

1. Comprehensive Support Measures for SMEs

The JPO provides comprehensive support through various measures from "intellectual creation" to "right utilization" to SMEs that sustain the industrial foundation in Japan and play a significant role as the driving force of regional economies, as well as to venture companies that are expected to create new industries.

Outline of Comprehensive Support for SMEs

(1) Support in the Areas of Diffusion, Human Resources Development, and Consultation Concerning Industrial Property Rights

1) Explanatory Meetings on the Intellectual Property Rights System (for introductory and advanced levels)\(^1\)

The JPO holds explanatory meetings on intellectual property rights for those at the introductory level who wish to start learning about intellectual property rights, and those who have just been transferred to the intellectual property division in their companies.

In addition, the JPO also holds explanatory meetings for those who engage in intellectual property affairs. These meetings cover the various systems that are indispensable for intellectual property affairs, such as examination standards, the PCT international application system, operation of the appeals and trials system, and the International Patent Classification (IPC).

2) Seminars and Training for SMEs and Venture Companies

The JPO holds seminars on strategic acquisition of intellectual property rights that meet regional needs and on

\(^1\) See Part 3, Chapter 5.1. (1) 1)
how to utilize such rights, for corporate managers and people responsible for R&D.\(^2\)

In addition, training programs for SMEs and venture companies have been implemented at the INPIT.\(^3\)

3) Consultation Services on Industrial Property Rights

Dedicated staff members in the Patent Offices in the respective Regional Bureaus of Economy, Trade and Industry offer regular consultation services regarding basic matters from the filing of applications to registration and the actual procedure for filing an application (Number of consultations conducted in FY2007: 17,984).

In addition, the INPIT offers a consultation service for all types of inquiries, such as having an idea but not knowing how to obtain rights for it or wishing to file a patent application but not knowing the actual procedure. The consultation service is offered to any one in person, by e-mail, or by telephone (Number of consultations conducted in FY2007: 60,396).

4) Comprehensive Support by Intellectual Property Right Specialists for SMEs

The JPO has a staff of intellectual property right specialists who provide comprehensive support to SMEs. They serve as lecturers at various seminars held by the JPO, based on requests from related organizations, and they visit SMEs to provide individual consultations, with the objective of raising awareness on IP systems and support measures, and developing human resources in local areas and SMEs.

 Achivements in FY2007>

a. Visits of SEMs to provide individual consultations (303 visits)

b. Lecturer at intellectual property seminars / training sessions (216 seminars / sessions)

c. Promotions of awareness on IP measures by holding exhibitions (21 exhibitions)

5) Free Consultation Sessions by Experts such as Patent Attorney

The JPO offers free individual consultation services by experts (patent attorneys, etc.) on specific matters related to industrial property rights nationwide (Number of consultations conducted in FY2007: 17,576).

6) Support for Regional IP Advisory Counters

The JPO will provide support to the Regional IP Advisory Counters, which were established in July 2006 at chambers of commerce and industry throughout Japan, such as holding seminars for the SMEs or the person in charge for the Regional IP Advisory Counters and sending intellectual property experts for strengthening the contact function (Achievement of FY2007: supporting such as holding of seminar and sending of experts etc.: 3,165).

7) Consultation Service on the Industrial Property Rights Systems of Other Countries

The Asia-Pacific Industrial Property Center of the Japan Institute of Invention and Innovation (JIII) provides domestic SMEs with a consultation service on industrial property right systems in other countries and IP infringement cases inside and outside Japan (Number of consultations conducted in FY2007: 850; conducted by the JIII, commissioned by the JPO).

The JPO holds training sessions, seminars and individual consultations in order to publicize and diffuse information on industrial property right systems in other countries.

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\(^2\) See Part 3, Chapter 5, 1. (1) 2

\(^3\) See Part 3, Chapter 5, 2. (2) 2) d.
(2) Support for Exploitation of Intellectual Property Rights Information and the Application Procedures

1) Industrial Property Digital Library (IPDL)

   The IPDL provides access to about 65 million official gazettes of patents, utility models, designs and trademarks via the INPIT. These can be searched by various document numbers or by various classifications. It also provides industrial property information including information on the legal status, which allows users to easily check the examination status of specific applications.

   Furthermore, the IPDL Help Desk of the INPIT offers information services on how to operate and use the IPDL.

2) Patent Information Advisors

   See Part 3, Chapter 3, 1. (2) 1)

3) Application Advisors

   Application advisors who work full-time in the electronic application consultation offices established in 47 prefectures nationwide offer consultation services on filing procedures, how to use the shared-use PCs, and the electronic application system (undertaken by the JIII commissioned by the JPO). When users do not have the time to go to the electronic application consultation offices, or ask the advisors to provide explanations at regional events, the application advisors provide visit consultations and guidance services (Number of consultations/guidance services provided in FY2007: 87,049).

4) Installation of Shared-use PCs for Filing Electronic Applications

   The Japan Institute of Invention and Innovation, commissioned by the JPO, has installed shared-use PCs at its branches nationwide in order to allow those who do not have the necessary equipment for filing electronic applications from PCs to file electronic applications. These PCs not only consist of the necessary equipment, but also provide optional document-editing and checking functions and an optional file-conversion function to enable efficient operations.

   <Achievements in FY2007>
   a. Number of visitors: 37,577
   b. Number of applications sent on line: 16,467

5) Shared-use PCs for Filing Internet Applications Utilizing Basic Resident Register Card

   In the First Public Gazettes Reading Room and the Region Gazettes Reading Rooms (8 sites nationwide) of the INPIT, since October 2007, shared-use PCs capable of filing the internet applications utilizing the Basic Resident Register Card are installed. The operation manual of the internet application soft is instructed by the instructor for reading gazettes.

   <Achievements in FY2007>
   a. Number of utilizers: about 100
   b. Number of applications sent on line: about 110

(3) Support Related to Examination Requests for Industrial Property Applications

1) Support of Prior Art Searches for SMEs
In order to support proper assessment as to whether an examination should be requested or not and whether applications abroad should be filed or not, private searching organizations commissioned by the JPO perform prior art searches free of charge for patent applications of SMEs or individuals prior to requests for examination, upon request of the applicant, and deliver the search results by mail (Number of uses in FY2007: 5,084).

2) Reduction of or Exemption from Examination Request Fees

The JPO grants an exemption from or a 50% reduction of examination request fees for individuals, companies or R&D oriented SMEs that lack funds if they comply with certain requirements. Further, also in the case of a shared-application (joint application), this measure is applied according to the share of the applicant subject to the reduction of or exemption from the examination request fee (use achievements in 2007: 3,584).

(4) Support for Examinations and Appeals/Trials of Industrial Property Applications

1) Accelerated Examinations\(^5\)/ Accelerated Appeal and Trial Examinations\(^6\)

In cases in which a patent applicant is an SME or an individual, or if the applicant is already employing the invention, examination or appeal/trial examination is conducted more quickly than in the case of regular applications if the applicant submits an "explanation of circumstances concerning accelerated examination (accelerated trial/appeal examination)."

Although there are accelerated examination and accelerated appeal/trial examination systems for designs and trademarks, the requirements are different from those for patents.

