



Part 2 – IP Activities in Japan and



Support Measures Given by JPO —

Chapter 1

Current Status of Intellectual Property Activities in Japan

This chapter introduces the current status of intellectual property activities in Japanese companies and universities and the trends in application filings for patents, utility models, designs and trademarks in and outside of the country.

1. Intellectual Property Activities in Companies

Along with the growth of globalized business activities, the environment surrounding intellectual property activities by Japanese companies has changed to a large degree. This section introduces the current status of intellectual property activities from the perspective of trends in the number of applications being filed, the number of persons in charge of IP, and expenses involving IP. It also introduces how intellectual property rights are being used.

(1) Changes in the Number of Patent and Utility Model Applications

Looking at the changes in the number of patent applications being filed by Japanese companies, we can see the medium- to long-term perspective that there has been a slight increase between 1980 and 1987 in line with the increase in total R&D costs (See Figure 1-2-1). Since the revised multiple claim system¹ was introduced in 1998, the pace of increase has slowed down. However, the number of patent applications continued to increase slowly, and reached its peak in 2000 (387,000 applications). Subsequently, there has been a slight downward turn until 2011. The number of patent applications filed in 2011 maintained nearly the same level as 2010 (288,000), a 0.7% decrease over the previous year, in spite of the Great East Japan Earthquake that occurred in March

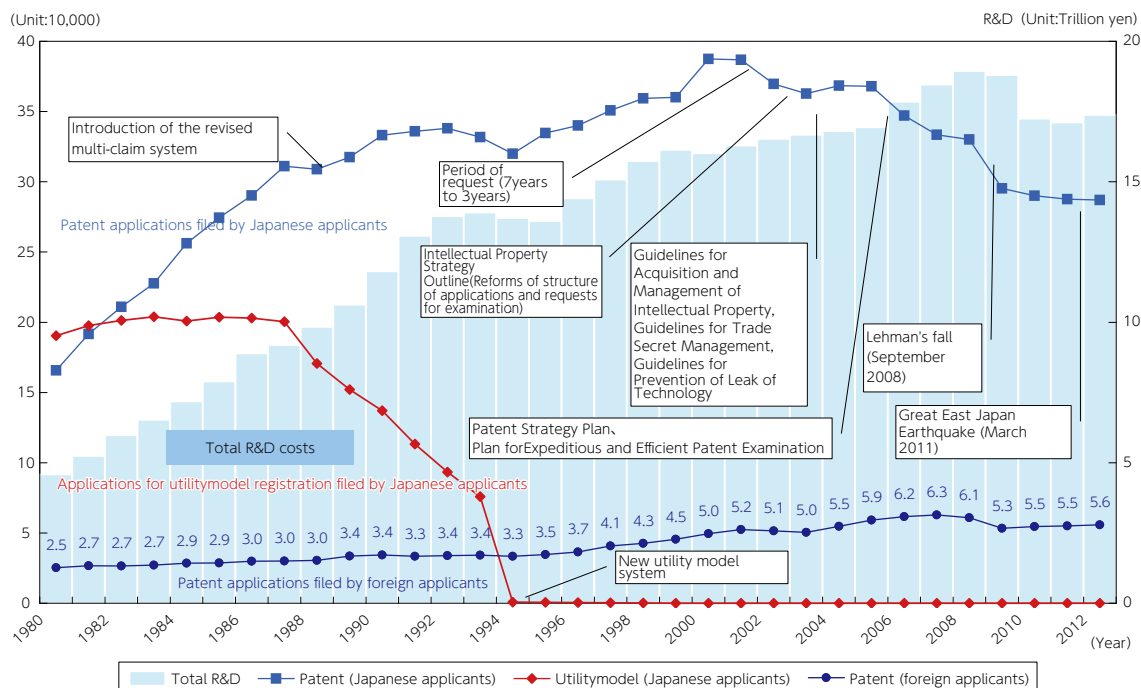
2011. It remained almost unchanged in 2012. There was a significant decrease from 2008 (330,000 applications) to 2009 (295,000 applications) (a 10.5% decrease). The global economic recession during this period is considered to be a reason for this decrease.

For 27 years, from 1980 to 2007, the number of patent applications filed by foreign applicants gradually increased. After reaching a peak of 63,000 applications in 2007, it continuously decreased until 2009. Thereafter the number took a slight upward turn. From 2008 to 2009, the number of patent applications filed by foreign applicants sharply dropped in the same way as the applications by Japanese. This tendency may be due to the global economic recession that occurred concurrently in the world.

¹ A system that allows the applicant to state several claims that satisfy the unity of applications in the scope of claims



[Figure 2-1-1 Changes in the Number of Patent Applications and Utility Model Applications Filed by Japanese and Foreign Applicants; and the total R&D Costs]



Note:

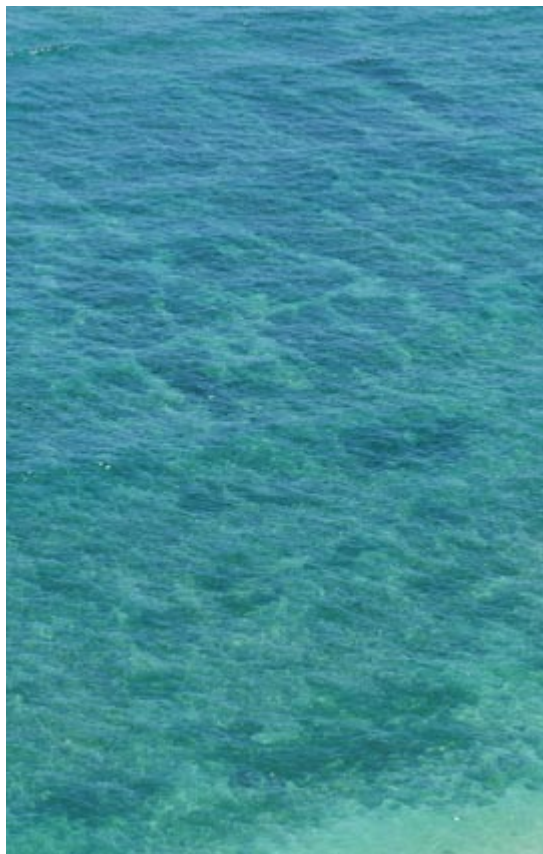
Utility models include both former and new utility models.

Source: Created by the JPO. The total R&D costs are based on the report on the research survey conducted on science and technology, (statistics provided by the Minister of Internal Affairs and Communications)

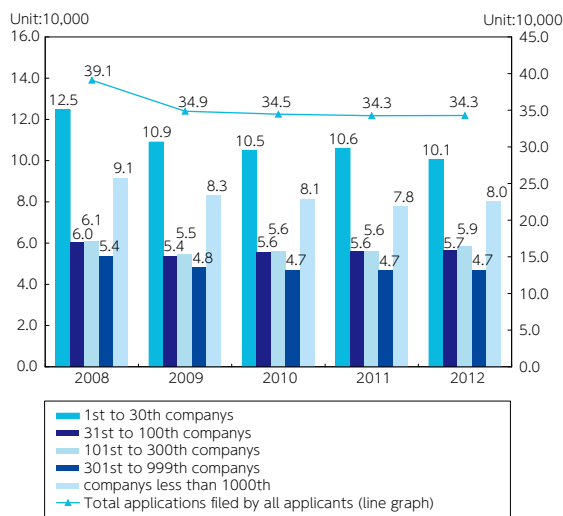
(2) Trends in the Number of Patent Applications by Scale

The total number of patent applications filed by Japanese and foreign applicants decreased 42,000 (a 10.8% decrease) between 2008 and 2009. However, the rate of decline has slowed down, showing a sign that the decrease is coming to an end in 2012. Looking at the number of patent applications by scale of application ranking¹, we see that those filed by the top 30 companies decreased, while those filed by other companies remained unchanged or even increased between 2011 and 2012 (See Figure 2-1-2 and Figure 2-1-3).

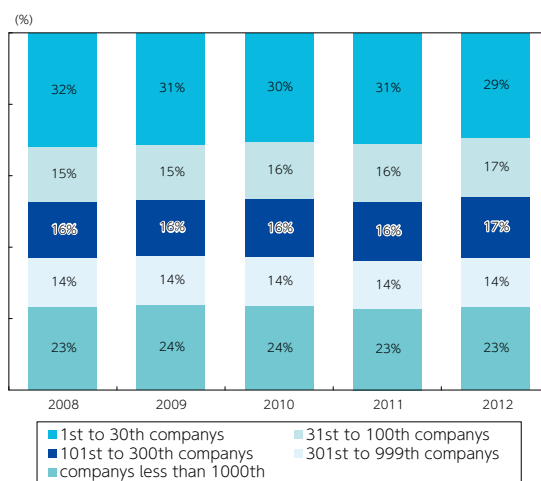
¹ For the trends in the number of patent applications by ranking, the number of patent applications was calculated by categorizing the top-ranking companies for applications into five classes (1st to 30th, 31st to 100th, 101st to 300th, 301st to 999th and less than 1,000th) and then the number of patent applications for each year from 2008 to 2012 was also calculated. (Companies subject to the calculation vary every year).



[Figure 2-1-2 Change in the Number of Patent Applications by scale of application ranking]



[Figure 2-1-3 Ratio of Companies by scale of application ranking in the Number of Patent Applications Filed per Applicant]



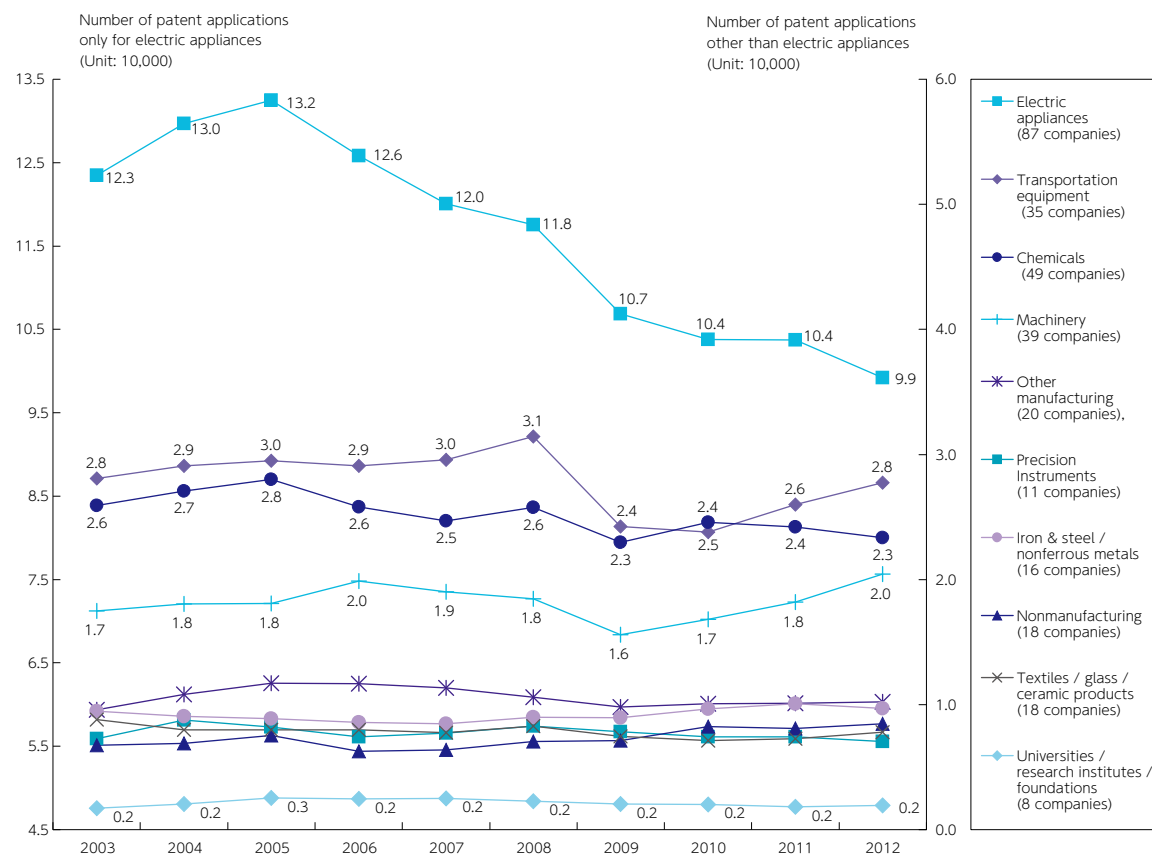
(3) Trends in the Number of Patent Applications by Business Type¹

Looking at the number of patent applications by business type, we see that there has been a continuing decrease from 2005 in the field of electric appliances, which nevertheless still accounts for a high rate among the total number of patent applications. On the other hand, other business types show a different trend from that of the field of electric appliances. For example, in 2012, the number of patent applications increased by 6.6% and 12% over the previous year in the fields of transportation equipment and machinery, respectively. The number of patent applications in all business types decreased by 0.5% compared to the 2011 level (See Figure 2-1-4)



¹ For the trends in the number of patent applications by business type, the top 300 companies in 2012 are classified by their business type and the number of patent applications each year between 2003 and 2012 for the same companies is calculated. (Companies subject to the calculation are the same every year).

