

WINDS FROM JAPAN

The Licensing Executives Society Japan

AIPLA-LES Japan Joint Meeting 2025: WIPO IP day

By **Tomoko NOGUCHI** *

LES Japan hosted the 18th AIPLA-LES Japan Joint in-person meeting on April 7, as a part of the annual “WIPO IP Day” event, which was held on April 26. The first meeting was held back in 2005 and continued annually thereafter until 2019. It was cancelled only in 2020 due to COVID-19, and online meetings were held in both 2021 and 2022. The 2025 version was held as an in-person meeting, as in 2023 and 2024.

The 18th meeting in 2025 was moderated by Ms. Tomoko Noguchi, Vice President of LES Japan, with full support from Mr. Kevin Kunzendorf, Chairman of the AIPLA IPPJ Steering Committee. Following opening remarks by Ms. Kim Van Voorhis, AIPLA President, and Ms. Chikako Hashimoto, President of LES Japan, presenters

from AIPLA and LES Japan gave presentations on hot topics in intellectual property, as below:

1. **[AIPLA] What to Expect from Trump 2.0**
Presented by Mr. Chris Bezak (Studebaker & Brackett)
2. **[LES] From Theory to Practice: How a Japanese Company Helped Shape UPC Case Law**
Presented by Mr. Andrew Yen (Panasonic IP Management)
3. **[AIPLA] Hot Topics in US (incl. cases to watch)**
Presented by Mr. James Abe (Alston & Bird)
4. **[LES] Current Landscape of Startups and IP Support in Japan**
Presented by Mr. Takeshi Izuka (Iizuka International Patent Office)



Pictured (clockwise, starting at upper left): Chris Bezak, Andrew Yen, James Abe, Takeshi Izuka, reception, session participants, Chikako Hashimoto, Kim Van Voorhis

One of the great features of this joint meeting is the lively Q&A session that follows each presentation. This year, presentations were given on four highly diverse and popular themes, and there was an overwhelming number of questions, opinions, and comments, more than could be addressed during the meeting. The meeting was successfully concluded after closing remarks from Mr. Kevin Kunzendorf and Mr. Shoei Imai, President-elect of LES Japan.

In addition, at the reception following the joint meeting, many discussions continued in lively conversations throughout the reception, and many

participants were still talking even after the closing time, promising to see each other again next year in Tokyo.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all the speakers, as well as to the Kanto Training Committee, who worked hard to organize the meeting, for achieving the goal of this meeting: to "deepen understanding of the theme through discussion while deepening international friendships."

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\* *Director, Licensing, Nokia Solutions and Networks Japan G.K*

## 2025 LES Japan Annual Meeting

### By Yasuo FUJII\*

LES Japan held its Annual Meeting on July 11th and 12th, 2025 in Kanazawa City, Ishikawa Prefecture. The Meeting was a great success with more than 230 participants!

### Excursions

Before the Meeting started, in the morning on July 11th, the following two excursions were held in parallel.

(1) The Golf Competition was held at the KOMATSU Golf Club, which is one of the most beautiful golf courses in Japan. The participants enjoyed not only playing golf but also the beauty in harmony with nature.

(2) The Tour took the participants to: (i) gold leaf pasting experience at HAKUICHI, Inc.; (ii) Lunch at FUSION 21 in the 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art; and (iii) Japanese traditional sweets (Wagashi) making experience at the Ishikawa Local Products Center. The participants enjoyed traditional crafts and culture.



Golf course



Experience at HAKUICHI

### Opening Ceremony

The Meeting under the theme of "The Future Created by Kanazawa's Traditional Wisdom and New Era of AI" started with opening remarks by Mr. Hiroyuki

Kogure, the Chair of organizing committee. Then Ms. Chikako Hashimoto, President of LES Japan, declared the Meeting open. Furthermore, we had a greeting by Mr. Hiroshi Hase, Governor of Ishikawa Prefecture, followed by the heartfelt video message from Mr. Jean-Christophe Troussel, President of LES International.