2) Interview Examinations and Interview Appeal/Trial Examinations, Circuit Examinations and TV Interview Examinations

The JPO supports more precise acquisition of rights by offering opportunities for applicants or their agents and the examiners or appeal examiners to meet in person and deepen their understanding of the applications and the technologies/designs.

In addition to interview examinations and interview appeal/trial examinations conducted at the JPO examiners or appeal examiners also visit various locations nationwide to conduct circuit examinations\(^4\), regional interview appeal/trial examinations, and circuit appeals/trials. Also, the JPO conducts TV interview examinations using a TV conference system installed at the patent offices of the respective Regional Bureaus of Economy, Trade and Industry.

\(<\text{Achievement in CY2007}>\)

a. Circuit examinations: 1,310
b. Regional interview appeal/trial examinations: 101
c. Circuit examinations: 38
d. TV interview examinations: 38

3) Refund System on Examination Request Fee\(^7\)

Under this system, if an applicant withdraw or abandons the application prior to the first action after having

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\(^4\) Accelerated examination: for patents (See Part 2, Chapter 2, 4. (1)), for designs (See Part 1, Chapter 1, 3. (2)), Part 2, Chapter 3, 3.), for trademarks (See Part 2, Chapter 4, 1.)

\(^5\) Accelerated Appeal and Trial Examination: See Part 2, Chapter 5, 2.

\(^6\) See Part 2, Chapter 2, 4. (2)

\(^7\) For details of the Refund System on the Examination Request Fee, see the JPO website at URL : http://www.jpo.go.jp/tetuzuki_e/ryoukin_e/half_refund_system.htm
requested an examination, 50% of the fee is refunded to the applicant.

(5) Support for Registration of Intellectual Property Rights

1) Reduction of or Exemption from the Patent Annual Fees

The JPO grants an exemption (from the first year to the third year\(^8\)), a grace period of three years, or a 50% reduction of patent annual fees, to individuals, companyed or R&D oriented SMEs that lack funds if they comply with certain requirements. Further, also in the case of a shared-application (joint application), this measure is applied according to the share of the applicant subject to the reduction of or exemption from the examination request fee (use achievements in 2007: 694).

(6) Support for Utilization of Industrial Property Rights

1) Measures for Encouraging Patent Licensing by the INPIT

○ Patent Licensing Advisors

- See Part 3, Chapter 3, 1. (1) 1)

○ Patent Licensing Database, Examples of Licensable Patent Utilization

- Patent Licensing Database :

  See Part 3, Chapter 3, 1. (2) 2)

- Examples of Licensable Patent Utilization :

  See Part 3, Chapter 3, 1. (2) 3)


- Patent Business Market :

  See Part 3, Chapter 3, 1. (3) 2)

- Training Seminars for Fostering Patent Licensing Experts:

  See Part 3, Chapter 3, 1. (3) 4)

2) Support of the Intellectual Property Strategies of Regional SMEs

○ Project for Supporting the Intellectual Property Strategies of Regional SMEs

  The SME support centers of prefectural governments intensively dispatch intellectual property experts for certain periods to local SMEs and venture companies in coordination with the prefectural intellectual property centers in order to support the companies (has supported 270 or more companies in FY2004 to FY2007) in their formulation of business plans for utilizing intellectual property and their creation of intellectual property strategies.

○ Formulation of Manual for Intellectual Property Strategies of SMEs

  By formulating and publishing "SMEs & venture businesses intellectual property strategies manual" to which mainly R&D-type SMEs conducting management strategies emphasizing on the technology are subject, and "Design rights utilizing manual for creative SMEs" to which brand-type enterprises emphasizing on the design and enterprises aiming at a synergic effect with the technology protection are subject in April 2008, the JPO supports SMEs to formulate the intellectual property strategies.

3) Distribution of a Compendium of Examples of Patent Utilization

The JPO compiled a booklet "Companies Actively Utilizing IP 2007" which covers nationwide SMEs that actively

\(^8\) An exemption from the first year to the sixth year in the case of outcome from specified R&D performed in accordance with the Act concerning advanced of basic manufacturing technology of SMEs.
utilize IP rights in their business strategies and strive for strategic IP-right acquisition and utilization, in order to motivate reforms to IP-focused management and provide reference for SMEs wishing to utilize strategic IP-right in April 2007. Copies of this are widely distributed through the Patent Offices of Regional Bureaus of Economy, Trade and Industry.

4) Aid for Foreign Application of Patent

For corresponding to international business development and intellectual property right infringing goods due to the economic globalization, the patent acquisition in the overseas is important, so that the JPO conducts necessary aids for the activities of the SMEs supporting center of the prefectures etc. conducting the projects for supporting the overseas developments of the SMEs which will conduct the overseas application strategically since FY2008.

2. Regional Support Frameworks

In order to develop an environment that allows for IP promotion activities and strategic IP utilization in local areas, the JPO established a "Regional Headquarters for Intellectual Property Strategy" in each region (nine regions) under the jurisdiction of Regional Bureaus of Economy, Trade and Industry in FY2005. Based on the regional intellectual property strategy-promotion program developed by the Regional Headquarters for Intellectual Property Strategy, the JPO intensively implements measures such as raising SMEs’ awareness on IP and promotion of appropriate use of IP, while strengthening the network with local support organizations and networking intellectual property-related human resources.

[Major activities]

The JPO, by placing Patent Offices of Regional Bureaus of Economy, Trade and Industry at its center, conducted the following projects including consultation services.

○ Periodical reviews and following-up work on the regional intellectual property strategy promotion program
○ Holding of symposia and seminars (themes set according to regional needs and contents decided according their IP level)
○ Establishment and maintenance of the website for information provision
At the same time, a Patent Office has been established in each Regional Bureau of Economy, Trade and Industry in order to provide support that meets local needs, such as offering information on and promoting utilization of industrial property rights in the region. These offices, along with the regional reference rooms of the INPIT and Intellectual Property Centers of prefectural government, constitute a comprehensive support framework. The JPO aims to establish an effective support framework for SMEs in close coordination with the aforementioned Regional Headquarters for Intellectual Property Strategy.

**Support System in Local Areas**

Based on the "intellectual property-promotion program 2007", the JPO has conducted in October 2007 the "investigation on the circumstance of efforts for the intellectual property" in 47 prefectures and 17 government ordinance-designated cities for the purpose of promoting the introduction and improvement of the own system by collecting and providing the information on the intellectual property supporting system in local authorities. The outline of the investigation results were published through the website of the JPO and the "Regional Headquarters for Intellectual Property Strategy".

The local authorities which have formulated the own intellectual property-promotion program are 32 prefectures and 3 government ordinance-designated cities. In addition, the local authorities which regard the intellectual property strategy as one of comprehensive industry promoting projects of the local authorities are 6 prefectures and 4 government ordinance-designated cities, so that the intellectual property utilization in the region is penetrating.
1. Current Circumstance of Intellectual Property Activities at Universities

In addition to their roles of providing education and conducting research, universities and other institutions are expected to make a social contribution. The Intellectual Property Basic Act stipulates their social contributions through disseminating research results in Article 7 (1) "universities, etc. shall, in light of the fact that their activities are contributing to the creation of intellectual property throughout society, endeavor voluntary and positively to develop human resources, and disseminate research and the research results."