[Figure 2-1-4 Change in the Number of Patent Applications by Business Type (Top 300 Companies in the Number of Patent Applications in 2012¹)]



Note:

The top 300 companies in 2012 are classified based on business type as categorized by the Securities Identification Code Committee.

(4) Trends in Global Patent Applications

The number of patent applications filed with the JPO by residents of Japan (Japanese national applications) has slightly decreased since 2006. The number was 288,000 in 2011. Although the number of patent applications filed with the USPTO by US residents (US national applications) slightly decreased from 2007 to 2009, it increased to 248,000 in 2011. The number of patent applications filed with the EPO by residents of Europe (residents of the EPC member countries) stayed around 70,000 between 2007 and 2011. Although the number of patent applications filed with the

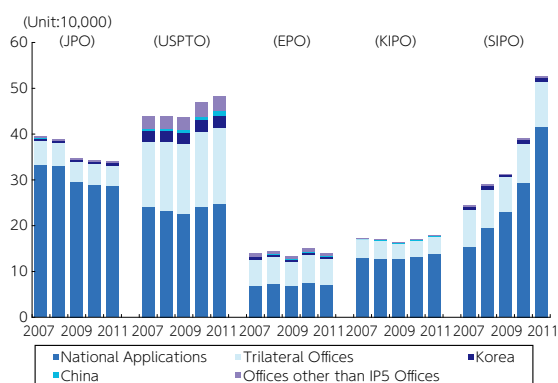
KIPO by residents of Korea (Korean national applications) had been around 127,000 - 128,000 between 2007 and 2009, it increased to 132,000 in 2010 and to 138,000 in 2011. The number of patent applications filed with the SIPO by residents of China (Chinese national applications) has been increasing significantly in line with the increase in the total number of Chinese patent applications being filed. The numbers were 153,000 in 2007 and 416,000 in 2011.

Looking at the status of patent applications filed with the JPO, the EPO and the USPTO, the JPO receives more applications filed by Japanese applicants and fewer applications filed by foreign applicants, compared to the EPO and the USPTO. Looking at the status of patent applications filed with the IP5 Offices, the

¹ The top 300 companies in 2012 are different from the top 300 companies in 2011 listed in the Patent Administration Annual Report 2012.

USPTO, the SIPO and the EPO receive more applications filed by foreign applicants (See Figure 2-1-5).

[Figure 2-1-5 Status of Applications Filed with the JPO, the USPTO, the EPO, the KIPO, and the SIPO]



Notes:

1. "Trilateral Offices" do not include applications filed to its own country. For example, the applications filed by the Trilateral Offices in the case of Japan refer to those filed by the US and European residents.
2. The number of patent applications filed by European residents refers to those filed by residents of the EPC contracting states, as of the end of each fiscal year.

Source: Created by the JPO based on WIPO Statistics Database

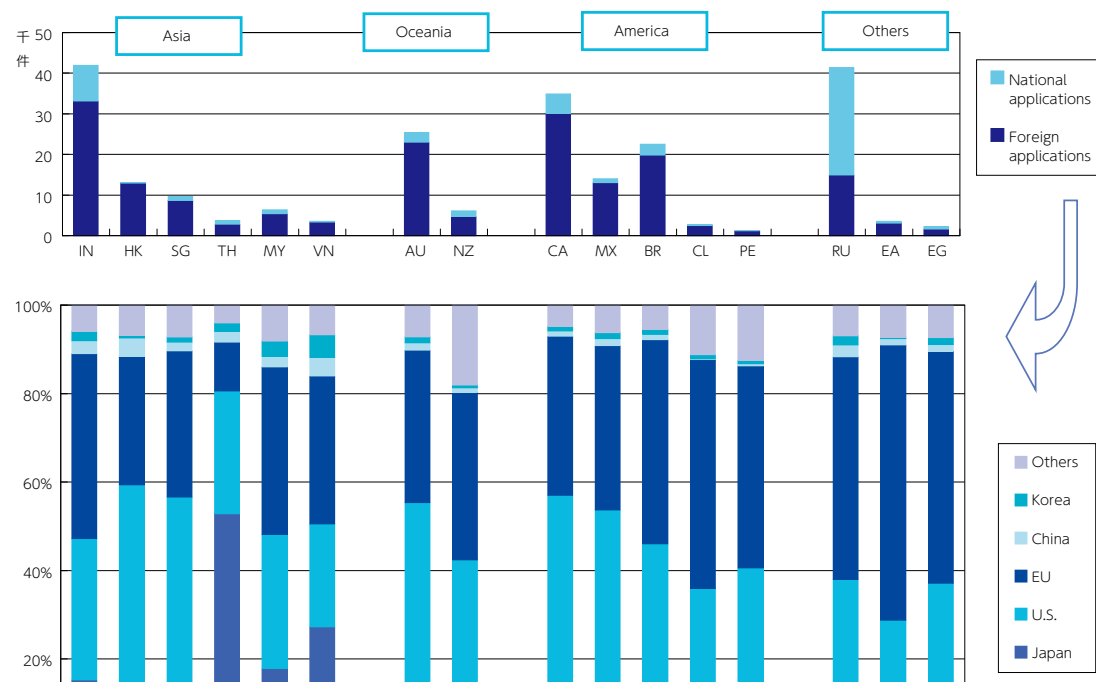
As for patent applications filed with offices in countries and regions other than the IP5 Offices, the ratio of patent applications filed by non-residents is high in many countries and regions. Moreover, the number of international patent applications filed with offices other than the IP5 Offices by Japanese applicants is fewer overall than the number of applications filed by U.S. and EU applicants, except in Thailand and Vietnam (See Figure 2-1-6).



[Figure 2-1-6 Status of Applications Filed with Major Offices other than the IP5 Offices]

Top: Number of applications filed by national and foreign applicants

Bottom: Breakdown of patent applications filed by non-residents



Note:

- IN (India): 2011; HK (Hong Kong):2011; SG (Singapore): 2011; TH (Thailand): 2011; MY (Malaysia): 2011; VN (Vietnam): 2011; AU (Australia): 2011; NZ (New Zealand): 2011; CA (Canada): 2011; MX (Mexico): 2011; BR (Brazil): 2010; CL (Chile): 2011; PE (Peru): 2011; RU (Russia): 2011; EA (Eurasian Patent Office): 2011; and EG (Egypt): 2011.
- The number of applications filed by the EPO refers to those filed by parties contracting to the EPC in countries except for Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam; those filed by major EPC contracting parties in Vietnam; those filed by EU contracting parties in Thailand; and those filed by parties contracting to the EPC which are ranked in the top countries in terms of the number of applications in Malaysia.
- Statistics for the Eurasian Patent Office are based on applications by parties contracting to the EAPC (Eurasian Patent Convention).
- The number of applications filed with Malaysia and Vietnam is the total of patent applications and utility model applications.

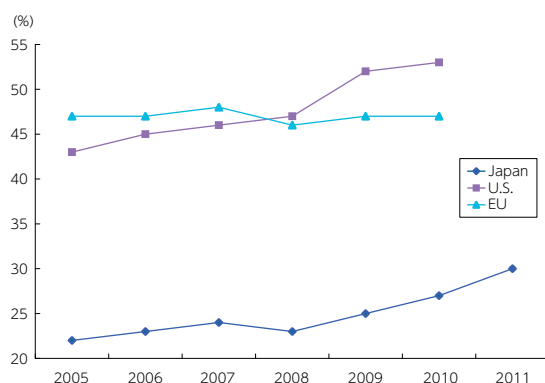
Sources: Created by the JPO based on the following materials

- WIPO Statistics Database (excluding Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam)
- DIP Annual Report 2011 (Thailand)
- MYIPO website (Malaysia)
- NOIP Annual Report 2011 (Vietnam)



The global application rates¹ of Japanese applicants in 2010 and 2011 were 27.3% and 29.5%, respectively (See Figure 2-1-7). On the other hand, the rate of applicants with American nationality in 2010 was 52.6% and that of applicants with European nationality was 46.9%²

[Figure 2-1-7 Global Application Rate]

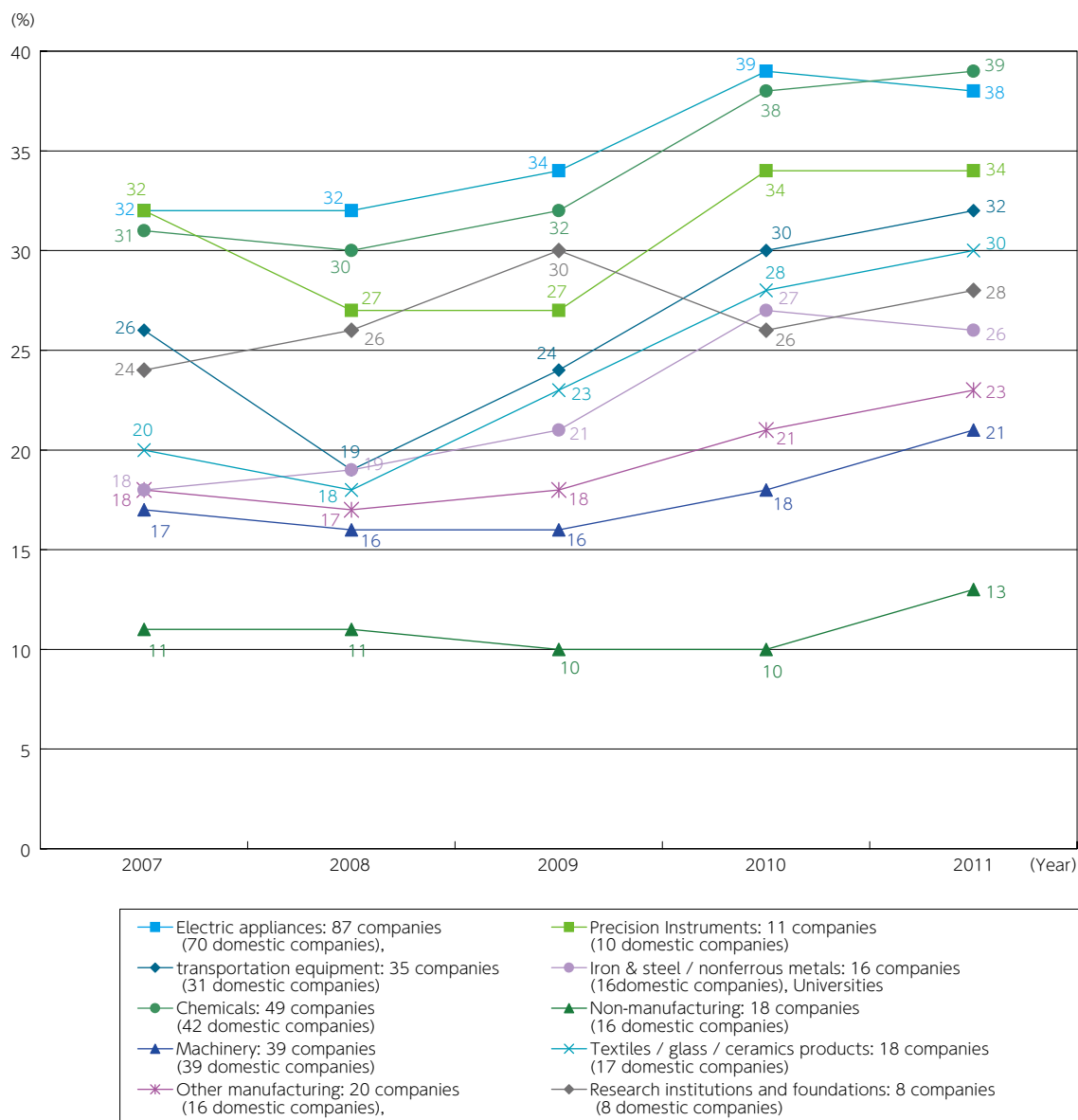


Looking at global application rates by business type, the rates for electric appliances and chemicals were high (See Figure 1-2-11).

¹ The global application rate refers to the rate of patent applications filed also with other countries out of the patent applications filed with the JPO, the EPO and the USPTO each year. The number of countries where foreign applications are filed does not affect the global application rate. The global application rate of Japan was created using the JPO data. The values by scale of number of patent applications in 2011 are provisional. The patent applications include international applications under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) filed directly with each Office without filing national applications.

² The global application rates of the US and Europe were created using data of the World Patents Index (WPI). WPI data is for disclosed patent applications and only calculates disclosed patent applications at the time of acquiring data, i.e., April 2012.

[Figure 2-1-8 Change in the Global Application Rate of Japanese Applicants (by Business Type¹)]



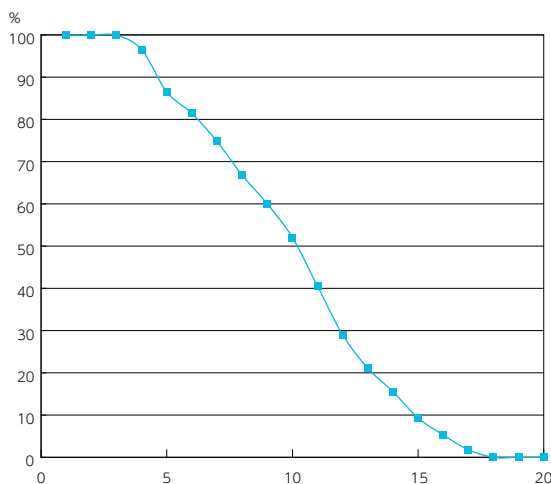
¹ The change in the global application rate of Japanese applicants by business type was obtained by calculating the each year's global application rate based only on Japanese applicants among the top 300 companies in terms of the number of patent applications in 2012. The top 300 companies in terms of the number of patent applications in 2012 are different from the top 300 companies in terms of the number of patent applications in 2011 listed in the Patent Administration Annual Report 2012. The values of the global application rate for 2011 are provisional.