Mr. Kogure



Ms. Hashimoto

### Keynote Speech 1

Mr. Masanari Furumoto, General Manager, Intellectual Property Department Office of CTO, Komatsu Ltd., delivered the Keynote Speech introducing his company's business and IP strategies. The participants learned a lot from the company's Mid-term Management Plan and IP activities in global development.



Mr. Furumoto



Mr. Fujiu

## Keynote Speech 2

Professor Makoto Fujiu, Faculty of Transdisciplinary Sciences, Institute of Philosophy in Interdisciplinary Sciences, Kanazawa University, delivered another Keynote Speech introducing his activities in development and social implementation of AI within Kanazawa, a tourist city. The participants enjoyed his unique and cutting-edge research utilizing AI.

## Banquet

After the Keynote Speeches, the Banquet started with an opening address by our President Ms. Chikako Hashimoto, a congratulatory speech by Mr. Hiroyuki Shinbo, Deputy Mayor of Kanazawa City, followed by a toast by Mr. Yoshiyuki Iwai, Honorary Advisor of LES Japan and past Commissioner of the Japan Patent Office. Participants enjoyed stimulating conversations with a very nice buffet serving Kanazawa specialties. They also enjoyed a very beautiful sound of KOTO, the traditional Japanese string instruments, performed by Ms. Airi Kitamura, a famous KOTO player.



Mr. Iwai



Mr. Imai



Banquet

## After-Party (Friendship Night)

Following the closing remarks of the Banquet by Mr. Shoji Imai, President-Elect of LES Japan, the After-Party was held until late in the night, where members further enjoyed friendly face-to-face communication in a casual atmosphere.



After-party

## Concurrent Workshops

The second day of the Meeting started in the morning on July 12th with the concurrent three Workshops by: (1) U.S. Issues Working Group (WG) and European Issues WG; (2) Asian Issues Studies WG; and (3) Healthcare WG and Industry-Government-Academia Collaboration WG. Members attended the Workshops that interested them.



Concurrent Workshop

## Panel Discussion

Following the Workshops, a Panel Discussion was held under the theme of "AI and Business Activities", with four panelists: Mr. Mitsuru Araki (Director, Intellectual Property Division, Bridgestone Corporation), Mr. Tomonori Okuwaki (CHUGAI PHARMACEUTICAL CO., LTD., Associated Vice President/Head of Intellectual Property Dept.), Mr. Hitoshi Katsura (Panasonic Automotive Systems Co., Ltd., Executive Manager, R&D Planning Center, Intellectual Property Department) and Mr. Masahiko Miyatake (Senior General Manager, Intellectual Property Department, MONOZUKURI Center of Excellence Division, SUNTORY HOLDINGS LIMITED / Senior General Manager, Innovation Planning Department SUNTORY GLOBAL INNOVATION CENTER LIMITED), and a moderator, Mr. Kazunari Sugimitsu (Ph.D. in Medical Science and Engineering, Professor, Patent Attorney, Kanazawa Institute of Technology, Graduate School of Innovation Management). The participants were inspired by the thought-provoking discussion among the panelists to think about the changes that AI will bring about in the future.



Panel Discussion

## Closing Ceremony

Finally, the Meeting was closed with introductions of the next year's LES Japan Annual Meeting, which will be held in Nara city, by Mr. Shinya Hondo, the Chair-elect of organizing committee, in the closing ceremony.



Mr. Hondo

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Editors' Note

This issue includes articles "AIPLA-LES Japan Joint Meeting 2025: WIPO IP day" by Ms. Tomoko NOGUCHI, and "2025 LES Japan Annual Meeting" by Mr. Yasuo FUJII.

Thank you for supporting "*WINDS from Japan*." This newsletter will continue to provide you with useful information on activities at LES Japan and up-to-date information on IP and licensing activities in Japan.

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<https://www.lesj.org/en/winds/new.php>

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