

## 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 invention<sup>42</sup>, 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 2017 and 2018 in Table 6.

**Table 6: STATISTICS ON OTHER WORK**

Activity	Year	EPO	JPO	KIPO	CNIPA	USPTO
Search for national offices	2017	26,403	-	-	-	-
	2018	26,499	-	-	-	-
Design applications	2017	-	31,961	63,453	628,658	43,340
	2018	-	31,406	63,680	708,799	45,083
Utility model applications	2017	-	6,106	6,809	1,687,593	-
	2018	-	5,388	6,232	2,072,311	-
Plant patent applications	2017	-	-	-	-	1,059
	2018	-	-	-	-	1,079
Re-issue applications	2017	-	-	-	-	1,012
	2018	-	-	-	-	1,013
Trademark applications	2017	-	190,939	182,918	-	615,251
	2018	-	184,483	200,341	-	638,618

In 2018, the number of utility model applications increased 23 percent at the CNIPA and decreased by 12 percent at the JPO. The number of trademark applications increased by 10 percent at the KIPO and 4 percent at the USPTO. For design applications, there were increases at the CNIPA and USPTO (by 13 percent, and 4 percent, respectively) and decreases at JPO (by 2 percent).

<sup>42</sup> 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.