(5) Existing Rate of Patent Rights

The existing rate of patent rights, as based on the number of years that the patent rights had been registered in Japan, decreased to 87% within 5 years, 52% within 10 years, and 9% within 15 years since the rights were registered (See Figure 2-1-9).

[Figure 2-1-9 Existing Rate of Patent Rights]

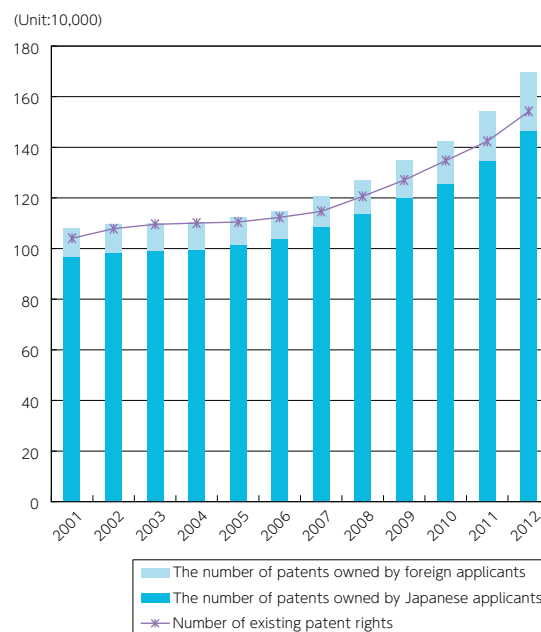


Notes:

- The existing rate refers to the number of registrations still in effect with respect to the total number of patent right registrations.
- The data is as of the end of 2012.

The number of patents owned by Japanese applicants in Japan reached 1.46 million by the end of 2012 (up about 50.0% compared to the 2001 level). The number of patents owned by foreign applicants reached 230,000 by the end of 2012 (about a twofold increase compared to the 2001 level) (See Figure 2-1-10).

[Figure 2-1-10 Number of Existing Patent Rights Owned by Japanese and Foreign Applicants]



2. Intellectual Property Activities at Universities

(1) Efforts to Support Intellectual Property at Universities

Universities in Japan that own abundant research resources¹ play a major role in creating intellectual property. Based on this understanding, university intellectual property headquarters² and technology licensing organizations (TLOs) have been established nationwide. In addition, several initiatives have been introduced, including sending University Intellectual Property Advisors and reducing/exempting annual patent fees and examination request fees³.

In line with efforts to promote academia-industry cooperation, as well as

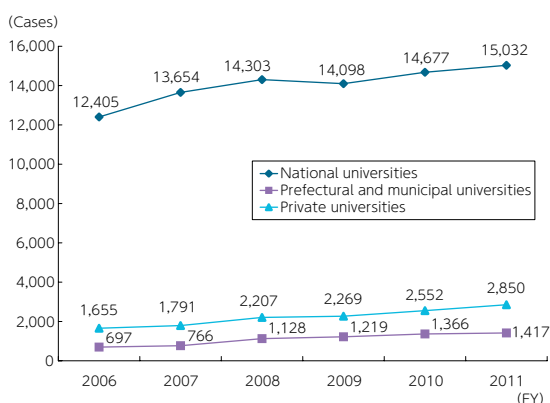
¹ According to the "2012 Outline of the Science and Technology Research Investigation Results" (December 14, 2012) prepared by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC), about 20 % of the entire research fund of Japan is invested in universities and the number of researchers at universities accounts for about 37 % of the total number of researchers in Japan in FY2011.

² Departments at universities that strategically create, acquire, manage and utilize intellectual property at the universities.

³ See Part 3, Chapter 7, 2. (3).

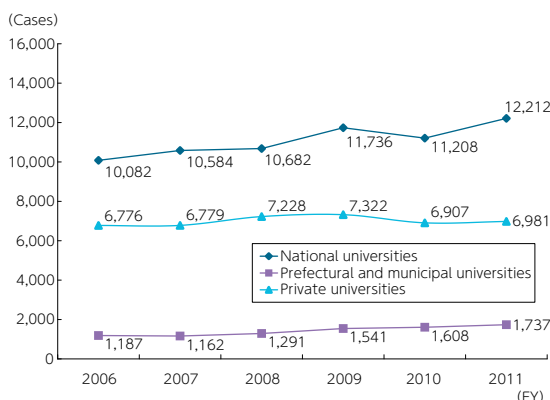
with the progress being made in open innovation in recent years, joint research at universities has been increasing. The number of joint research projects conducted at universities in FY2011 increased to 19,299 over the previous fiscal year (up about 700 cases) and the number of contract research projects increased to 20,930 over the previous fiscal year (up about 1,200 cases).

[Figure 2-1-11 Change in the Number of Joint Research Projects at National, Prefectural, Municipal, and Private Universities]



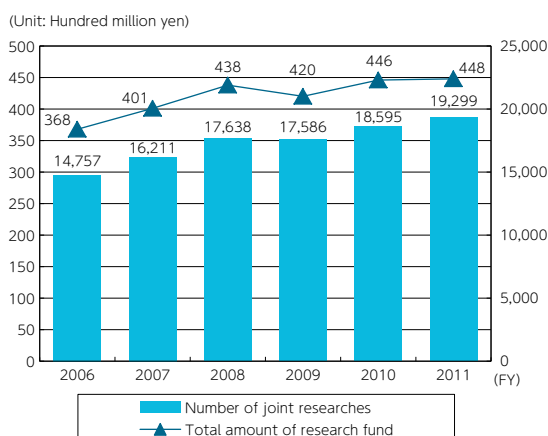
Source:
Created by the JPO based on the MEXT report, "FY2006 – FY2011: Current Status of Academia-Industry Cooperation at Universities".

[Figure 2-1-12 Changes in the Number of Contract Research Projects at National, Prefectural, Municipal, and Private Universities]



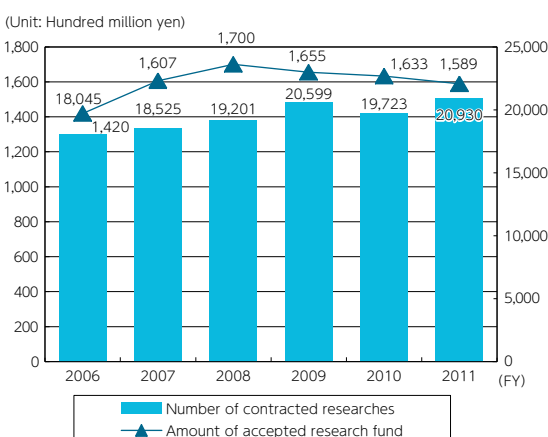
Source:
Created by the JPO based on the MEXT report, "FY2006 – FY2011: Current Status of Academia-Industry Cooperation at Universities".

[Figure 2-1-13 Change in Achievements of Joint Research Projects at Universities]



Source:
Created by the JPO based on the "FY2011 Status of Academia-Industry Cooperation at Universities" (October 26, 2012) prepared by the MEXT.

[Figure 2-1-14 Change in Achievements of Contract Research Projects at Universities]



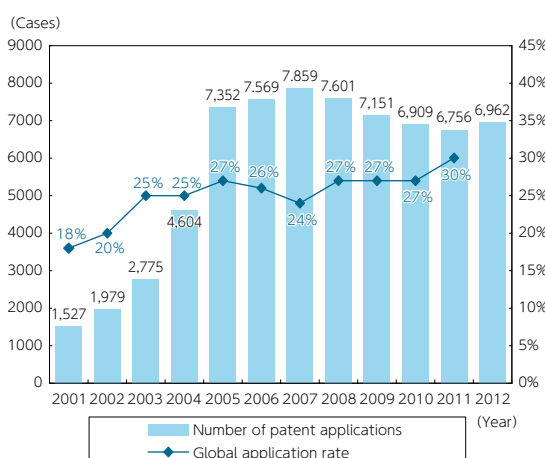
Source:
Created by the JPO based on the "FY2011 Status of Academia-Industry Cooperation at Universities" (October 26, 2012) prepared by the MEXT.

The number of patent applications that universities filed was around 2,000 in 2002. This number rapidly increased to more than 7,300 in 2005. However, the number of patent applications started to decrease after peaking in 2007. It has started to rise again in 2012 (See Figure 2-1-15).

Looking at the trend in examination of

patent applications filed by universities, the rate of patented applications for applications, for which examination results were publicized in 2012, was 67% (patent allowance rate). The patent allowance rate of universities is almost the same level as that for all applicants (66.8%)¹ (See Figure 2-1-16).

[Figure 2-1-15 Change in the Number of Patent Applications Filed by Universities in Japan and the Global Application Rate]



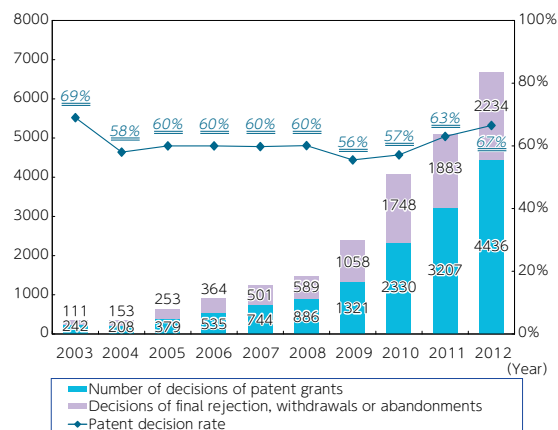
Note:

Patent applications filed by universities in Japan are those that were found by searching and calculating applications and the applicants of these applications were identified as university presidents, educational corporations that own universities, and applications filed by approved TLOs. They also include applications that were filed jointly with companies.

The global application rate refers to the rate of patent applications filed also with other countries from among the total number of patent applications filed with the JPO each year. The patent applications include international applications under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) filed directly with each Office without filing national applications.

Source: Created by the JPO

[Figure 2-1-16 Change in Current Status of Examination Results of Patent Applications Filed by Universities in Japan]



Note:

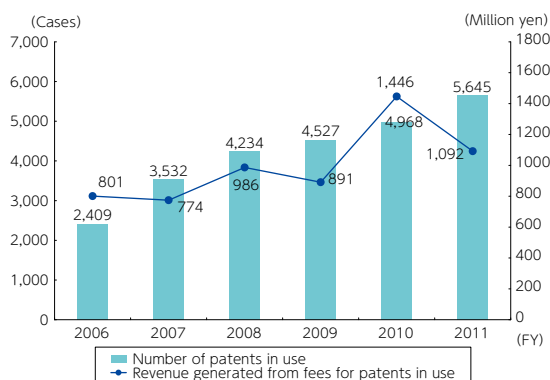
Patent applications filed by universities in Japan are those that were found by searching and calculating applications and the applicants of those application were identified as university presidents, educational corporations that own universities, and applications filed by approved TLOs. They also include applications that were filed jointly with companies.

Looking at the ranking of universities in terms of the number of published patents in 2012 in Japan, the University of Tokyo came first (292), followed by Tohoku University (265) and the Tokyo Institute of Technology (191). The top ten universities account for over 30% of the number of published patents from among all universities.

The number of patents in use by universities from FY2006 and after has been increasing, rising by about 2.3 times in six years (FY2005 to FY2011). The number now exceeds 5,000. While the revenue generated from fees for patents in use has repeated ups and downs, it has increased about 1.4 times in the same 6-year period. The decrease in revenue generated by fees for patents in use in FY2011 was about 350 million yen from the previous fiscal year (down 24.5%).

¹ See Part 1, Chapter 1, 1.(1)4) (Figure 1-1-10).

[Figure 2-1-17 Change in Performance such as the Number of Patents in Use at Universities in Japan]



Note:

The number of patents granted and transferred for working licensees was calculated by only checking patent rights (including rights to be received).

Source: Created by the JPO based on "FY2011 Status of Academia-Industry Cooperation at Universities" (October 26, 2012) prepared by the MEXT.

There is a possibility that a number of research results obtained by universities will be put into practical use after a long period of time and these results will be patented and become dominant in the future. The private sector has high expectations for this. Universities will need to cooperate even further with the private sector such as actively transferring information and conducting more flexible contract negotiations. At the same time, since expectations are high in terms of universities cooperating to create innovation in local areas, universities will have to play a role not only to provide seeds but also evaluate those seeds and develop human resources in the intellectual property field.





Chapter 2

Support Measures Given by the JPO

In addition to giving support on examination, the JPO has given a variety of support to users and applicants from various angles such providing information on intellectual property, terms of fees, and offering consultation.

1. Support in Terms of Providing Information on Intellectual Property

(1) Providing Information on Intellectual Property

1) Industrial Property Digital Library (IPDL)

In March 1999, the JPO launched the IPDL, which provides information on industrial property free of charge via the Internet, in order to develop a means in which information on industrial property can be more widely and easily used. Later, the INPIT took over management of the IPDL in October 2004, and the IPDL is currently accessible from the INPIT website.