Although the number of joint researches, funded researches and expenses thereof in Japanese universities have been increasing each year, it is important in promoting innovation to enhance cooperation between industry, academia and government so that research results by universities will be transferred to industries, thus further ensuring commercialization of the knowledge. It is also important to give feedback of industries’ needs to universities so that universities can base their research on those needs.

Universities are expected to clarify the ownership and handling of IP that has resulted from their research and to implement strategic management and utilization of IP.

There are various supportive measures implemented to advance those efforts.
2. Efforts to Support the Intellectual Property Activities at Universities

(1) Dispatch of University Intellectual Property Advisors

In order for universities to start intellectual property activities, it is necessary to establish a proper intellectual property management structure within the universities. The JPO, with the aim of supporting the establishment of this structure within universities, implemented the project of dispatching advisors to universities in FY2002. This project was transferred to the INPIT in January 2007.

In FY2008, the INPIT dispatched University intellectual property advisors to 24 universities including eight universities newly receiving support for the establishment of IP management structure. A total of 48 universities have received University intellectual property advisors.

### Universities Receiving University Intellectual Property Advisors

(Accumulated total: 48 universities)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>University Name</th>
<th>Years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tokyo</td>
<td>(Public) Tokyo University of Science</td>
<td>2002-2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Private) Tokyo Metropolitan University</td>
<td>2002-2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Private) Shibaura Institute of Technology</td>
<td>2002-2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Public) Keio University of Tokyo</td>
<td>2002-2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(National) University of Tsukuba</td>
<td>2002-2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Private) Tokyo Polytechnic University</td>
<td>2002-2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Private) Nihon University of Pharmacy and Applied Life Sciences</td>
<td>2002-2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(National) Hamamatsutai University School of Medicine</td>
<td>2002-2007</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* University names in red are those to which advisors were newly sent in FY2008 (8 universities).
* University names in black are those to which advisors have been sent since FY2007 or before (16 universities).
* University names in blue are those that finished receiving advisors by the end of FY2007 (24 universities).

*Conducted by the INPIT since January 2007.

(2) Promotion of Patent Information Utilization at Universities

1) Integrated Search System for Paper Information and Patent Information

In order to efficiently acquire science and technology literature information and patent information, and effectively utilize them for research activities in universities, through the joint initiatives among the Intellectual Property Strategy Headquarters Cabinet Secretariat, MEXT, the JPO, the Japan Science and Technology Agency, and the INPIT, they developed the Integrated Search System for Patent and Literature Information (JSTPatM) and launched the service in March 2007.


The INPIT developed in FY2006, a prototype system capable of searching and displaying relatively high-speed and easily by researchers of universities etc. even when they have no expert knowledge. In addition, in FY2007, for the
purpose of enhancing the function of the system, the INPIT has provided the system to seven universities nationwide, as well as has held the investigation meeting for improving the convenience and operationality of the system.

(3) Seminars for Universities

The Regional Bureaus of Economy, Trade and Industry hold "Seminars for Researchers at Universities". These seminars are held to provide explanations on how to make use of research results by strategic application filing/ acquisition of rights/utilization of the rights. The seminars were held about 180 times nationwide in FY2007, and about 4,900 people participated.

In addition, targeting researchers of universities etc. in the life science field or intellectual property-concerned persons of the university, for the purpose of publicizing the examination standard for the patent in the life science field, the Regional Bureaus of Economy, Trade and Industry hold "Seminars for the examination standard for the patent in the life science field". In FY2007, the seminars were held at 11 sites nationwide and about 550 people participated.

(4) Reduction and Exemption of the Payment of Patent Annual Fee and Examination Request Fee

The JPO supports the efforts of industry-academia-government collaboration and technology transfer at universities and TLOs through reduction/exemption of the payment of annual patent fees and examination request fees based on the Act Promoting Technology Transfer from Universities to Industry, the Industrial Revitalization Special Measure Act and the Act for Enhancing Industrial Technology.

(5) Accelerated Examination System

Universities and approved/authorized TLOs who have requested examinations for their patent applications can be eligible for accelerated examinations should they submit a written explanation of the needs of the accelerated examination.

(6) Designation of Universities as Academic Groups prescribed in Article 30 of the Patent Act

Article 30 of the Patent Act stipulated that an invention is exempted from lack of novelty if the person having the right to obtain a patent "has made a presentation in writing at a study meeting held by an academic group designated by the Commissioner of the Patent Office". If universities and other institutions are designated as such academic groups by the Commissioner of the JPO, exception to the lack of novelty is approved for the research results presented as study meetings held by the said institutions in a manner similar to those presented at academic society meetings.

The number of designated bodies as of March 31, 2008 included 171 universities, 55 technical colleges, 14 inter-university research institute corporations, 26 independent administrative institutions, 56 public testing laboratories and 654 academic societies.

Meanwhile, because one must file a patent application before presenting the research results in order to acquire patent rights appropriately, the JPO conducts awareness-raising activities through seminars for university researchers.

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1 See Part 3, Chapter 5, 1.(1), 2
2 See Part 3, Chapter 1, 1. (1)
Support for Patent Utilization

1. Measures for Encouraging Patent Licensing

The JPO provides through the INPIT various measures for encouraging patent licensing ("Measures for Encouraging Patent Licensing") in order to activate the creation of new businesses and the development of new products in SMEs and venture companies by smoothly transferring licensable patents (patents owned by large companies, universities, etc., which are available for utilization by others) between companies, or from universities and public experiment and research institutions to companies.

(1) Promotion of Patent Licensing through Active Use of Human Resources
1) Patent Licensing Advisors

With the aim of grasping licensable patents owned by universities, public research institutions and companies, understanding the needs of SMEs and venture companies for introducing technology, and matching those needs, the INPIT dispatches Patent Licensing Advisors, who are experts with a wealth of knowledge and experience on intellectual property rights and technology transfers, upon request of prefectural governments and TLOs, etc (105 advisors as of the end of April 2008).

In addition, starting in FY2007, in addition to the above-mentioned activities, the INPIT provides support activities to local governments to develop human resources and pass down their know-how on patent licensing owned by Patent Licensing Advisors, in order to develop an environment in which patent licensing activities take root in the region and become autonomous.

There are a number of successful patent licensing cases from universities to SMEs and venture companies through the use of charge-free services of consultations and advice on technology transfers by these Patent Licensing Advisors.

<Achievement as of the end of FY2007>

The number of contracts was 10,672 cases (as accumulated total).

(2) Provision of Licensable Patent Information and Promotion of Active Utilization of Those Patents
1) Patent Information Advisors

In order to help local industry become active through use of patent information, the INPIT dispatches Patent Information Advisors, who are experts in utilizing patent information, to various locations in response to requests by prefectural governments (54 advisors as of the end of April 2008). The advisors provide mainly to universities and SMEs instruction on how to search for patent information, and they provide consultation services on how to

URL : http://www.ryutu.inpit.go.jp/en/
utilize such information, as well as hold workshops in response to various requests related to patent information.

**<Achievement in FY2007>**

Patent Information Advisors visited about 8,900 SMEs including individuals and about 800 universities and research institutions.

