



Quality Policy on Patent Examination

Globally reliable patents of high quality are important for supporting smooth business expansion worldwide and promoting innovation.

This quality policy outlines the fundamental principles of quality management in patent examination* in order to grant the aforementioned high-quality patents. Based on this quality policy, the Japan Patent Office (JPO) is committed to achieving patent examination that is the utmost quality in the world. Under the leadership and participation of the top management, all staff involved in patent examination perform their work in compliance with the following fundamental principles, demonstrating a strong sense of responsibility and motivation.

* Patent examination means examination of inventions (including international searches and international preliminary examinations) and establishment of Reports of Utility Model Technical Opinion.

We grant robust, broad and valuable patents:

In order to enhance intellectual property protection worldwide, the JPO grants robust patents that will not be invalidated afterward; broad patents that have coverage matching the extent of the technical levels of inventions and their disclosure; and valuable patents that are recognized around the world.

We meet wide-ranging needs and expectations:

The JPO understands and respects broad-ranging needs of and expectations for patent examination so that it may contribute to the benefit of Japanese society and the satisfaction of people connected with the patent system. All staff involved in patent examination perform patent examination with fairness, transparency, and consistency in accordance with principles such as treaties, laws, regulations and guidelines, communicating with applicants, patent attorneys and other persons concerned in a positive manner.

We all dedicate ourselves to improving quality, cooperating with concerned persons and parties:

The JPO raises awareness on improving the quality of patent examination in all staff involved in patent examination and promotes initiatives that improve quality, in which all staff play an active role. Furthermore, the JPO maintains cooperative relationships with all persons and parties connected with the patent system, collaborating with them to uphold and improve the quality of patent examination.

We contribute to improving the quality of patent examination globally:

The JPO contributes to the improvement of quality in terms of patent examination globally through actively promoting international initiatives on patent examination and providing foreign patent offices with useful information on patent examination conducted at the JPO.

We continually improve operations:

In order to continually provide patent examination of the utmost quality in the world, the JPO improves operations by staying aware of current situations and taking a flexible approach to planning and proposing various measures.

We raise the knowledge and capabilities of our staff:

The JPO raises the level of knowledge and capabilities of all staff involved in patent examination not only through cultivating human resources, by having all staff conduct their daily work and participate in training, but also through encouraging them to learn on their own.

The JPO periodically reviews this policy on quality, so as to always maintain and even further improve its rationale and effectiveness.

March 2014
Japan Patent Office