The IPDL contains 93 million gazettes on patents, utility models, designs and trademarks published since the end of the 19th century; as well as gazettes published in other countries, allowing users to search related information such as the status of examinations, registrations and appeals and trials by document number, classification and key words.

New services and functions are added to the IPDL every year to improve usability and enhance services for users. For example, in March 2012, the search and inquiry service of Japanese abstracts of Chinese utility models (by machine translation) was added to the IPDL.¹

In October 2012, the function allowing patent documents of the EPO and the USPTO, and Chinese utility model documents, to be searched by Japanese abstracts in the official gazette text search was added to the IPDL. Moreover, in March 2013, the search and inquiry service of Japanese abstracts of Chinese patent

documents was added to the IPDL, which gives abstracts of original texts that have been translated by people rather than machines. This service enables users to search Japanese abstracts by using Japanese search keywords to confirm their content.

It is essential to create an environment in which users are able to access Chinese patent documents, in Japanese, because Chinese documents in particular have increased. In response to this demand, the JPO is planning to continue to create Japanese abstracts by human translation and to provide efficient search of Chinese patent documents by granting Japanese classifications (FI, F term) to some Japanese abstracts (important fields).

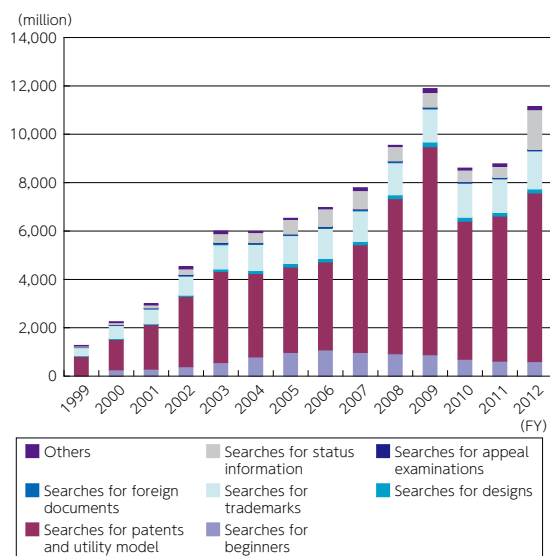
While the annual number of searches was about 12.7 million immediately after the launch of the IPDL (FY1999), the number of users has increased in line with the subsequent upgrading of services. In FY2012, the annual number of searches reached about 111.48 million (310,000 searches on average per day). However, online protection was strengthened to prevent a massive access attack and keep the site usable, and this might be one of the major factors behind the drop in the number of searches in FY2010.

The creation, protection and utilization of intellectual property is expected to further progress in line with the increase in use of industrial property information via the IPDL.

The INPIT installed search functions in its first official gazette reference room¹ that also serves as a retrieval system for patent examiners, making them available for public use in January 2007. This allows users to search patent documents inside and outside Japan, excluding undisclosed data, at a comfortable speed.

¹ JPO Building 2F.

[Figure 2-2-1 Change in the Number of Annual Searches in the IPDL]



Note: The legends conform to the search categories of the IPDL.

Source: INPIT

2) Exchanging and Making Use of Industrial Property Right Information with Foreign IP Offices and International Organizations

The JPO regularly exchanges industrial property information and gazettes based on a trilateral agreement with the Trilateral Offices (JPO, USPTO and EPO) and on a bilateral basis with other foreign IP offices (SIPO and KIPO). The information exchanged on industrial property is used for searching examination sources and prior arts in the JPO, with a part of this information being disclosed to the public through the IPDL and other means. The JPO creates Japanese abstract data of foreign publications in Japanese, from the information exchanged for use inside and outside the JPO.

In addition, the JPO regularly provides foreign IP Offices and international organizations with industrial property information so that patent applications filed with the JPO can be properly regarded as prior arts in other countries.

3) Creating and Providing Standardized Data and JPO-format Data

In order to meet the diverse needs for information on industrial property, it is necessary not only to improve the IPDL but also create an environment in which private industrial property information service providers¹ (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 it owns and is working on establishing a means by which users can easily access and use industrial property information. Currently, the JPO provides various items of information, such as examination legal status, that has been converted and processed into a generally accessible format such as XML in batches at marginal cost. This will be referred to hereinafter as “Standardized Data”. Patent Abstracts of Japan² (PAJ) and various data created such as Japanese abstracts of US patent documents are also provided in batches to external organizations at marginal costs.³

These measures encourage private information service providers to enhance high value-added services and diversify the use of such services by building in-house databases in private companies and universities, for example.

- Creating and Providing Standardized Data

The creating and providing of standardized data mentioned above started when the IPDL service was launched in March 1999. The work to create the organized and standardized data was

¹ There are more than 200 small and large private information-service providers in Japan.

² Human translation of publication of unexamined patent applications in Japanese into English consisting of bibliographic data, abstracts and representative drawings.

³ This refers to additional expenses that are incurred for data reproduction, empty storage media, and delivery of media. It does not include the costs for data creation and maintenance.

transferred to the INPIT in October 2004.

- Creating and Providing Japanese Abstracts Data

The JPO creates abstracts of US patent documents, US publications of patent applications, and EP publications of patent applications, which cover a wide range of technical content in Japanese, using that data as examination sources when conducting patent examinations. Such data are widely available to the public through the IPDL. In addition, the JPO has started to provide Japanese abstract data translated from Chinese patent since March 2012.⁵

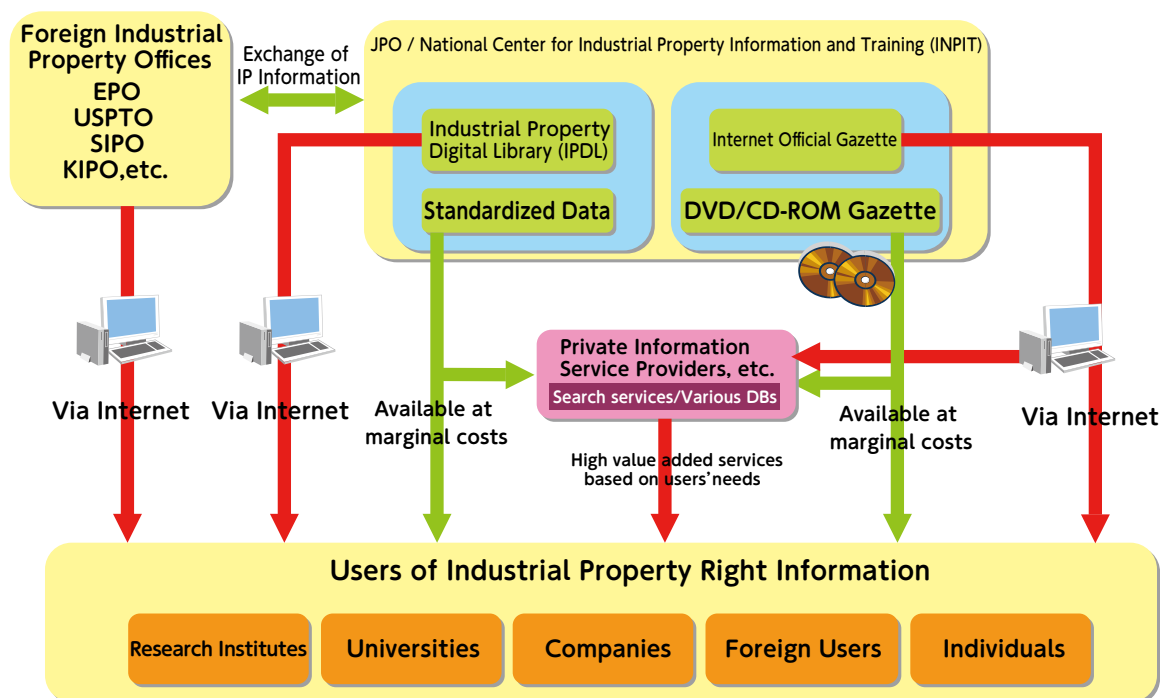
- Creating and Providing Patent Abstracts of Japan (PAJ)

In order for the publication of unexamined patent applications that have been filed with the JPO to be at least used properly as minimum documentation¹ in PCT international searches and international preliminary examinations, as well as prior art documentation in examinations at foreign IP offices, the JPO provides English abstracts of publications of patent applications and provides them to foreign IP offices such as PCT International Searching Authorities and International Preliminary Examination Authorities.

¹ The minimum documentation should be searched in all cases where the International Searching Authority (ISA) creates an International Search Report (ISR) (PCT Minimum Documentation, see Paragraph 15.01 of PCT International Searches and International Preliminary Examination Guidelines).



[Figure 2-2-2 Flow of Information on Industrial Property]



(2) Patent Search Portal Site

To support applicants by enabling them to conduct appropriate and effective prior art searches, the JPO has implemented various measures, including developing the IPDL, holding explanatory meetings and search-expert seminars, enabling public use of the retrieval system for examiners, and creating the Patent Search Guidebook.

In order to respond to requests from applicants for related information supporting prior art searches, the JPO provides such in an integrated manner through its newly established portal, the "Patent Search Portal Site"¹ on the JPO's website. It started this on a provisional basis in March 2009. In response to the comments it received thereafter, the JPO launched the official portal site in June 2010. In July 2011, the layout of this portal site was reorganized so as to improve usability.

In April 2013, the JPO upgraded the

content of the portal site by providing new tools which allow users to search the relationship among classifications such as FI and CPC. Moreover, the JPO has been striving to promote the use of this portal site by holding meetings where attendees can exchange opinions with external parties concerned for the purpose of supporting the use of patent searches and patent information by applicants. The JPO has received positive opinions from applicants who stated that this portal site was very helpful for in-company training and it is making use of it.

(3) Provision of Intellectual Property Information

1) IPDL Official Gazette Fixed-address Service for Universities and elsewhere.

In order to support R&D activities in universities and elsewhere, the JPO has started the Official Gazettes fixed-address service, enabling users such as universities to directly access patent data in Official Gazettes since January 2007.

◇ Number of registered universities: 299 universities (as of the end of March 2013)

¹ <http://www.jpo.go.jp/torikumi/searchportal/htdocs/search-portal/top.html>



<http://www.jpo.go.jp/torikumi/chouhoyu/chouhoyu2/daigakuipdl.htm>

2) Integrated Search System for Paper Information and Patent Information

The Intellectual Property Strategy Headquarters Cabinet Secretariat, the MEXT, the JPO, the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), and the INPIT jointly developed the Integrated Search System for Patent and Literature Information (JSTPatM), launching it in March 2007, to enable users to efficiently acquire information on science, technology, and patents, and effectively utilize it for research activities in universities (the JSTPatM ended at the end of March 2013).

3) Patent Licensing Information Database

The INPIT provides information on licensable patents on the Patent Licensing Information Database in order to support applicants in acquiring rights by means of creating new innovations and technical developments through effective utilization of patents (licensable patents) owned by universities, public research institutes and companies that are willing to transfer such patents to others.

◇ Number of registered patents: 40,405 (as of the end of March 2013) (Owned by companies: 12,157, Universities/public research institutions: 28,248)
<http://plidb.inpit.go.jp/PDDB/Service/PDDBService>

4) Research Tool Patent Database

In order to promote the utilization of patented research tools in the field of life-science, the INPIT created a patent database of information on research tools owned by universities, public research institutions, companies, etc. It has been providing information as the Research Tool Patent Database.

◇ Number of registered patents: 662 (as of the end of March 2013) (Owned by companies: 37, Universities/public research

institutions: 625)

<http://plidb.inpit.go.jp/PDDB/Service/RTPatents/index.jsp>

5) Intellectual Property Transaction Specialists Database

As a part of the efforts to stimulate IP trade in Japan and utilize IP information, the INPIT created a database of information on service details provided by IP trade businesses. The information has been made available on the website as the Intellectual Property Transaction Specialists Database.

◇ Number of registrations: 173 (as of the end of March 2013)

<http://www.inpit.go.jp/katsuyo/db/agentsdb/>

2. Support in Terms of Fees

(1) Assistance to Regional SMEs for Filing Applications Abroad

Although more and more SMEs have expanded their businesses internationally in response to economic globalization, it is important for them to acquire patent rights and trademark rights in countries where they operate in order to develop sales channels and take measures against damage from counterfeits in overseas markets. However, it is very costly for them to acquire rights overseas and this imposes a great hardship on SMEs with limited financial resources¹. The JPO subsidizes part of the costs SMEs incur in filing foreign applications when they are planning to expand their businesses overseas. The JPO has been providing subsidies to the Prefectural SME Support Centers¹ since FY2008 for the purpose of promoting strategic filing of foreign applications by regional SMEs.

◇ Results in FY2012

36 Areas nationwide and support was provided in 191 cases

¹ Designated corporations based on the provision of Article 7, Paragraph 1 of the Small and Medium-sized Enterprise Support Act (Act No.147 of 1963). The number of designated corporations is 60 nationwide and they are stationed at prefectures and major cities listed in Article 2 of the Order for Enforcement of the said Act.