2) Patent Licensing Database

In order to ensure a smooth transfer of licensable patents within the industrial sector and between local companies and to promote their practical application, the INPIT has built a database of licensable patents owned by universities, public research institutes and companies, which it makes available to the public as the Patent Licensing Database via the Internet.

◇ By this database, anyone can register easily and charge-free data concerning "seeds information (willing disclose widely licensable patents)" and "needs information (willing seek the licensable patents)" on the internet.

◇ The number of "license information" stores in the Patent Licensing Database was about 52,000 (as of the end of March 2008) (Of those, about 25,000 stores represented licensable patents of universities and public research institutions.)

3) Examples of Licensable Patent Utilization

The INPIT has selected patents with high potential for commercialization among the licensable patents registered on the patent Licensing Database, and has created the Examples of Licensable patent Utilization, which highlights such patents along with potential product image as possibilities for business sector application. In addition to its distribution in brochure form, these examples are also available on the INPIT website.

◇ In FY2007, 100 examples were published in the brochure. In addition, on the website, 1,685 examples published since 1998 are published

3) Establishing an Environment Conductive to the Support for Fostering Patent Licensing Businesses

1) Technology Transfer Company Directory

In order to stimulate patent licensing activity, the INPIT is providing a directory for the purpose of providing opportunities for those who wish to conduct trade in intellectual property and companies who mediate such transactions.

2) Patent Business Market

The INPIT holds fairs in which companies that own technological seeds, such as patented technology, present the details of their technological developments and business plans, and seek various forms of cooperation from participants, such as the conclusion of patent licensing contracts, the conducting of joint research, and the offering of financial assistance.

The INPIT also provide support and cooperation for Patent Business markets planned and held by local governments.

**<Achievement in FY2007>**

- The first Patent Business Market (Tokyo) : held on September 26, 2007; 160 participants
- The second Patent Business Market (Osaka) : held on October 17, 2007; 81 participants
3) International Patent Licensing Seminars

In order to develop trade in intellectual property in Japan, exchange relevant information, and build interpersonal networks to this end, the INPIT invites experts engaged in patent licensing and technology transfers at overseas universities, companies, local governments, etc., and holds International Patent Licensing seminars comprising lectures, panel discussions and workshops by those who are playing leading roles in this field in Japan.

This seminar not only serves as an opportunity to learn global technology transfer but also serves as a place to form networks with people engaged in technology transfer in Japan and abroad.

<Achievement in FY2007>

Tokyo: January 28 and 29, 2008; a total of 2,650 participants

4) Training Seminars for Fostering Patent Licensing Experts

The INPIT provides Training Seminars for Fostering Patent Licensing Experts as part of its awareness with a view to increasing the number of patent-licensing market participants nationwide.

<Contents of seminar>

The seminars aiming at the acquisition of the knowledge necessary to the patent licensing and the technology transfer are provided.

<Achievement in FY2007>:

- Introductory level: 10 sessions (Tokyo (3 times), Nagoya, Osaka, Hiroshima, Fukuoka, Yamagata, Matsuyama, Asahikawa); 807 participants)
- Advanced level: 3 sessions (Tokyo (2 times), Osaka); 369 participants

5) Patent Licensing Symposium

The INPIT holds Patent Licensing Symposiums, with the aim of revitalizing local areas by patent licensing and IP utilization.

This symposium comprises lectures on patent licensing business by experts engaged in technology transfers and those who are playing leading roles in this field in Japan, lectures on IP utilization, and panel discussions.

<Achievement in FY2007>

- The first session (Tokyo): held on September 4, 2007; 346 participants
- The second session (Osaka): held on October 3, 2007; 198 participants
- The third session (Fukuoka): held on February 22, 2008; 147 participants

6) Patent Licensing News Mail

The INPIT delivers by e-mail free of charge the up-to-date information on seminars, symposiums, events and news related to patent licensing to e-mail delivery-requesters whose e-mail addresses are registered at the INPIT website.2

7) Patent Licensing Contents (moving image)

The INPIT provides on the INPIT website free of charge the explanations (moving image) for basic knowledge, such as the meaning of patent licensing contracts, and points to consider at the time of contracts, based on the

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2 By registering an e-mail address at the INPIT website, the receive of Patent Licensing News Mail becomes possible.
2. Achievements of Measures for Encouraging Patent Licensing

(1) Number of Contracts and Economic Impact

As an achievement of these comprehensive Measures for Encouraging Patent Licensing, the total number of contracts made through Patent Licensing Advisors by the end of March 2008 came to 10,672.

In addition, its economic impact reached 267.4 billion yen at the end of December 2007.

The Number of Contracts Made through Measures for Encouraging Patent Licensing

![Graph showing the number of contracts made each year from 1997 to 2007.](image)

Source: INPIT

The Economic Impact of Measures for Encouraging Patent Licensing and Project Cost

![Graph showing the economic impact and project cost from 1997 to 2007.](image)

Note:
Figures on economic impact indicate the total amount of money moved as a result of patent licensing advisors' activities (excluding the project expenses). Specifically, it represents the total cost incurred by the sales of products that were manufactured based on introduced patented technology, funding for development and investment in manufacturing, licensing income, and personnel cost incurred by the hiring of new workers.
(2) Distribution of Licensors and Licensees

When the breakdowns of the licensors and licensees in the contracts (license contracts, patent right transfer contracts and secrecy contracts) made by the Measures for Encouraging Patent Licensing at the end of FY 1999 and at the end of December 2007 are compared, while the ratio of TLOs has largely increased and the ratio of SMEs has slightly increased, the ratio of the large enterprises has decreased. In addition, with respect to the licensees, though SMEs make up a substantial portion thereof, the ratio of the large enterprises has increased.

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**Distribution of Licensors**

<Accumulated total up to FY1999>

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<thead>
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<th>Licensors</th>
<th>Total up to FY1999</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Large companies</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>SMEs</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public research institutes</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TLOs</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unions etc.</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Individuals</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>179</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: INPIT

<Accumulated total up to the end of December 2007>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Licensors</th>
<th>Total up to end of December 2007</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Large companies</td>
<td>311</td>
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<tr>
<td>SMEs</td>
<td>3,396</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public research institutes</td>
<td>791</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TLOs</td>
<td>4,690</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unions etc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Individuals</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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Distribution of Licensees

<Accumulated total up to FY1999>

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<td>TLOs</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unions etc.</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individuals</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>179</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: INPIT

<Accumulated total up to the end of December 2007>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Licensee</th>
<th>Total up to end of December 2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Large companies</td>
<td>2,459</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SMEs</td>
<td>7,318</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public research institutes</td>
<td>133</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TLOs</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unions etc.</td>
<td>128</td>
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<tr>
<td>Individuals</td>
<td>235</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>10,297</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. Further Promotion of the Use of Information Technology

(1) Further Improvement of Electronic Filings

The JPO has led the world in promoting the "paperless project" since 1984 and started receiving electronic applications for patents and utility models in December 1990. The JPO also started to allow electronic procedures for the filing of design and trademark applications, appeal procedures, and national procedures for PCT applications in January 2000. As for PCT international applications, the JPO made electronic filing available in April 2004. The electronic application rates for patents/utility models, designs, trademarks, ex parte proceedings, PCT national phase, and PCT international phase in 2007 were 97%, 92%, 84%, 98% or more, 99% or more and 86%, respectively, all very high rates.

