JPO’s Strategic Directions

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Although the number of patent applications filed with JPO has been slightly decreasing, the number of PCT applications received by JPO has been greatly increasing.

The number of PCT applications in 2011 increased 20% year-on-year.
JPO’s efforts in conducting patent examinations

JPO’s measures to achieve the world’s highest level of examination efficiency

- Improving systems
- Utilizing the private sector (Outsourcing)
- Increasing number of examiners

Faster
- JPO is speeding up patent examination in order to achieve its goal of shortening the examination waiting period to 11 months in 2013.
- We anticipate that this goal will be achieved.
  - Possible to obtain patents “faster”

Cheaper
- Examination request fees and PCT international search fees were reduced nearly 25% due to a revision made in 2011 to the Japan Patent Act.
  - Possible to acquire rights at a “lower price”

Stronger
- Users want “stronger patent rights”, in other words, stable patents that are enforceable and protected internationally.

What are the next steps for JPO in granting “Faster” and “Cheaper” patents?
Future Strategy of the JPO

- Granting stable patents which can be enforced/protected internationally without difficulties, and
- Enabling users to more easily acquire patents abroad

Harmonizing patent systems
- Moving toward patent harmonization by making optimum use of various fora such as IP5 and Tegernsee Group
- Expanding the Examiner Exchange Program

Improving capability to search foreign patent documents
- Developing a system to search patent documents in foreign languages by utilizing machine translation
- Standardizing common patent classification worldwide

Enhancing examination system
- Enhancing quality management of examination that is beneficial all over the world
- Consolidating examination to support strategies developed by global companies (“Matome*” examination)

Revising IT systems
- Revising plan to optimize IT systems, enabling them to respond more flexibly to international treaties & cooperation
- Improving measures to respond to the risks of earthquakes, cyber threats, etc.

*“Matome” is Japanese term meaning “putting together” or “compiling together”
Thank you.