

(1) Present situation of cooperation with developing countries

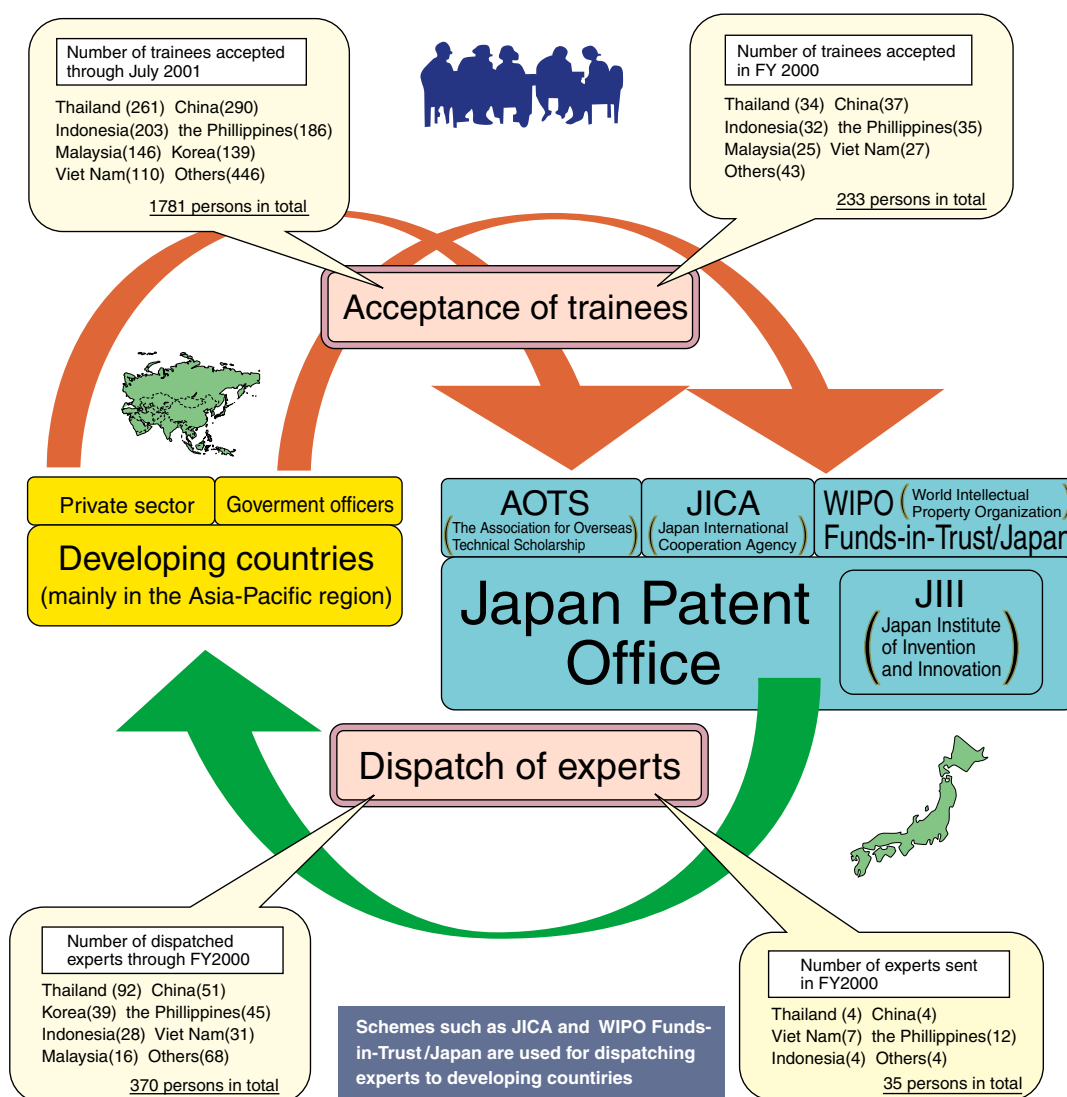
All over the world, R&D and business activities are becoming increasingly global and borderless, and the securing of worldwide IP protection is becoming an extremely important issue. IP protection is a key factor for promoting foreign investment and technology transfer as well as for boosting a nation's industrial development. This brings considerable economic benefits to the Asia-Pacific nations. Since developing countries became obliged to implement the WTO/TRIPS Agreement* on January 1, 2000, legal systems for IP protection have been enhanced worldwide. In order to protect IPR adequately, it is significant not only to set up an appropriate legal system, but also to upgrade IPR system practices.