In addition, to the conventional electronic applications field through ISDN lines, it became possible in October 2005 to file electronic applications (patents/utility models, designs, trademarks, appeals and trials, PCT national phase) via the Internet. The hours for accepting electronic applications were extended to around the clock and throughout the year. The JPO also started accepting electronic filing via the Internet for the filing of national procedures for PCT applications in January 2007.

Electronic filing via the Internet allows for high-speed and large-volume communication using broadband, which has come into wide use these days. It also allows for strict user identification and prevention of document alterations by using digital certificates, and maintenance of security by using encrypted communication. In April 2007, in addition to digital certificates in the file format, also digital certificates in the IC card format including Basic Resident Resister Card became available (except for the PCT international applications). The JPO will continue to improve convenience so that electronic filing via the Internet will become standard among electronic filings.

(2) Electronic Exchange of Priority Documents

The JPO is promoting a project for the purpose of electronically-exchanging priority documents between Offices. After the achievement of the electronic exchange of priority documents, instead of the Japanese applicants, the JPO will send priority documents directly to foreign Offices, so that the submission procedure load and cost of the applicant will be largely alleviated.

The electronic exchange of priority documents was started in January 1999 between the JPO and the EPO and in July 2001 also between the JPO and the KIPO. In addition, also the JPO and the USPTO agreed on the electronic exchange of priority documents in a Trilateral meeting in November 2006 and the actual exchange was started in July 2007. Thus, the electronic exchange of priority documents became possible between the JPO-USPTO-EPO Trilateral Offices.
In addition, the Trilaterals are pursuing the investigation on the digital library vision proposed by the WIPO. When this vision is realized, the exchange of priority documents with Offices other than the Trilaterals become facilitated.

The JPO has amended the Patent Law etc. in April 2008 for implementing the electronic exchange of priority documents via the digital access service of the WIPO.

2. Promotion of Provision of Industrial Property Information

(1) Industrial Property Digital library (IPDL)

In March 1999, the JPO launched the Industrial Property Digital Library (IPDL), which provides industrial property information free of charge via the Internet, in order to develop an environment in which industrial property information is used more widely and easily.

The IPDL allows users to search 65.0 million official gazettes of patents, utility models, designs and trademarks as well as related information such as the legal status of examination, registration and appeals/trials, based on the document numbers, classifications and key words. The management of the IPDL was shifted to the INPIT in October 2004, and the IPDL is currently provided on the INPIT website\(^1\).

The IPDL is upgraded every year in terms of improved usability and a broadened range of services. The JPO added Japanese abstracts of foreign literature in the scope of searchable documents of the text search service in March 2007. Furthermore, examination documents, which used to be provided via the network as paid services, have been made partially available free of charge as the IPDL inquiry service on a trial basis since March 2006. The JPO expanded the scope of documents available for this service in March 2007. Further, in March 2008, in the text search service, the full text was made searchable and further, in the names of goods and services-list (trademark) service, the Trilateral list (names of goods and services (in English) on which the JPO-USPTO-EPO have agreed, was added to make the data input more convenient).

Active use of industrial property information through the IPDL is expected to further promote utilization of industrial property rights.

While the annual number of searches was about 12.7 million immediately after the launch of the IPDL service (FY 1999), the number of users has been increasing in line with the subsequent upgrading of the service. In FY2007, the annual number of searches reached about 77.9 million.

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\(^1\) IPDL Top Page (http://www.ipdl.inpit.go.jp/homepg_e.ipdl)
In order to meet the diverse needs for industrial property information, it is necessary not only to support the use of the information by the public through the IPDL, but also to prepare an environment in which private industrial property information service providers (hereinafter referred to as "private information service providers") can provide high value-added services. To achieve this goal, the JPO has reviewed its conditions for disseminating data and is working on establishing an environment in which users can easily access and use industrial property information.

First of all, in March 1999, the JPO launched a project to provide its industrial property information that has been converted and processed into a generally accessible format such as XML (organized and standardized data) in a batch at marginal costs. The work to create the organized and standardized data was transferred to the INPIT in October 2004.

As for gazettes, since the launch of CD-ROM gazette provision at marginal cost in April 1998, the JPO has conducted reviews on its publication styles based on technological progress and demands from users. In 2004, the JPO changed the format of patent and utility model gazettes from the SGML format to the XML format, in addition to changing the media from CD-ROMs to DVD-ROMs. The JPO began to issue publications of registered utility-model applications free of charge via the Internet in January 2006. The JPO undertook the same measures for design gazettes starting in January 2007.

These measures would encourage private information-service providers to offer high-value-added services and would promote diverse usage, such as building an in-house database in private companies. The JPO will continue to strive to improve the usability of industrial property information.

In addition, IPDL is available in addition to through the Internet, also through the dedicated terminals provided in the First Public Gazettes Reading Room and Region Gazettes Reading Room of the INPIT or in the reading

(2) Enhancement of Provision of Industrial Property Information

In order to meet the diverse needs for industrial property information, it is necessary not only to support the use of the information by the public through the IPDL, but also to prepare an environment in which private industrial property information service providers (hereinafter referred to as "private information service providers") can provide high value-added services. To achieve this goal, the JPO has reviewed its conditions for disseminating data and is working on establishing an environment in which users can easily access and use industrial property information.

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2 There are more than 200 small and large-scale private information-service providers in Japan.
3 Refers to additional expenses of data reproduction, the price for empty storage media, and sending costs, and does not include data creation and maintenance costs.
facility of the intellectual property center of each prefecture (except some prefectures). Through the dedicated terminals, a higher-speed service is provided with a high-fine large display through the dedicated circuit.

Further more, the INPIT installed the same search terminals as those used by examiners in the First Public Gazettes Reading Room, and made them available to the public in January 2007. This allows users to conduct quick searches for patent literatures in Japan and abroad excluding those undisclosed.

(3) Exchange of Industrial Property Information with Overseas Patent Offices and Exploitation of Such Information

The JPO regularly exchanges industrial property information based on a trilateral agreement with the Trilateral Offices (JPO, USPTO and EPO) and on a bilateral basis with other overseas patent offices (including the State Intellectual Property Office of P.R.C. [SIPO] and the Korean Intellectual Property Office [KIPO]). The JPO creates abstracts of foreign publications in Japanese from the exchanged data.

1) Exchanging Industrial Property Information with Overseas Patent Offices and International Organizations

In order for patent applications field with the JPO to be properly taken into consideration as prior art in other countries, the JPO processes its industrial property information and provides it to overseas patent offices and international organizations. At the same time, it also receives industrial property information from overseas patent offices.

2) Providing Abstracts of Foreign Patent Documents in Japanese

The JPO provides abstract data of US patent documents, US publications of patent applications, and EP publications of patent applications all in Japanese. Abstracts are used as materials for patent examination at the JPO. These data are available to the public through the IPDL.

3) Providing Patent Abstracts of Japan (PAJ)

In order for the patent applications published in Japan to be at least used as minimum documentation in prior art searches for PCT applications, the JPO provides English abstracts of publications of patent applications (Patent Abstracts of Japan) and provides them to overseas patent offices.
Chapter 4

Part 3

Measures for Private Companies and Universities

Dissemination of Industrial Property Information Flow Diagram

JPO/National Center for Industrial Property Information and Training

Industrial Property Digital Library (IPDL)

Standardized Data

DVD/CD-ROM Gazette

Internet Gazette

Foreign Patent Offices

EPO

USPTO etc.

