

## Chapter 6

# OTHER WORK

This brief chapter contains further statistics of 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, SIPO, and KIPO), designs (JPO, SIPO, KIPO, and USPTO), trademarks (JPO, KIPO and USPTO), and search requests to be performed on behalf of national offices (EPO).

The utility model is different from the patent for invention, because it is used to protect a device in relation to the shape or construction of articles or combination of articles (JPO, SIPO), or to protect a creation of a technical idea using the rules of nature regarding the shape, structure, or combination of subjects (KIPO). Contrary to most patent systems, 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.

Neither the EPO nor the USPTO grants utility models. However, the USPTO's main type of patent is called a utility patent which is issued for the invention of a new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or a new and useful improvement thereof. The USPTO utility patent is a patent for invention that is similar to the standard patents of the EPO, the JPO, the SIPO, and the KIPO.

The numbers of requests received for these types of other work are shown for 2015 and 2016 in Table 6.

**Table 6: STATISTICS ON OTHER WORK**

Activity	Year	EPO	JPO	KIPO	SIPO	USPTO
Searches for national offices	2015	24,367				
	2016	27,564				
Design applications	2015		29,903	67,954	569,059	39,097
	2016		30,879	65,659	650,344	42,571
Utility model applications	2015		6,860	8,711	1,127,577	
	2016		6,480	7,767	1,475,977	
Plant patent applications	2015					1,140
	2016					1,177
Reissue applications	2015					1,049
	2016					1,087
Trademark applications	2015		147,283	185,443		518,315
	2016		161,859	181,606		530,951

Compared 2016 to 2015, the number of Utility Model applications and Design applications at the SIPO increased 31 percent and 14 percent, respectively.

At the JPO, the Trademark applications increased 10 percent, while the Utility Model applications decreased 6 percent.

At the USPTO, the number of Design applications increased 9 percent, while the Utility Model applications at the KIPO and the JPO decreased by 11 percent and 6 percent, respectively.