

“The Industrial Property Rights System in Japan”
Chapter 1. The Role of the Industrial Property Rights System

The Role of The Intellectual Property Rights System

This graph shows the relationship between economic activities and the creation of intellectual works.

You can see that the increase and decrease in the number of patent and trademark applications is closely linked to economic growth.

Establishing an intellectual property rights system is, in fact, essential for economic growth.

If the national government highly encourages the development of new products and technologies, but does not carry out proper examinations, the rights granted are unstable and lack a clear scope of use. Even if you acquire those rights, you may have difficulty using them.

However, if a proper examination has been carried out and a stable right is granted, the company can then actively use it. The profits gained by the use of the right can then finance more research and development projects, and the company's operations are likely to expand. This in turn activates the market and the whole industry. It also promotes trade and investment from overseas countries, leading to the nation's economic growth.

This is why it's so important to carry out proper examinations on technologies for which applications are filed and stabilize the rights system.

We hope you now understand the role of an intellectual property rights system.

Now, we'll introduce the Intellectual Property Rights System in Japan.