Available at marginal costs
(provided by)
Japan Patent Information Organization

Private Information Service Providers, etc

Constructions of various DB.

Available at marginal costs
(provided by)
Japan Institute of Invention and Innovation (JIII)

Internet

Users of Industrial Property Right Information

Research Institutes

Universities

Companies

Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Individuals
3. Information Provided on the JPO Website

The JPO website has been renewed in January 2008.

JPO Website (Top Page) http://www.jpo.go.jp/index.htm

4. Plan for Optimization of JPO Operations and Systems

(1) Optimization of JPO Operations and Systems

Ever since the JPO introduced online filing procedures for patents and utility models in December 1990, it has successively introduced online procedures for designs, trademarks, appeals/trials, and PCT applications. In addition, it has worked on the computerization of JPO intra-office operations. It has effectively achieved computerization of all procedures, including acceptance of applications and intermediate procedures, formality checks, substantive examinations, registration of rights, gazette publication and appeals/trials, and has improved the efficiency of operations and promoted timely and high-quality examinations and appeal/trial examinations.

Meanwhile, the "e-Government Building Program" (adopted by the CIO Liaison Meeting in July 2003 and partially revised in June 2004) was formulated as an effort by the whole government to realize a simple and efficient government. Based on this program, the JPO formulated a "Plan for Optimization of JPO Operations and Systems" consisting of a review of the operational processes, explanation of ideal operations and systems, and a review of legacy systems, with an aim to optimize the overall operations and systems of the JPO in October 2004. After further clarifying the contents of the plan and discussing the detailed schedule, the JPO formulated and released the "Plan for Optimization of JPO Operations and Systems" (Revised Edition) in August 2005.

Furthermore, from October 2005 to March 2006 the feasibility of the new business-processing system of the Optimization Plan was verified (creation and desk verification of prototype) and from December 2006, the system development started. In August 2007, the opinions on the design and development of the new business-processing
system were solicited and after investigating the collected opinions, the JPO is pursuing the design and development thereof.

(2) Three Goals of the Optimization Plan

With an aim to further improve its public services by innovating systems through application of the latest information technology and to further improve the efficiency of operations through a fundamental review of its operations, the JPO will work to achieve the following three goals based on the "Plan for Optimization of the JPO's Operations and System" (Revised Edition).

1) Improve convenience for applicants and agents and enhance information services in order to revitalize the "intellectual creation cycle," which consists of strategic creation, protection and exploitation of intellectual property.

2) Develop the necessary system infrastructure for achieving "timely and high-quality examinations of the world's highest standard."

3) Performing fundamental revisions of operations and seeking to reduce system expenses

(3) New Search System

In developing the new search system of the JPO, the JPO is investigating to make the developed system as open as possible for contributing to the innovation promotion of the universities and enterprises etc. and to improve the search environment to search seamlessly the patent information and the globally-existent technology information.

1) Expansion/sharing of information contents

Sharing the technology information database with the universities and enterprises etc. such as enhancing the cooperation of the JPO database with the external database possessed by the universities and enterprises etc.

2) Open/sharing of systems (e.g. search functions)

Developing a tool enabling the efficient search and sharing the tool with the external users.

• Conception search and figure image search

• Enhancing rule of search engine

• Translation dictionary and thesaurus dictionary etc.

3) Construction of feedback mechanism

Establishing the framework capable of positive feedback from private sectors, in other words making the contents and systems possessed by the JPO as open as possible to the outside so that they would be improved by them, the aim of which is to introduce such improvement into the JPO system in return.

The JPO will revise the optimization plan for the new search system based on the above.
1. Enhancement of IP-Conscious Mind

In order to encourage IP activities and promote innovation, it is very important to develop human resources that take a major role in those activities. In addition to the development of IP experts, it is critical to conduct IP education for students from elementary schools to universities who will be responsible for the future IP systems.


The JPO has conducted IP human resource development programs that are suitable for each group, such as elementary schools, junior high schools, high schools, universities, researchers, adults and experts.

(1) Seminars and Explanatory Meetings for Adults in General, Researchers, Undertakers and Experts

In order to deepen citizens’ understanding and recognition of the significance of the intellectual property system, the JPO holds explanatory meetings on the system and on latest developments such as legal amendments targeting various levels of participants (introductory level and advanced level) throughout Japan. The JPO also
holds "Seminars for Researchers at Universities and Public Research Institutions" to explain how to acquire rights for research results and how to manage and utilize the rights to researchers at universities and other institutions. It also holds "Seminars for SMEs and Venture Companies" to explain strategic utilization of intellectual property and licensing agreements, including technology transfers for SME and venture company managers and persons responsible for R&D. Additionally, the JPO holds "Expert Training Seminars" for management and technical consultants and the companies that trade intellectual property rights.

1) Explanatory Meetings on the Intellectual Property Right Systems Targeting Adults in general

The JPO holds "Explanatory Meetings for Introductory Level," (in FY2007 held total 51 times in 47 prefectures nationwide, about 6,500 participants) in which industrial property beginners and employees assigned to the intellectual property section of their companies can acquire basic knowledge on the intellectual property right systems. The JPO also holds explanatory meetings for those already engaged in industrial property-related works, such as "Explanatory Meetings for Advanced Level," (in FY2007 held in 15 cities nationwide, about 13,600 participants) targeting acquisition of knowledge on patent examination standards and practical skills necessary for filing international applications, "Explanatory Meetings on the Regionally-Based Collective Trademark System and the Trademark System for Retail and Wholesale Services," (in FY2007 held in 47 sites, about 1,600 participants) and "Explanatory Meetings on the Amended Design System" (in FY2007 held in 47 sites nationwide, about 2,500 participants).

2) Seminars Targeting Specific Participants

Each Regional Bureau of Economy, Trade and Industry holds seminars nationwide targeting specific participants, such as university researchers, SME and venture company managers, venture capitalists, and management/technology consultants.

a. Seminars Targeting Researchers at Universities and Public Research Institutions

The JPO holds seminars targeting researchers at universities and public research institutions to explain strategic application filing, acquisition and utilization of rights using research results <Achievement in FY2007: held about 180 times, about 4,900 participants>.

b. Seminars Targeting SMEs and Venture Companies

Targeting SME and venture company managers and R&D managers, the JPO holds seminars on strategic acquisition of IP rights, right-utilization methods, and license contracts such as technology transfers, according to the
3) Intellectual Property Right Systems Promotion Events

The JPO held the "Intellectual Property Order Award Ceremony" and the "Memorial Symposium" as a memorial event for "Invention Day," on April 18, 2008 in the Grand Prince Hotel Akasaka. Each Regional Bureau of Economy, Trade and Industry also held an "Invention Day Fair" targeting students in elementary school and junior high schools and their families, thus striving to promote the intellectual property right systems.

(2) Promotion of Intellectual Property and Educational Support for Educational Institutions

1) Development and provision of intellectual property education materials

The JPO has been providing Industrial Property Rights Standard Textbooks free of charge to high schools (specialized courses), colleges of technology, and universities that wish to receive the textbooks to teach the correct knowledge and basic practical skills concerning intellectual property.

