3. Cooperation in Examination

(1) Cooperation in design examination
In order to support the acceleration of the substantive examination process for applications for industrial design registration in developing countries, the JPO has been providing the results of examinations of applications for industrial design registration (only for registered applications) for both in the patent office of a designated developing country with respect to the design application filed both with Japan and the designated country.


(2) Structuring the Advanced Industrial Property Network
The JPO constructed the Asian Industrial Property Network (AIPN) which provided information in machine-translated English about patent applications filed first with the JPO and subsequently with intellectual property offices (IP offices) in other countries. Such information includes the legal status, cited documents, granted claims, and the patent family of a patent application filed with the JPO. The purpose of the AIPN is to reduce workloads in other IP offices by utilizing effectively results of searches and examinations in the JPO and to allow Japanese applicants to more quickly obtain a patent in other countries.

Through the AIPN, the JPO has offered examination information of Japanese patent applications to IP offices, mainly in Asia.

In October 2004, the JPO released a new function for providing file wrapper information and changed the system’s name to the Advanced Industrial Property Network (AIPN).

The JPO strives to disseminate the AIPN for the patent examination cooperation in developing countries, and the AIPN is, as of August 2015, available in the following 67 countries, area, and organization: African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI), the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO), Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brazil, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, China, Chinese-Taipei, Colombia, Croatia, Czech, Denmark, Egypt, Ethiopia, the Eurasian Patent Organization (EAPO), the European Patent Office (EPO), Finland, France, Gambia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyz, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russia, Rwanda, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Sudan, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States, Vietnam, and Zambia.