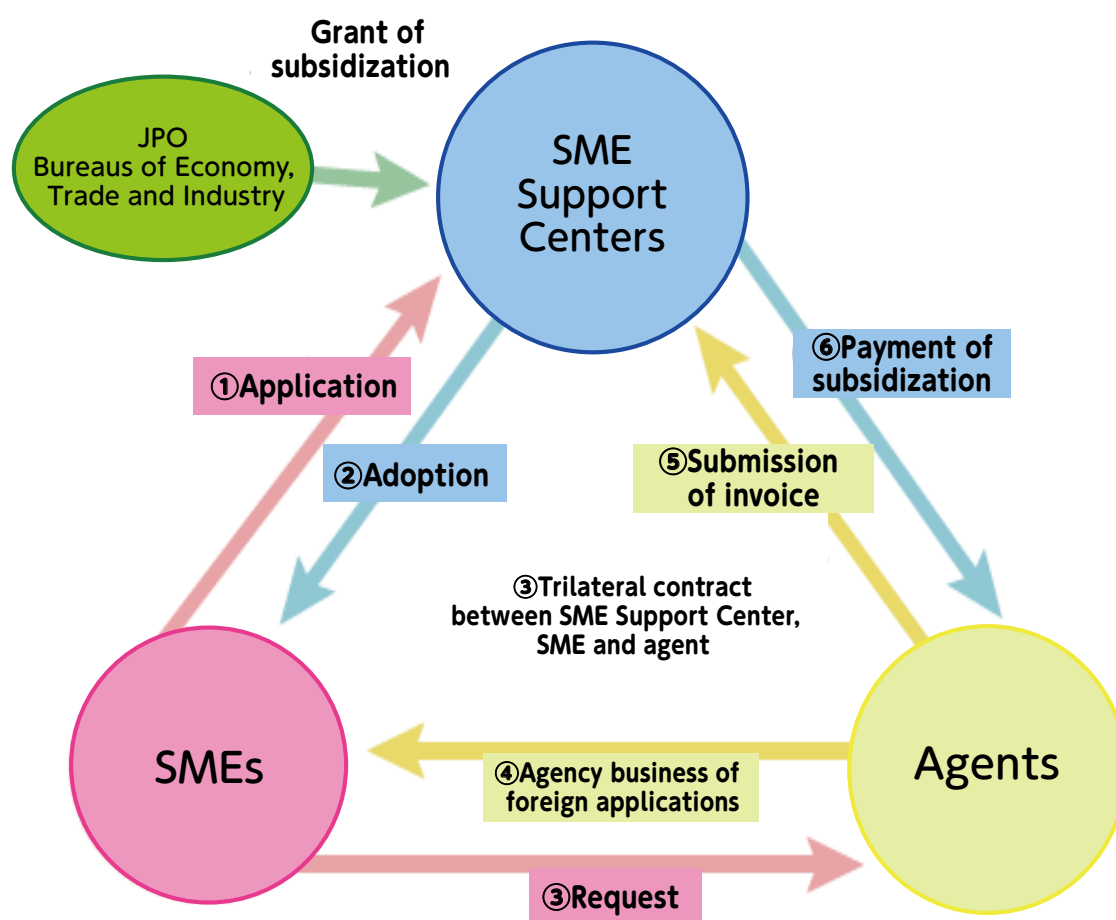
In FY2013, the JPO also added applications for trademark registrations (trademarks against misappropriation¹) and applications for utility model registrations to the applications eligible for subsidization as a way to counter misappropriated applications, taking into consideration the IP environment overseas surrounding regional SMEs. In case various types of support is given to one SME, the limit per company was raised to 3 million yen. As a result, the budget was raised significantly, to approximately 340 million yen (Budget for FY2012: Approximately 150 million yen). Moreover, the JPO strives to further promote strategic filing of foreign applications by regional SMEs, with plans to

expand the areas of implementation to 40 areas nationwide.

(Content of project)

- Ratio of subsidization: No higher than 50%
- Amount of subsidization:
 - Limit per company: 3 million yen (for multiple cases)
 - Limit per case: 1.5 million yen for patents, 0.6 million yen for utility models, designs and trademarks and 0.3 million yen for trademarks against misappropriation
- Costs eligible for subsidization: fees for local agents, national agents, translations, application to foreign Offices

[Figure 2-2-3 Scheme of Subsidization]



¹ Trademarks against misappropriation: Applications for trademark registration for the purpose of measures against cunning applications by third parties (misappropriated applications).



(2) Fee Reduction / Exemption for Individuals and SMEs

1) Reduction of Exemption from Annual Patent Fees/Examination Request Fees

The JPO reduces or exempts annual patent fees, etc. These are available to individuals and companies or R&D-oriented SMEs if they comply with certain requirements stipulated in the Patent Act, the Industrial Technology Enhancement Act, and the Act on Enhancement of Small and Medium sized Enterprises' Core Manufacturing Technology.¹ The fee reduction/exemption has been expanded mainly in the following fields since April 1, 2012.

- a. Extension of the period of reduction for exemption from annual patent fees, etc. from 3 years² to 10 years
- b. Abolition of the requirements for employee's inventions and the requirements for succession of requests to print out files which are the requirement for reduction of exemption from annual patent fees, etc. for SMEs (inventions transferred from other companies have become subject to the reduction and exemption)
- c. Addition of individual business owners and SMEs that have been established less than ten years

Results in FY2012

○ Support based on the Patent Act

An exemption from or a 50% reduction of annual patent fees and examination request fees for individuals and companies is determined by taking into account financial resources of SMEs, etc.

- Exemption from annual patent fees: 1,493 cases
- Exemption from examination request fees: 1,933 cases

¹ Act on Enhancement of Small and Medium Sized Enterprises' Core Manufacturing Technology

² Six years for achievements of specific R&D, etc. conducted in accordance with approved plans based on the Act on Enhancement of Core Manufacturing Technology.

○ Support based on the Industrial Technology Enhancement Act and the Act on Enhancement of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises' Core Manufacturing Technology

A 50% reduction of annual patent fees and examination request fees for R&D-oriented SMEs.

- Reduction of annual patent fees: 8,563 cases
- Reduction of examination request fees: 3,253 cases

(3) Fee Reduction/Exemption for Universities and TLOs

1) Reduction of Exemption from Patent and Examination Fees

The JPO reduces or exempts annual patent fees, etc. for universities and TLOs, based on the TLO Act³, the Law on Special Measures for Industrial Revitalization,⁴ and the Industrial Technology Enhancement Act to support industry-academia-government collaboration and technological transfer at universities and TLOs. The fee reductions/exemptions have been expanded mainly in the following field since April 1, 2012.

- a. Extension of the period of reduction/exemption of annual patent fees, etc. from 3 years to 10 years

◇ Results in FY2012

○ Support based on the TLO Act and the Law on Special Measures for Industrial Revitalization

A 50% reduction of annual patent fees and examination request fees for authorized and approved TLOs.

- Reduction of annual patent fees: 604 cases
- Reduction of examination request fees: 234 cases

○ Support based on the Industrial Technology Enhancement Act

A 50% reduction of annual patent

³ Act on the Promotion of Technology Transfer from Universities to Private Business Operators

⁴ Special Measures Concerning Revitalization of Industry and Innovation in Industrial Activities

fees and examination request fees for universities and university researchers

- Reduction of annual patent fees: 1,857 cases
- Reduction of examination request fees: 3,055 cases

3. Support through Consultations

(1) Support by One-Stop Solution (IP Comprehensive Support Counters)

The IP Comprehensive Support Counters were established in each prefecture in FY2011 to hear about issues related to intellectual property and give consultation on those issues. Some opinions expressed by SMEs were as follows: “I don’t know where to go to get help.” and “Intellectual property is too difficult to understand”. The IP Comprehensive Support Center, in collaboration with various experts and support organizations, provides a one-stop service to help SMEs, etc. with intellectual property issues. Specifically, IP Comprehensive Support Centers provide the following services.

1) Persons in charge of the counters solve a

wide variety of issues SMEs have in their corporate management, from the time they create ideas, up to when they establish their business operations outside Japan.

2) Support for resolving complicated issues more difficult to resolve than those mentioned above 1). This is done by utilizing IP experts such as patent attorneys and lawyers and working in collaboration with support organizations.

3) Searching for SMEs that have not utilized their intellectual property to its fullest potential, and helping them utilize their intellectual property

4) Introducing and explaining various services available to support intellectual property strategies and filing procedures for industrial property rights, including assistance on electronic filing.

5) Support on ways SMEs can utilize IP, from the product-development stage, by making use of IP experts such as design consultants and patent attorneys who have expertise in how designs can be utilized and strategically registered during product-sales stage. (See Part 3, Chapter 2, 2.(1)).



◇ Results in FY2012

Number of consultations: 118,685

(Examples of the type of support given at the counters)

- “We received support on how to file our patent from a patent attorney at the IP Comprehensive Support Counter who specializes in the field of communications technology. This instilled confidence in us at big companies and we could proceed with business deals. Currently, we are able to sell our products to affiliate companies of business partners (a company in Tokyo).
- We are planning to conclude a licensing agreement on our products for which a national application has been filed with an overseas company. The IP Comprehensive Support Counter explained the risks involved in concluding agreements with overseas companies and gave advice on how we should expand our business in terms of forging agreements. We have successfully concluded an agreement with the said company and we are planning to conclude an agreement with another company overseas (a company in Hiroshima).
- We were advised from the SME Support Center to consult the IP Comprehensive Support Counter about filing a patent application for products developed by our company. We received support for filing patent applications through a patent attorney and advice on product designs, taking into account how we can prevent accidents by utilizing a design expert. As a result, we could file applications for patents and design registrations. They also introduced us to organization that can help expand future sales of our products (a company in Kyoto).

(2) Consultation Counters

1) Consultation on Industrial Property Rights

a. Industrial Property Right Consultation Website

The Industrial Property Right Consultation Website¹ provides basic information on industrial property rights and necessary information in the form of frequently asked questions on procedures for filing patent applications, registering trademarks, and requesting appeals and trials. This information can also be searched by keywords. In addition, the website explains how to file trademarks, which is one of the areas users most frequently ask about, showing “easy trademark applications”. Moreover, users can download the latest documents related to procedures such as various application forms (samples of forms) and examples of descriptions.

Users can directly contact the Consultation Counter by completing an online form when they have questions that cannot be solved by visiting the website.

◇ Results In FY2012

Number of access; 329,189



Industrial Property Right Consultation Website Top Page

¹ <http://faq.inpit.go.jp/>

b. Consultation Counters

The INPIT offers counseling for all types of inquiries such as those from people who have ideas for patents but do not know how to obtain the rights for them, or those wishing to file patent applications but don't know the actual procedures.¹ The counseling is offered in person or by e-mail, telephone, or letter.

◇ Results in FY2012

Number of consultations: 32,019

2) Consultation on IPDL

The IPDL Help Desk has expert staff available to help users with operating and using various search services on the IPDL.²

◇ Results in FY2012

Number of consultations: 8,163

4. Support by Experts

In order to achieve the sustainable development of Japanese industries and maintain their international competitiveness based on intellectual property rights, it is necessary to efficiently advance the creation of innovation. So IP strategies are very important to strategically protect and utilize IP that has been created. Based on this, the JPO and the INPIT provide companies and universities with support for IP management by assigning experts in the right places.

(1) Global Intellectual Property Producer Project

When companies operate globally, the overall managing of IP such as responding to IP risks and utilizing IP, including licensing, is necessary in accordance with the ever-changing business environment. To this end, six experts with abundant experience working overseas in the field of IP in private companies, have been assigned as Global Intellectual Property producers at the INPIT since FY2011. They provide SMEs with

management support in various areas such as acquisition, management and utilization of intellectual property rights and formulation of IP strategies, in accordance with the circumstances and systems in target countries where SMEs are operating businesses, in line with the purposes and contents of their business.

In FY2012, the INPIT expanded its collaboration with organizations supporting overseas expansion of SMEs by strengthening collaboration with the Organization for Small & Medium Enterprises and Regional Innovation, local governments, and financial institutions.

As a specific example of support, Global Intellectual Property producers (based on requests from SMEs) provide companies planning to launch or expand their businesses overseas with advice on various IP risks based on the circumstances in target countries where they intend to operate. Global Intellectual Property producers provide direct support on the acquisition of intellectual property rights in accordance with business operations/ launches. For example, they make sure that Companies acquire intellectual property rights before they participate in trade fairs and exhibitions. They also show way to make profits with acquired rights, and deal with issues concerning international agreements related to confidentiality, joint/ commission development, and licensing.

Moreover, Global Intellectual Property producers are invited as lecturers at seminars on how to utilize IP in overseas business operations.