Also, in order to raise public awareness on the protection of and respect for intellectual property from the school education stage, the JPO has been providing Supplementary Textbooks for Intellectual Property Education that are suitable for each age group in elementary schools, junior high schools and high schools. They are provided free of charge to schools that wish to receive them.

These projects have been conducted since FY1998, and were transferred to the INPIT in January 2007.

Number of Industrial Property Rights Standard Textbooks Distributed in FY2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Targeting: universities and colleges of technology</th>
<th>Targeting: industrial, commercial and agricultural high schools</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- General: 57,000 copies to 660 faculties and departments</td>
<td>- General: 28,000 copies to 310 schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Patents: 40,000 copies to 600 faculties and departments</td>
<td>- Patents: 15,000 copies to 204 schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Designs: 9,700 copies to 140 faculties and departments</td>
<td>- Designs: 500 copies to 24 schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Trademarks: 24,000 copies to 500 faculties and departments</td>
<td>- Trademarks: 7,500 copies to 170 schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Licensing: 6,600 copies to 100 faculties and departments</td>
<td>- Licensing: 240 copies to 19 schools</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2) Intellectual Property Education Support Seminars

With the aim of developing an IP-conscious mind, raising awareness on IP and providing educational support, each Regional Bureau of Economy, Trade and Industry holds seminars nationwide targeting students from elementary schools to universities and teachers, using the above-mentioned standard textbooks and supplementary textbooks.

3) Research Study on Support and Promotion of Intellectual Property Education (with schools cooperating in the intellectual property education promotion)

The JPO compiles case examples of the efforts made in industrial, commercial and agricultural high schools and colleges of technology that conduct intellectual property education using the above-mentioned standard textbooks. These case examples are provided to schools that will cooperate in the experiment in the following years.

This project has been conducted since FY2000 (conducted until FY2007 as a project with schools cooperating in the experiment), and was transferred to the INPIT in January 2007.

2. Development of Intellectual Property Experts

(1) Foundation for Human Resources

Japan is expected to become an intellectual property-based nation that creates wealth through the strategic creation, protection and exploitation of intellectual property. To attain this goal, it is important to improve the quality and quantity of specialized intellectual property services that support commercialization and transactions of intellectual property as well as settlement of disputes.

Under these circumstances, the JPO has made necessary amendments of the Patent Attorney Act with the objective of further developing and utilizing patent attorneys who have expert technical knowledge on intellectual property as the key players in the establishment of an intellectual property-based nation.

Main amended points are as follows.

[Amendment in 2000]
* Simplification and rationalization of patent attorney examination
* Expansion of the services corresponding to diversification of user needs

[Amendment in 2002]
* Granting of the right to act as counsels in specified infringement lawsuits (limited to cases in which attorneys at law are also entrusted by the same client)

[Amendment in 2007]
* Expansion of the services in a field in which the expert technical knowledge on intellectual property possessed by the patent attorney can be utilized
* Expansion of the range for the exemption of patent attorney examination for expansion of the range of

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1. Refers to infringement lawsuits related to rights concerning patents, utility models, designs, trademarks or layout of semiconductor circuits, or to business profits gained through specific acts of unfair competition.
human resource

- Establishment of the training system for maintaining and improving the quality of patent attorneys
- Introduction of a regulation for prohibiting the name-lending

In recent years, the number of patent attorneys tends to increase and was 7,571 as of the end of 2007. In addition, the number of patent attorneys granted the right to act as counsels in specified infringement lawsuits also increases and was 1,772 as of the end of 2007.

Transition of the Number of Patent Attorneys

Transition of the Number of Patent Attorneys granted the Right to act as Counsels in Specified Infringement Lawsuits

Note: A patent attorney, who has completed the training course for securing the learning and practical ability required for the counsel and has passed the examination (the specific infringement lawsuits counsel examination) for judging whether a person possesses the above learning and practical ability or not, may act as a counsel only in specified infringement lawsuits in which attorneys at law are also entrusted by the same client by completing the supplementary registration procedures for the qualification of the above examination in the Japan Patent Attorney Association.

Data: JPAA data (at the end of March 2008)
Number of Patent Attorneys and Other Intellectual Property Experts in Japan and the United States

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Japan</th>
<th>United States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Patent attorneys (Benrishi) (excluding attorneys at law)</td>
<td>7,355</td>
<td>8,621</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attorneys at law specializing in intellectual property (lawyers who are also registered as Benrishi)</td>
<td>377</td>
<td>27,273</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes:
- Patent agents: Qualified people who have passed the examination conducted by the USPTO (qualified to act as an agent for patent-filing procedures with the USPTO)
- Patent attorneys (United States): Patent agents who have also acquired the qualification of an attorney at law (lawyer) of a relevant state (qualified to act as an agent for the procedures for both patents and trademarks with the USPTO and act as counsels; the qualification of the attorney at law alone allows the person to act only as an agent for trademark-related procedures with the USPTO)
- Japan: JPO data (at the end of March 2008)

(2) Development of Human Resources by the INPIT

The National Center for Industrial Property Information and Training (INPIT) offers training courses with the aim of developing human resources that will support intellectual property services. This in turn will promote expeditious examination and appeal/trial examination at the JPO, formulation of intellectual property strategies at companies, and proper protection and utilization of intellectual property rights.

1) Training for JPO Officials

a. Training for Officials Engaged in Examinations and Appeal/Trial Examinations, and Training for Officials Engaged in Administrative Affairs (number of participants in FY2007: 1,017)

According to the basic policies and plans designed by the JPO, the INPIT offers patent examination courses and appeal examination courses as training for officials engaged in examinations and appeal/trial examinations. For fixed-term officials (assistant examiners) who have been hired to accelerate patent examinations, the INPIT provides an induction course for fixed-term officials (assistant examiners). It also offers training courses for officials engaged in administrative affairs such as a trial court clerk course and an Intellectual Property Right Specialist course etc.

b. Training for Improving Expert Skills (number of participants in FY2007: 4,554)

In order to help JPO officials improve their knowledge and skills as required in their duties, the INPIT provides various training courses aimed at honing officials’ skills so as to better respond to globalization, computerization and changes in administrative needs, in addition to enhancing knowledge in relevant legal matters.

2) Human Resources Development Activities for People other than JPO Officials

a. Training for "Searchers" (number of participants in FY2007: 314)

The INPIT offers statutory training for those who wish to become "searchers" (staff that conduct prior art searches) in registered searching organizations (Article 37 of the Act on the Special Provisions to the Procedure, etc. concerning Industrial Property Rights).

The proper training of searchers performing highly accurate prior art searches is particularly important for the realization of expeditious patent examinations. Therefore, this training course aims at having trainees acquire the fundamental skills that are required of them as searchers and the knowledge necessary for prior art searches.
by systematically acquiring this basic knowledge through practical training and debate. In FY2007, two organizations satisfying the requirements prescribed in Article 37 of the Act on the Special Provisions to the Procedure, etc. concerning Industrial Property Rights, have been newly registered. As of the end of April, 2008, eight organizations are registered.

b. Development of Search Experts (number of Participants in FY2007: 227 for advanced-level course; 54 for intermediate-level course; and 21 for design course)

The INPIT provides intermediate-level, advanced-level and design training courses that teach participants the JPO examiners’ knowledge and expertise concerning patent and design documents searches.

