

## **“The Industrial Property Rights System in Japan”**

### **Chapter 4. The Design System in Japan**

#### **The Hague Agreement**

The Hague Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Industrial Designs (The Hague Agreement)

The Hague Agreement Concerning the International Deposit of Industrial Designs provides a mechanism for applying for and registering an industrial design. This has benefits such as simplifying the application procedure and reducing costs, since the procedure for designated contracting member countries can be carried out by means of a single application to WIPO, rather than having to apply to each country individually.

Under the Hague Agreement, more than one design can be included in a single application. This is a major difference from Japan’s Design Law, in which each design requires a separate application.

Along with the recent globalization of corporate activities, however, there is an increasing need in society for accession to the international application system.

Discussions are now taking place in Japan regarding whether or not to join the Hague Agreement and the Locarno Agreement, which establishes an international classification for industrial designs.

#### **End of Chapter 4**