◇ Results in FY2012

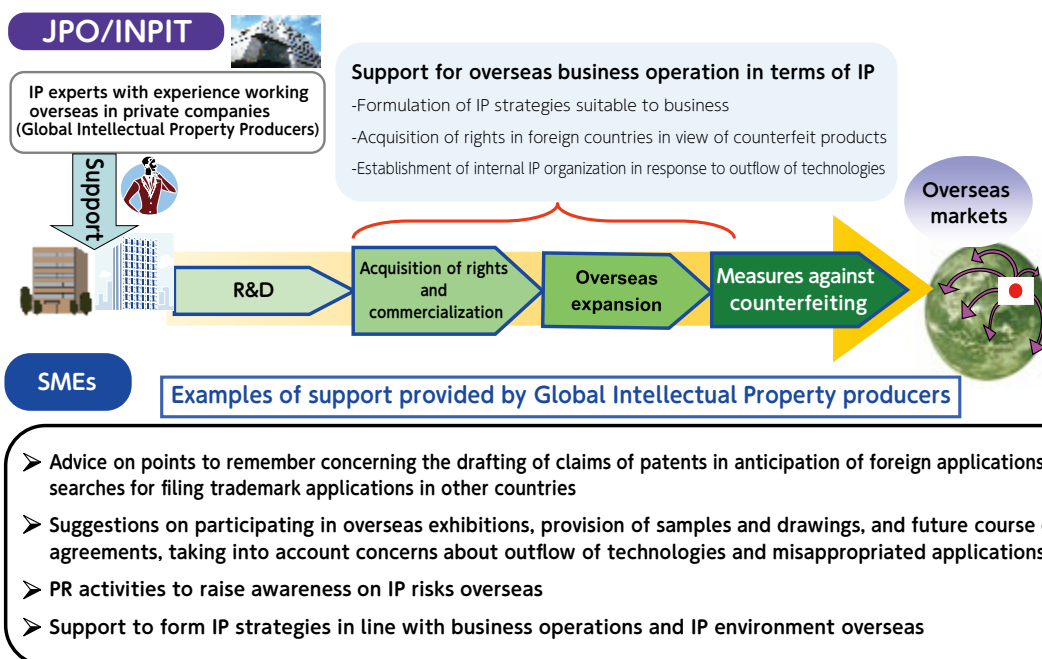
Number of organization that received support: 191 companies and universities

Number of lectures: 86 times

¹ http://www.inpit.go.jp/consul/consul_about/index.html

² <http://www.ipdl.inpit.go.jp/homepg.ipdl>, See part 2, Chapter 2, 1.(1)3).

[Figure 2-2-4 Global Intellectual Property Producer Project]



(2) Intellectual Property Producer Project

Since FY2008 the JPO had been sending Intellectual Property Producers, who are experts with practical experience in the IP departments of their companies or research institutions, on a pilot program to support projects at R&D consortiums formulate strategies for effectively using research achievements. This was done with a view toward commercialization, from the

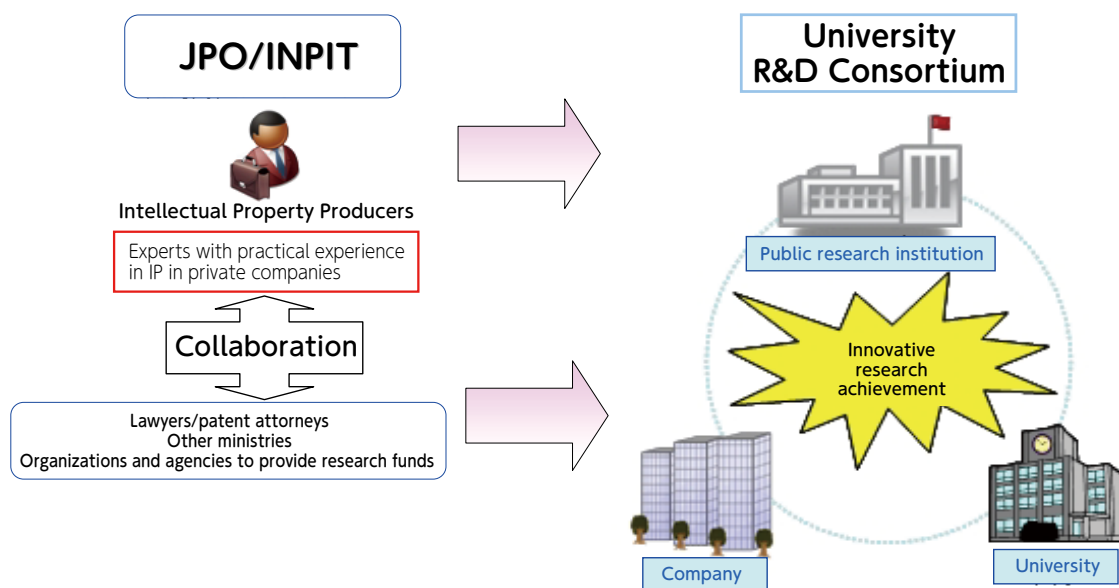
earliest stages, giving consideration to the creation, protection and utilization of IP. They assist projects at R&D consortiums to which public funds have been invested. Since FY2011 the INPIT has been sending experts also to R&D projects at universities to which public funds have been invested.

◇ Results in FY2012

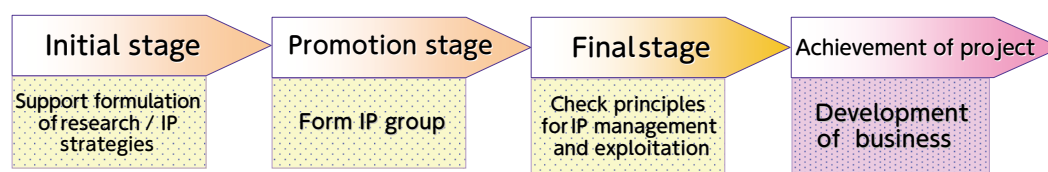
Intellectual Property Producers were sent to 21 projects



[Figure 2-2-5 Example of Duties of Intellectual Property Producer]



○ Outline of Intellectual Property Producer Project

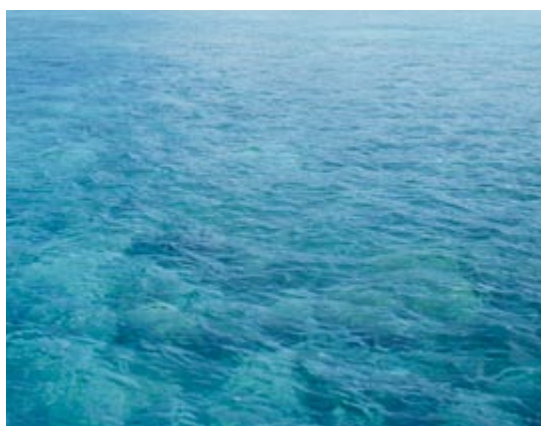
**(3) Project for University Network Intellectual Property Advisor**

In order for universities to start intellectual property activities, it is necessary to set up proper IP management systems within universities.

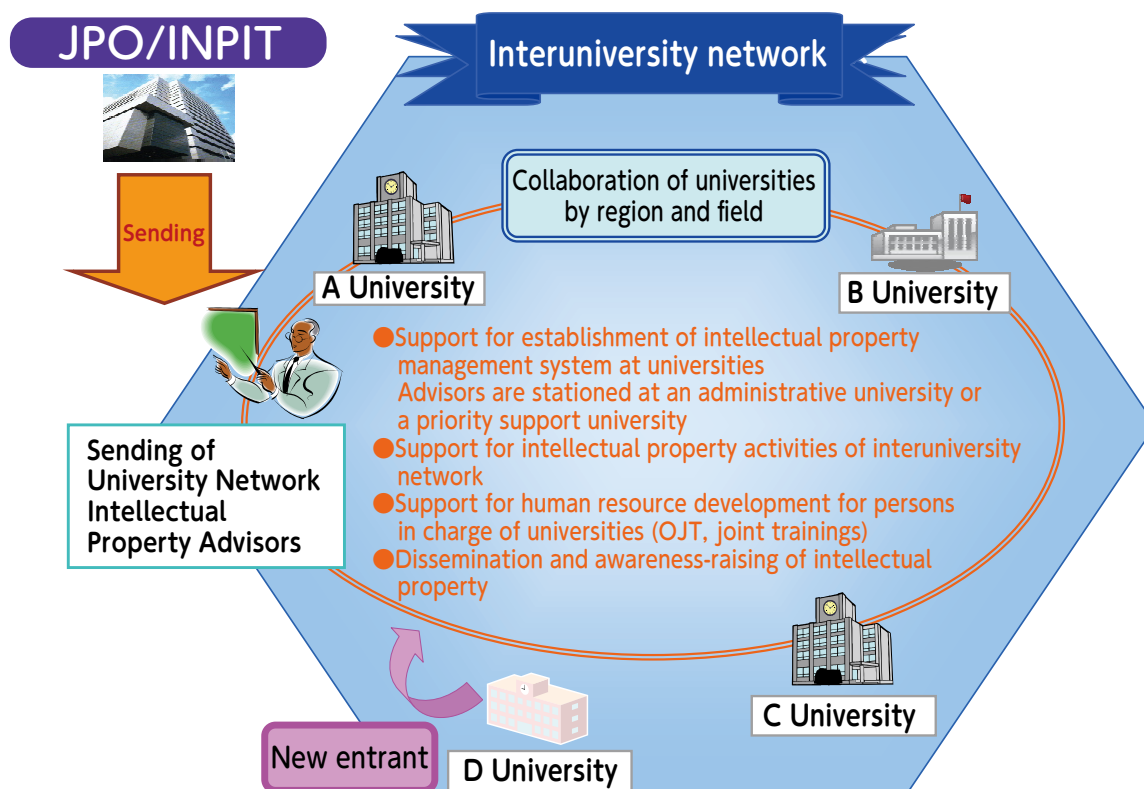
The JPO and the INPIT, with the aim of supporting the setup of these systems within universities, have been sending advisors to universities since FY2002. A total of 60 universities received university intellectual property advisors by March 2011.

The support structure was changed in April 2011, and University Network Intellectual Property Advisors have been sent to networks consisting of several universities based on either region or technological field. The JPO has strived to promote intellectual property activities at all universities in a network and expand the

base of academic-industrial collaboration through establishing and strengthening the IP management system. In FY2012, University Network Intellectual Property Advisors were sent to nine networks (total of 74 universities). Since FY2013, the JPO has started to send an Adviser to a network of life science universities.



[Figure 2-2-6 Outline of University Network Intellectual Property Advisor Project]



5. Activities for Raising Awareness on Intellectual Property Systems

1) Explanatory Meeting on the Intellectual Property System

The JPO holds its annual Explanatory Meeting on the Intellectual Property System nationwide for the public, tailored according to the levels of knowledge and experience of the attendees (introductory-level and advanced level meetings). The purpose is to raise awareness on the intellectual property system, offer approaches to ensure the system runs smoothly, encourage IP rights acquisition, and explain how to effectively use intellectual property rights so as to revitalize business.

The JPO's Introductory Explanatory Meeting outlines the IP system and procedures for entry-level people who want to start learning about intellectual property rights or who have limited experience in IP.

In addition, the JPO's Advanced Explanatory Meeting provides content specialized by field, including patent

examination standards, design and trademarks, appeals/trial systems, and procedures for filing international applications. This meeting is designed for individuals who have basic knowledge and experience in the intellectual property right systems and who are engaged in intellectual property affairs on a daily basis.

Moreover, after the Patent Act was amended, the JPO has been conducting Legal Amendment Explanatory Meetings to explain the purpose and details of the legal amendment.

◇ Results in FY2012

Introductory Explanatory Meeting: 56 times in total in 47 prefectures

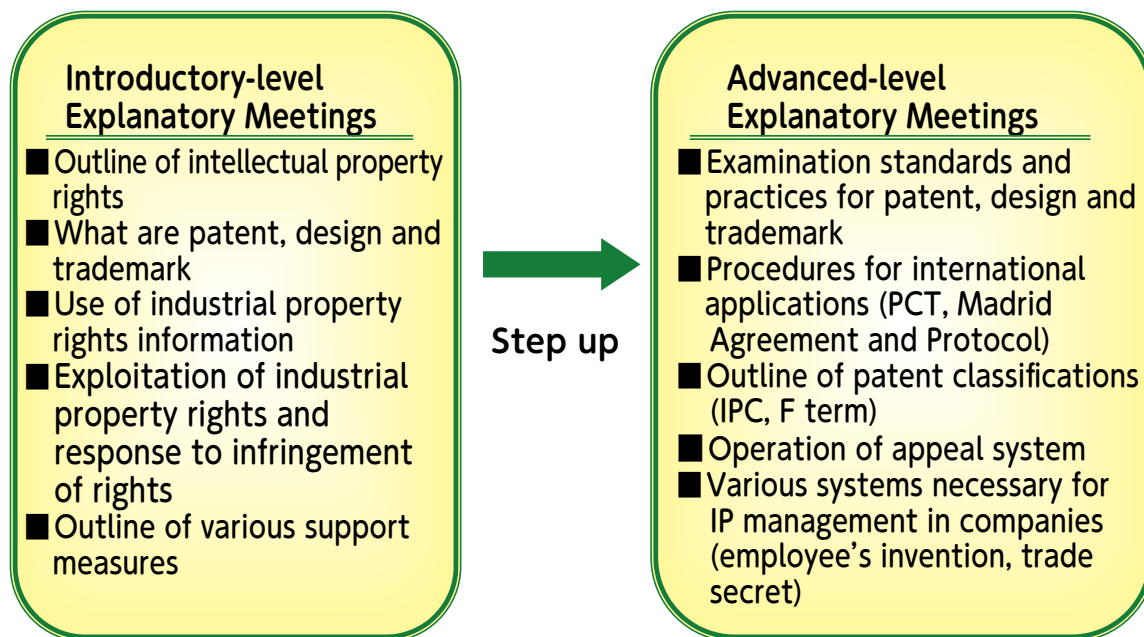
8,078 persons participated in this meeting

Advanced Explanatory Meeting: 59 times in total in 19 cities and 20 places nationwide

