license agreements, and facilitated role playing games, using materials generously provided by LES ANZ.

In October 2007, a forum on "Creating the Philippines' Silicon Valley" was held, tackling how Asian countries are using the Silicon Valley model to develop technology startups. This event was immediately followed by "Power Networking", which was meant to provide a fresh twist to the members' interaction. Using the "speed networking" model, participants had a series of 3-minute one-on-one conversations, enabling them to meet up to 20 new business contacts in an hour. While many of our members were enlivened with this new approach, some expressed a preference for more traditional cocktail events.