

Chapter 6

OTHER WORK

This brief chapter contains statistics about other work done on IP rights that is not common to all five offices. The data presented below supplement the information appearing in earlier chapters of this report.

This includes applications for plant patents (USPTO), reissue patents (USPTO), applications for patents other than those for inventions: utility models (JPO, KIPO, CNIPA), designs (JPO, KIPO, CNIPA, USPTO), trademarks (JPO, KIPO, USPTO), and search requests to be performed on behalf of national offices (EPO).

The utility model is different from the patent for invention⁴³, because it is used to protect a device in relation to the shape or construction of articles or combination of articles (JPO, CNIPA), or to protect a creation of a technical idea using the rules of nature regarding the shape, structure, or combination of subjects (KIPO). A utility model is registered without a substantive examination as long as it meets basic requirements. The maximum period of protection for a utility model in Japan, R. Korea, and P.R. China is 10 years, which is shorter than for a patent for invention (typically 20 years).

The numbers of requests received for these types of other work are shown for 2018 and 2019 in Table 6.

Table 6: STATISTICS ON OTHER WORK

In 2019, the number of utility model applications increased 9 percent at the CNIPA and decreased by 13 percent and 3 percent, at the KIPO and JPO. The number of trademark applications increased by 11 percent at the KIPO and 5 percent at the USPTO. For design applications, there were increases at the KIPO and USPTO by 2 percent, and 4 percent, respectively.

Activity	Year	EPO	JPO	KIPO	CNIPA	USPTO
Search for national offices	2018	26,499	-	-	-	-
	2019	25,380	-	-	-	-
Design applications	2018	-	31,406	63,680	708,799	45,083
	2019	-	31,489	65,039	711,617	46,847
Utility model applications	2018	-	5,388	6,232	2,072,311	-
	2019	-	5,241	5,447	2,268,190	-
Plant patent applications	2018	-	-	-	-	1,079
	2019	-	-	-	-	1,134
Re-issue applications	2018	-	-	-	-	1,013
	2019	-	-	-	-	1,110
Trademark applications	2018	-	184,483	200,341	7,370,709	638,618
	2019	-	190,773	221,507	7,837,441	673,569
Provisional applications	2018	-	-	-	-	169,340
	2019	-	-	-	-	170,089

⁴³ Not to be confused with the utility model, the USPTO's main type of patent, called a utility patent, is a patent for invention that is similar to the standard patent at the other IP5 Offices.