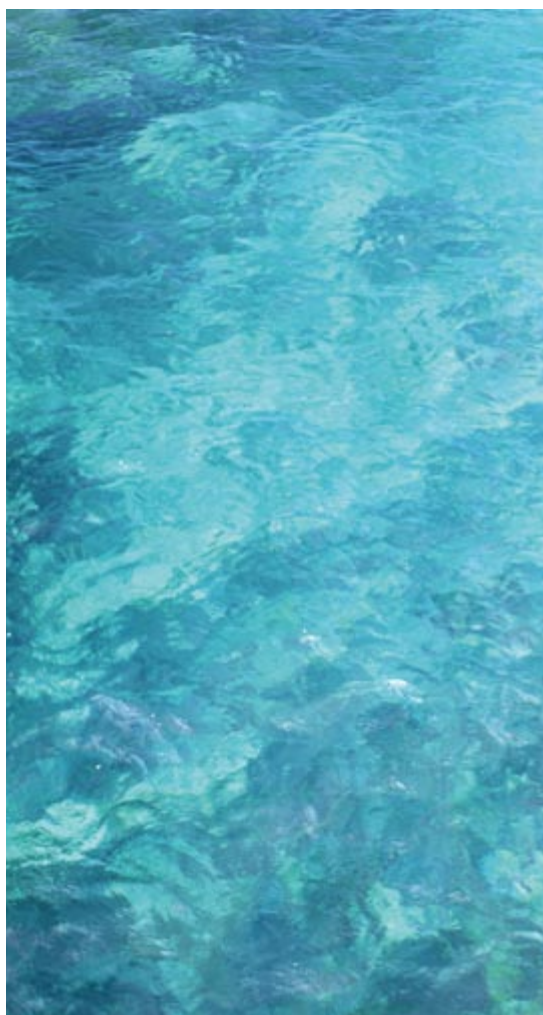
16,325 persons participated in this meeting

* No Legal Amendment Explanatory Meeting was held

[Figure 2-2-7 Content of lectures at Explanatory Meeting on the Intellectual Property System]



FY2012 Explanatory Meeting on the Intellectual Property Systems



2) Industrial Property Right Specialists

The JPO has industrial property right specialists who provide comprehensive support to SMEs. They serve as lecturers at various seminars designed for SMEs and local government staff; and they visit SMEs to provide individual counseling, with the objective of raising awareness on the IP system, giving information on the types of support available.

Industrial property right specialists also ask SMEs about their views and

requests on the industrial property right system, allowing them to make proposals to improve the system.

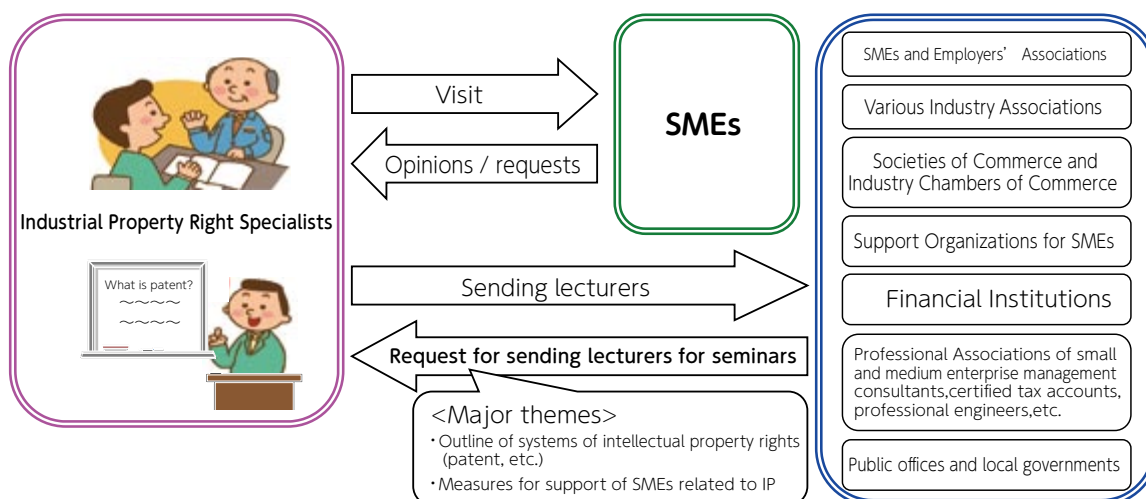
◇ Results in FY2012

Visits to SMEs to provide individual counseling: 258

Lecturers at intellectual property seminars and training sessions: 130 seminars/sessions

Awareness-building promoted through exhibitions, etc.: 12 exhibitions

[Figure 2-2-8 Duties of Industrial Property Right Specialists]



3) Consultation on the Intellectual Property Rights Systems of Other Countries

The JPO provides consultation to SMEs, advising action they should undertake to combat industrial property infringement, and explaining the industrial property rights systems in other countries.

In FY2012, the JPO held explanatory seminars in Tokyo, Nagoya and Osaka on the industrial property rights systems of Brazil, Korea and the United States; and on the United States in Sapporo and Fukuoka.

◇ Results in FY2012

- Number of consultations: 197 (infringement countermeasures)
690 (systemic consultation)
- Number of explanatory meetings on systems: 11
- Total number of participants: 1,792



Seminar on the United States held in Tokyo



Seminar on Brazil held in Osaka



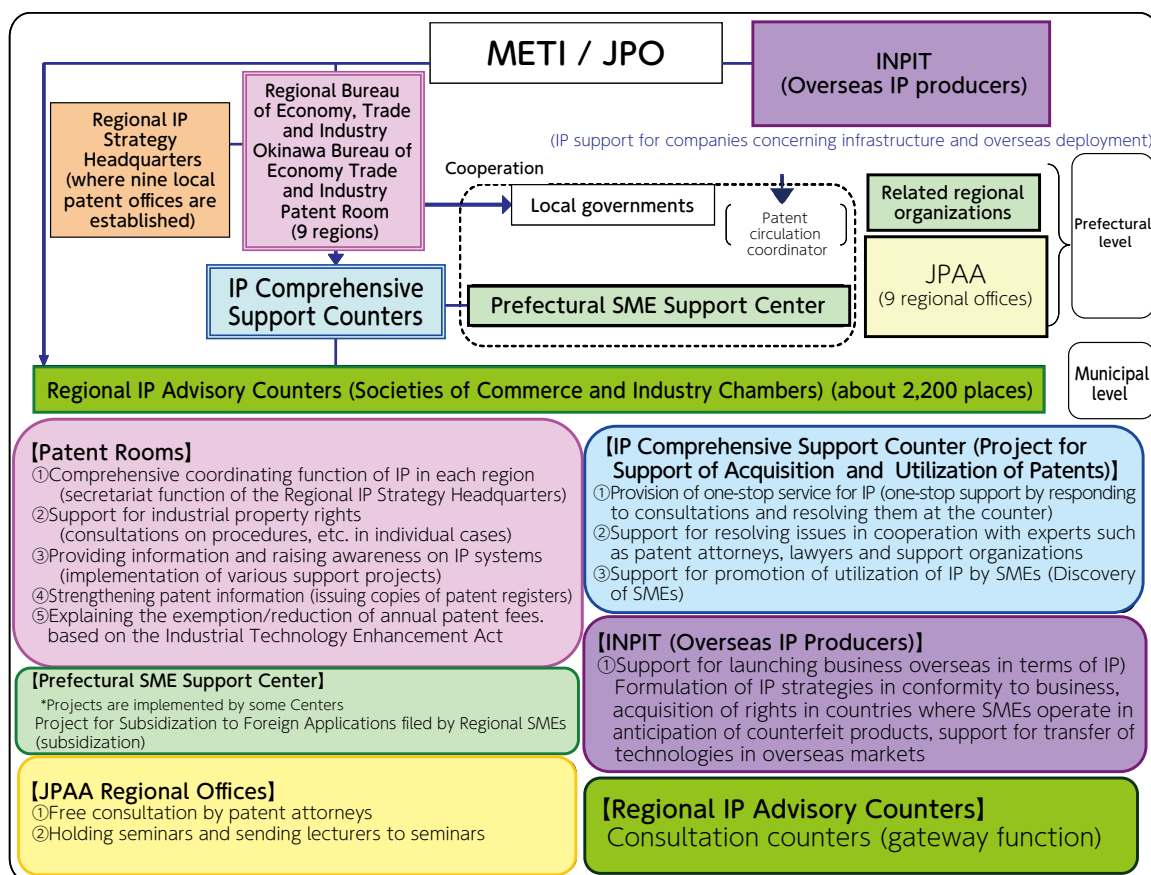
6. Regional Support System

The JPO, in cooperation with local governments, is working to raise awareness in regional SMEs on intellectual property and promoting the use of the intellectual-property system. To be more specific, the JPO established local patent offices in each of the nine regions under the Regional Bureaus of Economy, Trade and Industry. These offices oversee their respective regions and plan and implement measures for supporting intellectual property. In addition, the JPO provides comprehensive support through the Intellectual Property Comprehensive Support Counters¹, located in the respective prefectures.

In order to develop a framework that encourages IP promotional activities and strategic IP utilization in local areas, in FY2005, the JPO established Regional

Headquarters for Intellectual Property Strategy in nine regions, which fall under the jurisdiction of Regional Bureaus of Economy, Trade and Industry. The Headquarters provide comprehensive IP support designed for the local communities. This includes setting up regional intellectual property strategy headquarters based on the local situations and needs. It also provides support through the provision and transmission of information through the Internet and mail magazines.

[Figure 2-2-9 Regional Support System]



¹ See Part 2, Chapter 2, 3.(1).

7. Development of Human Resources Related to Intellectual Property

(1) Development of IP-specialized Human Resources

1) Development of Patent Attorneys

Patent attorneys play a central role among the professions in the field of intellectual property. The JPO, in collaboration with the Japan Patent Attorneys Association (JPAA), has implemented the following measures to develop patent attorneys who have specialized skills.

a. Training for Representation in Specific Infringement Lawsuits

The business community has been requesting that the dispute-resolution services such as legal representation in infringement lawsuits in the field of intellectual property be strengthened, by increasing the number of and enhancing the skills of specialized attorneys. Therefore, the JPO requires patent attorneys who wish to be admitted to act as counsels in certain infringement lawsuits (“Specific Infringement Lawsuits¹,” limited to cases jointly represented with attorneys-at-law) to take the training on practices of the civil procedure and to pass the examination for evaluation.

b. Practical Training Prior to the Patent Attorney Registration

In general, the acquiring of qualifications by individuals in society ensures that the rights of citizens and the safe conduct of transactions can be ensured as a result of these individuals being certified as specialists capable of providing reliable services. Accordingly, there is public demand to further ensure and improve the skills of these professionals. Under the aim of ensuring the necessary, professional

abilities of those who have passed the patent attorney examination, it has been made mandatory for these persons to complete practical training provided by an organization designated by the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry (“Designated Training Agency”) before they can be registered as patent attorneys.

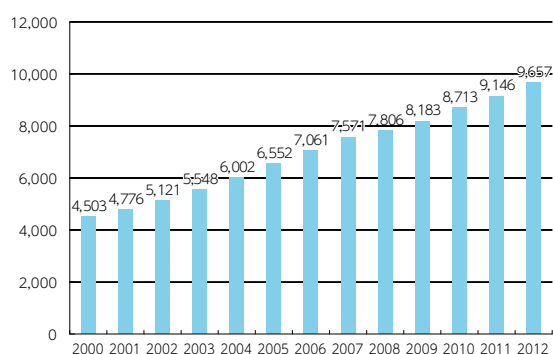
c. Continuing Training for Registered Patent Attorneys

In order to respond to changes surrounding intellectual property such as the economic globalization and the progress being made in the intellectual property management in companies, patent attorneys need to accurately understand the latest circumstances and acquire advanced and diversified capabilities. In view of these needs, patent attorneys are required to participate in specialized training (“Continuing Training”) on a regular basis to maintain and improve their skills.

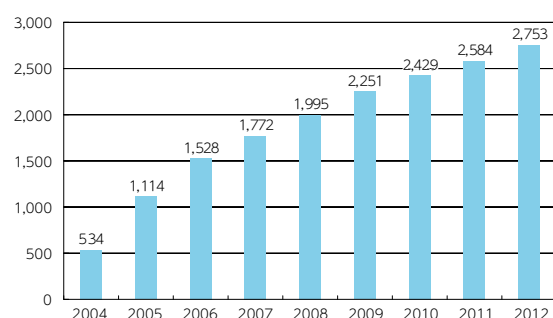


¹ Any lawsuits related to infringement of rights concerning patents, utility models, designs, trademarks or circuit layouts, or infringement of business interests by specific unfair competition.

[Figure 2-2-10 Change in the Number of Patent Attorneys]



[Figure 2-2-11 Change in the Number of Patent Attorneys Admitted to Act as Counsel in Specific Infringement Lawsuits]



Notes:

1. Number as of the end of December 2012.

2. A patent attorney who has completed the training course to gain the knowledge and practical skills required as counsel and has passed the Specific Infringement Lawsuit Counsel Examination may act as counsel upon completion of the supplementary note registration to be qualified as such by the JPAA. (Note that those patent attorneys can act as counsel only in specified infringement lawsuits in which attorneys-at-law are also hired by the same client.)