The intermediate-level course is mainly oriented towards researchers, staff of the intellectual property headquarters of universities, and staff of technology licensing organizations (TLOs). It aims at developing human resources who can, through exploiting patent information, conduct investigations for deciding themes or directions for research or investigations for determining whether a patent application or an examination request should be filed.

The advanced-level course targets people who have already acquired sufficient knowledge of patent acts by engaging in prior art searches. It aims at developing human resources that can help eliminate unnecessary filings of patent applications and examination requests by further improving participants’ prior art search skills.

In addition, the design course targets people who have already acquired sufficient knowledge of the Design Act and it aims at developing human resources capable of grasping appropriately an effective protection of the product design by the design rights and the scope of the right after the protection of the right.

c. Training for Intellectual Property Experts (number of participants in FY2007: 78)

The INPIT conducts debate-style training for intellectual property experts, including lawyers, patent attorneys and companies’ intellectual property division staff. The participants can learn from each other by debating on the concepts of patent and utility model examination standards from their different viewpoints. Also, the INPIT actively provided patent examiners with information on examination standards in order to further increase the practical skills of intellectual property experts.

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2 See Part 2, Chapter 2, 2.
d. Training for SMEs and Venture Companies (number of participants in FY2007: 119)

In order to strengthen SME and venture company managers' abilities to respond to patent infringement warning and to enhance their intellectual property-conscious minds, the INPIT provides practical training in which managers engage in realistic scenarios involving written patent infringement warnings.

e. Training for Intellectual Property Experts of Administrative Agencies (number of participants in FY2007: 173)

The INPIT provides training for officials who engage in intellectual property affairs in administrative agencies. The training aims to contribute to the smooth implementation of intellectual property systems and the active utilization of intellectual property rights by having these officials acquire the necessary knowledge for the performance of their duties.

f. Development of Human Resources Using Information and Communications Technology (IP e-Learning)

The INPIT provides e-learning educational materials that have been developed based on JPO knowledge, experience and expertise, intended for use not only by the JPO, but also by people involved in intellectual property nationwide.

In addition, though hitherto, the learning was possible only using the PC, in FY2007, the learning environment was improved so that the watching-listening became newly possible utilizing a portable terminal.

g. Provision of Training Materials

Textbooks used in the INPIT training courses that can be made public are published on the INPIT website so that they can be used by any person engaged in intellectual property.

3) Cooperation with Private-Sectional Intellectual Property Human Resources Developing Organization

Responding to that the establishment of a consultation for promoting the intellectual property human resources development was proposed in the "comprehensive strategy for intellectual property human resources development" reported in the Intellectual Property Strategy Headquarters meeting (13th) which was held in February 24, 2006, the JPO is participating in the established "consultation for promoting intellectual property human resources development", conducting the information exchange, event business etc. (symposium) and conducting the comprehensive arrangement between participating 7 organizations as the secretariat.

Intellectual Property Human Resources Development Symposium - intellectual property human resources innovation starts - which was held in July 2007
Column: The national Center for Industrial Property Information and Training (INPIT)

With the objective of developing and enhancing the structural basis "information" and "human resources," which support the industrial property right system and "environment" to utilize them, the National center for Industrial Property Information and Training (INPIT), in cooperation with the JPO, is swiftly and accurately conducting a range of operations, such as provision of access to gazettes, promotion of patent licensing, information dissemination, consultations and development of information systems and human resources.

1. Organization

* Total number of officers and staff: 103 (excluding two part-time auditors)
As of April 2008

* The INPIT adopted a simple new logo in January 2007 so as to provide services closer to users.

2. INPIT's Activities

(1) Industrial Property Gazette Reference Service

As a "special industrial property service" that is required to be established under the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property, the INPIT provides gazette reference services and reference support by installing IPDL-dedicated computer terminals, CD and DVD reading terminals and terminals for the examiners (only in Tokyo) in the regional reference rooms in Tokyo and eight other locations nationwide (Sapporo, Sendai, Nagoya, Osaka, Hiroshima, Takamatsu, Fukuoka and Naha) in order to provide public access to domestic and foreign industrial property gazettes.

<Number of users in FY2007: about 44,000>

(2) Provision of Documents Related to Examination and Appeal/Trial Examination

The INPIT provides the "minimum documentations" subject to international searches as prescribed in the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT). In addition, it gathers, organizes, stores and offers for public reference technical documents such as materials (including the filing documents) necessary for examinations and appeal/trial
examinations, including such minimum documentations.

<Number of documents stored: about 50,000 (as of the end of March 2008)>

(3) Patent Licensing Promotion

In order to create new businesses and improve the technical capacities of SMEs, the INPIT gathers and provides
technology-related information such as licensable patents, and provide support for patent licensing contracts made
through Patent Licensing Advisors.

<Number of patent licensing contracts supported by Patent Licensing Advisors: 10,672 (accumulated total until
to the end of March 2008)>

(4) Industrial Property Information Dissemination

In addition to managing the IPDL service in which industrial
property information can be searched free of charge via the Internet,
the INPIT standardizes the JPO data and makes them available to
the public at a marginal cost. It also creates abstracts of US and
European patent specifications and provides them as examination
materials for the JPO. At the same time, it creates English abstracts
of Japanese publications of patent applications (Patent Abstracts of
Japan) and provides them to overseas offices.

<Number of searches in the IPDL in FY2007: about 77.9 million>

(5) Industrial Property Consultation Services

The INPIT provides guidance in regards to filing procedures and other
procedures inherent in the acquisition of industrial property rights such as patents,
and offers consultation services on general industrial property matters such as
examinations, appeal/trial examinations, registration, standards and practices.

<Number of consultations in FY2007: 60,396>

(6) Information System Development

The INPIT develops the information system, a basis of information
provision, such as through development and maintenance of the electronic
filing software and the gazette system, and develops electronic data of the
documents necessary for JPO’s examination and appeals/trials procedures.

In addition, in the First Public Gazettes Reading Room and the
Region Gazettes Reading Rooms (8 sites nationwide) of the INPIT, since
October 2007, shared-use PCs capable of filing the internet applications
utilizing the Basic Resident Register Card are installed.

<Rate of applications filed using the electronic filing software in FY2007: about 94%>

(7) Development of Human Resources

The INPIT provides the statutory training necessary for the qualification of patent examiners and other
experts, training in cutting-edge areas of technology such as nanotechnology, and various other training courses
aimed at improving the knowledge and abilities required of JPO officials. It also provides training for developing
searchers for registered searching organizations based on the Act on the Special Provisions to the Procedure
Concerning Industrial Property Rights as well as instruction on JPO’s knowledge, experience and expertise for those
who engage in industrial property affairs, such as patent attorneys and companies’ intellectual property division staff.
The INPIT also provides educational materials for e-learning and other types of training. Furthermore, the INPIT
complies instructional materials for IP education and support in order to develop a system that enables universities
to conduct systematic application filing and IP management.

<Number of training participants in FY2007: 5,571 JPO officials; 986 persons who are not JPO officials>