Japan considers it critical to ensure an adequate IPR protection system for economic growth of the region and therefore extends cooperation in areas such as human resource development, automation and information processing at IP Offices, and examination and search, particularly to Asia-Pacific countries through various schemes such as the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) program and WIPO Funds-in-Trust/Japan*

*Voluntary contributions for WIPO Funds-in-Trust/Japan

Since 1987, the Japanese government has been providing voluntary contributions to the World Intellectual Property Organization (known by its initials WIPO, it is a UN organization responsible for the protection of intellectual property through the world and the administration of various multilateral treaties, such as creation of IPR rules, etc.) "WIPO Funds-in-Trust/Japan" was established with these voluntary funds and it is used to finance various projects every year for WIPO member countries in the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (ESCAP), such as the holding of IP Office conferences or symposia, acceptance of trainees and IPR research students, dispatch of JPO officers and support for automation and modernization of IP Offices.

and Countermeasures against Counterfeits



[1] Human resource development cooperation

① Symposia

As part of WIPO Funds-in-Trust/Japan activities, the following principal meetings were held:

● WIPO Asia-Pacific Regional Forum

On September 12th and 13th, the heads of intellectual property Offices and senior officials responsible for intellectual property policy of 24 countries in the Asia-Pacific region gathered in Tokyo for the WIPO Asia-Pacific Regional Forum on the Role of Intellectual Property Offices in the 21st Century. On the final day, the Joint Statement of

this forum was adopted.

● WIPO Regional Symposium

This symposium was held in May 2001 in New Zealand under the theme of "the Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights in the 21st Century".

● WIPO Asian Regional Workshop

This workshop was held in February 2001 in Viet Nam under the theme of "PCT". In October 2001 another workshop was held, also in Viet Nam under the theme of "International Protection of Marks".

② Dispatch of IP experts

The JPO is dispatching officials to developing countries as experts and seminar instructors specializing in various areas of IPR by utilizing WIPO Funds-in-Trust/Japan and a dispatch scheme of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The dispatched experts mainly provide on site instruction on examination practice, computerization, PCT practices and so forth.

③ Training programs

In order to support developing countries obligated to implement the TRIPS agreement, between April 1996 and March 2001, Japan received 1207 trainees in both the public and private sectors mainly from 40 countries and one economy in the Asia-Pacific region. Henceforth, Japan will support the establishment of intellectual property rights systems in the least developed countries obliged to implement the WTO/TRIPS in 2006, and will proceed with human resource development activities with the emphasis on enforcement aimed at efficient implementation of laws.

④ Long-term fellowships in intellectual property rights

As part of the WIPO Funds-in-Trust activities, the JPO invites those in such positions as IPR instructors in developing countries to Japan for approximately six months and provides them a chance to conduct autonomous IPR research activities in the JPO and JIII (Japan Institute of Invention and Innovation). In FY 2000, one long-term fellow each was received from Malaysia and China.

⑤ Third country training programs

·APEC/PFP

From November to December 2000, APEC/PFP (Partners for Progress) training was carried out in Thailand for the purpose of appropriate implementation of intellectual property right systems in the APEC area with 49 persons from 11 countries and 2 regions participating.

·Enforcement seminars

Seminars on intellectual property rights for IP-Enforcement staff members were held in Singapore (February 5-9, 2001) and the Republic of Korea (June 26-29, 2001) for the benefit of persons engaged in intellectual property rights enforcement in those areas. 33 persons from 5 countries participated in the Singapore seminar, and 27 persons from 3 countries participated in the Korea seminar.

[2] Computerization cooperation

The JPO implemented a project to establish a patent document search system in the Department of Intellectual Property of Thailand for the 5 years up to June 2000 through technical cooperation under the auspices of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The JPO began cooperation by the same method for the establishment of application processing systems from FY 1999 in the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines and from the FY 2000 in the National Office of Industrial Property of Viet Nam.

[3] Examination cooperation

To reduce duplicated workload and contribute to the efficiency of design patent examination in the Department of Intellectual Property (DIP) of Thailand, the JPO and the DIP in June 2001 mutually confirmed the commencement of a design examination cooperation program. Under the cooperation program, the JPO will provide the DIP at its request with examination result information regarding right-conferred Japanese design applications which correspond to Thai design patent applications.