





On the second day, a practical seminar on conducting research to obtain patent information was held, with Ms. Yamada of Ochanomizu Patent Office invited to deliver a speech. Ms. Yamada briefed the trainees about search methods using the Japanese classifications “FI” and “F Term,” while referring to actual cases. The trainees appeared very impressed with her lecture, which focused on patent information searches, a key part of carrying out patent examinations. As specific search tools were used, the trainees must have felt like asking many questions. This lecture must have been extremely useful for the trainees, as they said in the assessment session held on the final day that it would have been better if more time had been allotted to the topic.

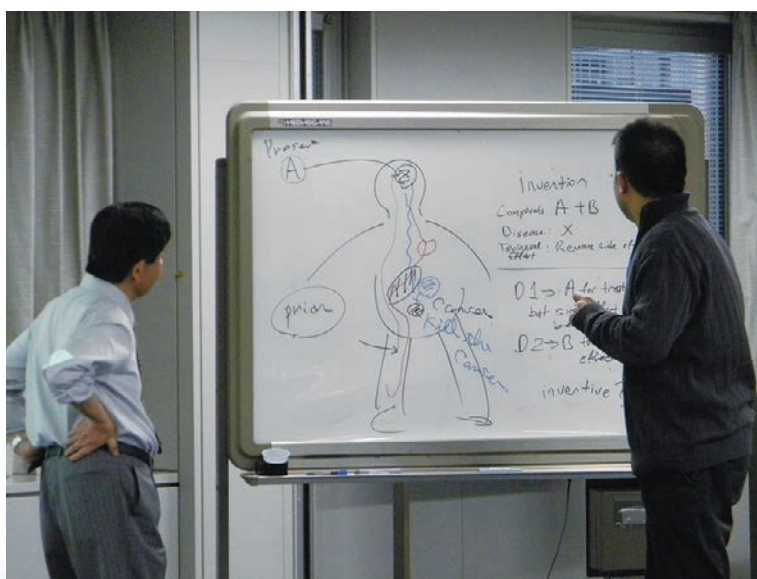


On the third day, the trainees visited the Tsukuba Research Center of Astellas Pharma Inc., where they were briefed about the situation surrounding pharmaceutical companies and their intellectual property strategies. Following the briefing, the trainees directed many technical questions to the briefer. The answers were frank, and a lively question-and-answer session ensued. Visiting the Tsukuba Research Center, the trainees witnessed the most up-to-date pharmaceutical development technologies and had a first-hand look at worker-friendly and environmentally-friendly building structures and workplace layouts. The trainees directly

observed research facilities run by Astellas, a major pharmaceutical company, and learned about its intellectual property management, which must have impressed them greatly.



On the fourth day, Mr. Tsukanaka, a patent attorney at Sugimura International Patent and Trademark Attorneys, delivered a lecture focusing on actual patent examination cases (freshness and progress). The session took the form of a two-way dialogue in which the trainees looked into actual cases in Japan and also presented their positions regarding what they would do if certain cases occurred in their own countries. The trainees asked many questions regarding the cases being introduced, leading to a lively discussion. The trainees were able to compare patent examinations in Japan with those in other countries, thus helping to broaden their study framework. Many of the participants said more time should have been allotted to this session.



On the fifth day, Mr. Hirota of Hirota, Nagase & Associates was invited to speak about patent disputes. Having previously worked for a pharmaceutical company, Mr. Hirota introduced various cases of patent disputes, including judicial precedents and judgments. He presented these cases from the viewpoints of all sides, including those who filed the patent application,

as well as demandants and demandees. The trainees directed many questions to Mr. Hirota while commenting on his presentation. This lecture session was effective in deepening the trainees' understanding of patent dispute cases.



On the sixth and final day, Mr. Fujita, a patent attorney at Hiraki & Associates, was invited to speak to the trainees. Mr. Fujita had previously served as a patent examination officer at the JPO and a judge at the JPO's patent court in connection with appeals. Having expertise in patent examinations in the medical and pharmaceutical fields, Mr. Fujita responded accurately to whatever difficult question the trainees would ask. In the day's case study session, the trainees were divided into four groups. In each group, the trainees discussed actual patent cases and made presentations, followed by comments by the lecturer and a question-and-answer session. On the final day, discussion was lively and robust, just like a symposium. The session was received favorably by the participants, who said what they learned on the day could be reflected in their patent examination work after returning home.



Many of those who participated in the training program said the curriculum was good and that their participation would help them in their patent examination work after returning

home. The program was meaningful both for those who planned it and the participants because its effects were felt by both sides. The program will become even better if more time could be allotted to patent examination work, as shown in comments by the participants—a challenge to be addressed next time.

The latest program is expected to provide significant leverage to the participants as they build their careers in their respective countries in the future. We are looking forward to seeing them play a key role in their country's patent sector.

