JPO’s recent developments

IP5 Heads of Office with IP5 Industry Meetings
31 May 2017

Japan Patent Office
Changes in Number of Patent Applications and Registrations

Numbers of Patent Applications, Patent Registrations, and Requests for Examination

- Number of Patent Applications
- Number of Requests for Examination
- Number of Patent Registrations
- Patent Registration Rate
- Rate for Request for Examination

In Examination Request Period

(件 / Number)

(%)
Achieving More Prompt and Higher Quality Examinations

Fastest in the World

Standard Total Pendency*: Around 15 months
FA Pendency: Around 10 months

The World’s Highest Level

*Excluding some cases where the JPO requests an applicant to respond to the second notification of reasons for refusal and where the applicant performs procedures he/she is allowed to use, such as requests for extension of the period of response and for an accelerated examination.

Highest Quality
- Creation of “Strong, Broad-scoped, and Useful” Patent Rights

Initiatives for Quality Management

• To strengthen the quality management system of approvals, consultations, quality audits, etc.

Enhancing Foreign Literature Searches

• Increase searches conducted by registered search agencies on foreign patent literature

Examination Based on Revised Examination Guidelines

• Examination based on thoroughly reviewed Examination Guidelines with the simple contents which are easier to understand
Advanced Examination Management

Number of Months Pendency from the Time Requests for Examination were Made; and Percentage of Examination Requests

Differences in Average FA Pendency at the JPO and that for Each Technical Field

- Physics, Optics and Social Infrastructure
- Mechanical Technology
- Chemistry, Life Science and Material Science
- Electronic Technology

Pending (Before FA)
Pending (After FA)
Examination Completed
Accelerated Examination

(Number of months from the time requests for examination were made)
**Cooperation on IP matters with Emerging Countries**

- **Reinforcing ASEAN’s Infrastructure**

  ASEAN-Japan Heads of IP Offices Meeting


  Main points of the Action Plan 2017-2018
  - Accelerate patent examinations and improve the quality of examinations
  - Increase utilization of IP in the ASEAN Region (commercializing IP, disseminating information, and raising awareness on IP rights)
  - Strengthen collaboration with IP enforcement agencies

- **Reinforcing India’s and Latin America’s Infrastructure**

  - Sending JPO examiners to the countries
  - Inviting India’s and Latin America’s examiners to training courses in Japan
The JPO’s initiatives for strengthening the enforcement of intellectual property rights includes promoting international exchange activities in the legal field of intellectual property (IP). The JPO holds various symposiums on IP and conducts mock trials. This has been done in collaboration with various related organizations including legal professionals.

### Examples of international exchange activities in the legal field of IP

   
The JPO participated in the United States/Japan Patent Symposium in May 2016, which was hosted by the Giles S. Rich American Inn of Court that serves as a means for the U.S. legal community to exchange opinions in the area of intellectual property.

2. **Europe / Japan Mock Trial (in Paris)**
   
   In September 2016, the JPO held an international symposium jointly with the European Patent Lawyers Association (EPLAW), the Japan Federation of Bar Associations (JFBA), and the Intellectual Property Lawyers Network Japan (IPLNET). At the symposium, many individuals involved in IP participated from the U.K., France, Germany, and Japan.

   
   In November 2016, the JPO held an international symposium jointly with the German-Japanese Lawyers' Association, the Japan Intellectual Property Association (JIPA), and the International Association for the Protection of Intellectual Property of Japan (AIPPI JAPAN). At the symposium, many individuals involved in IP participated from Japan and Europe.
The JPO, in collaboration with the relevant departments of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), set up a committee to discuss the best possible intellectual property (IP) system, in order to deal with the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

(1) Discussion on a system for encouraging utilization of data
(2) Discussion on the best possible IP system to deal with changes in industrial structures
(3) Promote strategic international standardization to respond to the Fourth Industrial Revolution

The JPO has undertaken following initiatives to respond to the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

(1) Establishment of New Patent Classifications for IoT-related Technologies.
(2) Publishing Case Examples of Examinations on IoT-related Technologies.
(3) Setting up an Consulting Team for Examination of IoT-related invention.
Thank you!