Source: JPAA

[Figure 2-2-12 Number of Patent Attorneys and other IP-specialized Professionals in Japan and the US]

Japan
Patent attorneys: 9,644 (registered attorneys-at-law among them:359)
United States
Patent attorneys ¹ : 30,870 Patent agents ² : 10,623

Notes:

Japan: Number as of the end of March 2013

United States: Number as of the end of April 2013

Sources:

Japan: Created by the JPO based on reports from the JPAA

United States: Numbers announced on the USPTO website (<https://oedci.uspto.gov/OEDCI>) as "active attorney" and "active agent"

2) Development of Private Intellectual Property Experts

a. Development of Search Experts

The INPIT provides "search expert training" in advanced-level, and design training courses that teach participants the expertise that JPO examiners have in terms of conducting patent and design searches. This is done to enable the participants to accurately conduct prior art document searches, searches for determining the necessity at the time of filing an application/request for trial, and searches to decide study themes and directions.

◇ Results in FY2012

Total number of participants: 127

b. Training for IP Experts in Companies

In order to stimulate the intellectual creation cycle, we need to improve the quality and quantity of experts who play a vital role in the creation, protection, and utilization of intellectual property.

The INPIT provides discussion-based training courses on ways to respond to notices of reasons for refusal of designs. This is designed to improve the participants' practical abilities through face-to-face exchanges with experts.

◇ Results in FY2012

Total number of participants: 28

c. Training for SMEs and Venture Companies

It is important for SMEs and venture companies, which create the fundamental technologies on which Japanese industry is based and which play an important role in local economies, to utilize innovative technologies created by them as part of their management strategies, and as part of stimulating the intellectual property creation cycle. The INPIT provides "training on ways to utilize intellectual property rights" to managers of SMEs and venture companies, and personnel in charge of intellectual property under the aim of raising their awareness and knowledge on how to exploit intellectual property rights and patent information. There are two courses: Course for Discussing Ways to Utilize IP; and the Course of Conducting Searches.

◇ Results in FY2012

Total number of participants: 71

d. Training for IP-specialized Human Resources of Administrative Agencies

Human resources who can efficiently promote intellectual property strategies are required in administrative agencies to stimulate the intellectual creation cycle. The INPIT provides training for officials who engage in intellectual property affairs in administrative agencies, as means of supporting these agencies in making Japan a nation based on IP.

◇ Results in FY2012

Total number of participants: 191

e. Human Resources Development in Collaboration with Other Domestic Organizations

It is important for organizations that develop IP human resources to mutually cooperate in order to develop human resources who work to build Japan as a nation based on IP. Therefore, the INPIT offers "Patent Search Practice Training" in collaboration with universities.

◇ Results in FY2012

Total number of participants: 24

3) Provision of Opportunities for Learning Utilizing Information and Communication Technology**a. Development of Human Resources Using E-learning (IP e-learning)**

The INPIT provides e-learning educational sources that have been developed based on JPO's knowledge, experience and expertise. These sources are used not only for the JPO but also for the development of IP-related human resources nationwide.

In addition, IP e-learning¹ is available not only on PCs, but also on portable terminals.



IP e-learning top page

b. Provision of Training Sources

Textbooks used in the INPIT training courses that are available to the public are published on the INPIT website² so that they can be used by any person engaged in IP.

¹ http://www.inpit.go.jp/jinzai/ipe_learning/index.html

² <http://www.inpit.go.jp/jinzai/kensyu/kyozai/index.html>

4) Training for Searchers

The INPIT offers statutory training for those who wish to become “searchers” (staff that conduct prior art document searches) in registered search organizations that conduct searches on an outsourcing-basis from the JPO. (Article 37 of the Act on the Special Provisions to the Procedure, etc. Concerning Industrial Property Right).

The steady training of searchers performing highly accurate prior art searches is particularly important to ensure speedy

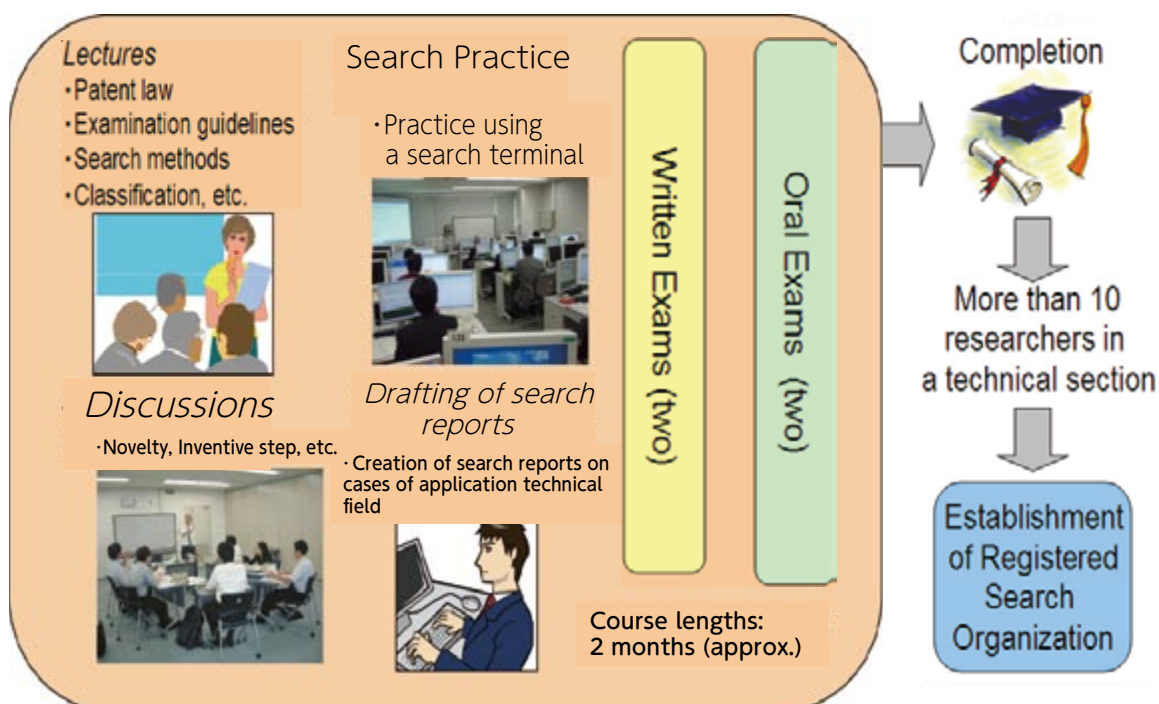
patent examinations.

Therefore, this training course is designed to have trainees acquire comprehensive, fundamental skills that are required of them as searchers. The course provides them the knowledge necessary to make prior art searches by systematically acquiring this basic knowledge through practical training and debate.

◇ Results in FY2012

Total number of participants: 696

[Figure 2-2-13 Outline of Training for Searchers]



5) Cooperation with Private-sector Organizations on the Development of Human Resources related to Intellectual Property

The INPIT is participating in “The Development of Human Resources related to Intellectual Property Education Promotion Conference,¹” exchanging information with educational and training organizations on IP human resources development, making suggestions for human resources development, and exchanging opinions on cross-sectional matters concerning intellectual property training.

In FY2012, the Intellectual Property Education Promotion Conference hosted seminars three times under the theme “Global Human Resources who Utilize Intellectual Property” for the purpose of presenting an image of IP human resources required in the future and introducing methods of developing leading IP human resources, thereby contributing to the development of IP human resources in line with the times.

6) Cooperation with Intellectual Property Human Resources Development Organizations Overseas

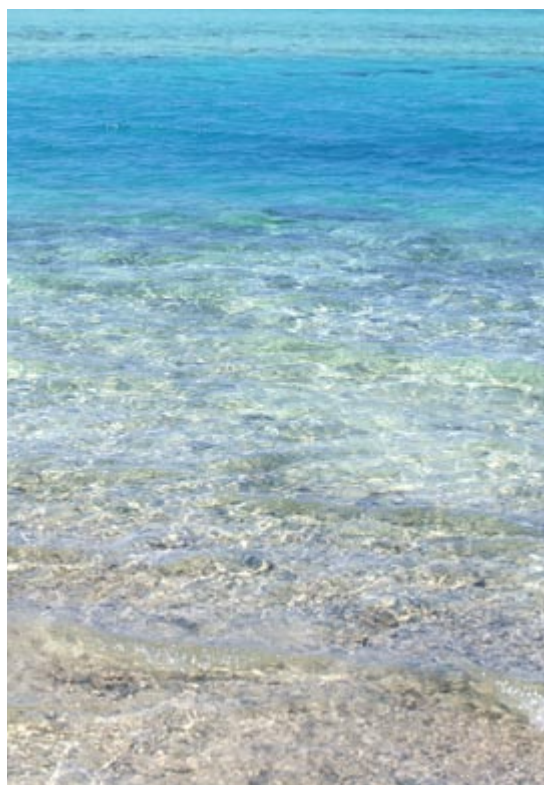
The INPIT has collaborated and cooperated with intellectual property human resources development organizations overseas due to an increasing need for international cooperation in intellectual property human resources development. The INPIT regularly holds meetings with the CIPTC (China Intellectual Property Training Center), and IIPTI (International Intellectual Property Training Institute) to discuss human resources developing projects. The INPIT has advanced specific cooperative measures. For example, the INPIT concluded a memorandum of cooperation (MOC) to

exchange information on training curriculum and implement training to develop intellectual property human resources, in collaboration with the two organizations.

In FY2012, as a specific measure, the INPIT exchanged e-learning materials with the CIPTC, which was created by the two organizations. The materials on the Chinese patent system were made widely available to the public through IP e-learning provided by the INPIT.

Moreover, in September 2012, the INPIT sent lecturers to China to hold the “Second Collaboration Seminar” under the theme “Amendment of Patent Law in FY2011” for parties concerned of IP in companies, patent attorneys and examiners in China.

Furthermore, as a specific cooperating measure between the INPIT, IIPTI and CIPTC, lecturers were sent to China from the INPIT in September 2012 to hold the “First Japan-China-Korea Collaboration Seminar” under the theme “E-learning Provided by Three Organizations” for persons in charge of IP in administrative organizations and parties concerned of IP in companies in China.



¹ It was established in response to a suggestion on a council to promote IP human resources development in the comprehensive strategy for intellectual property human resources development decided in the Intellectual Creation Cycle Specialized Investigation Committee, Intellectual Property Strategy Headquarters Meeting which was held in January 30, 2006.

[Figure 2-2-14 Meetings with IIPTI and CIPTC held in FY2012]

Meeting	Place and period	Outline
Sixth Japan-China Human Resources Developing Organizations Collaboration Meeting	September 2012, Beijing	The two organizations exchanged opinions on their projects for developing IP human resources and agreed to hold the 3rd Japan-China Collaboration Seminar in FY2013 in Japan. They also exchanged e-learning materials.
Third Japan-China-Korea Human Resources Developing Organization Directors' Meeting	September 2012, Beijing	The three organizations exchanged opinions on their projects for developing IP human resources and agreed to advance specific cooperating measures between them such as the holding of a seminar for parties concerned of IP held at the same timing as the annual meeting and exchange of training texts and e-learning materials.

(2) Human Resource Development for Students

1) Project for Promoting Creativity and Practical Ability and Exploitable Ability Concerning Intellectual Property

The JPO and the INPIT provide support to specialized high schools (industry, commerce, agriculture and fishery) and technical colleges that cultivate intellectual creativity at places that conduct manufacturing and product development. This aims to give students an opportunity to acquire “creative ability” that enables them to plan and suggest new things and structures, “practical ability” that enables them to realize such plans and suggestions in the rule of the real world, and “exploitable ability” that enables them to turn creative ideas into exploitable forms in the real world through the process of turning ideas into a concrete shape of intellectual property and the process of preparing for a simulated patent application. This program started in FY2000, and in FY2012, the number of schools that participated in this program reached 100. Moreover, in FY2012, an exhibition of achievements and a presentation of achievements were held at the 22nd National Industrial Education Fair in Okayama with the participation of 21 schools, and a booth for the “project for developing creativity, practical ability and exploitable ability related to intellectual property” set up.

2) Patent Contests and Design Patent Contests

The JPO, together with the MEXT, the Japan Patent Attorneys Association, and the INPIT, held Patent Contests and Design Patent Contests. At the contents, particularly excellent inventions and designs created by students at high schools, technical colleges, and universities nationwide are recognized and given awards. The JPO holds the patent contests to raise IP awareness in students and promote the understanding of the intellectual property system. The purpose of both contests is that students experience the process of creating inventions and designs in order to seek IP rights for particularly excellent inventions and designs, some actually going as far as to be patented or designed.

In these contests, students at high schools, technical colleges, and universities nationwide are encouraged to exhibit their inventions/designs. Particularly excellent work is selected to receive support in filing for patents or designs. Students who created inventions and designs that were given awards may receive the following support in the process of filing of applications to acquire patent rights or design rights.

- Advice from patent attorneys (the organizer bears the cost)
- Support to cover the cost of the patent application fee, design registration application fee, patent examination fee,

annual fee (from the first year to the third year), and design registration fee (first year)

The Patent Contest started in FY2002 and so far 150 innovations out of 2,402 have been selected to receive support to file patent applications, with 80 actually being given patents (as of the end of April 2013). As for the Design Patent Contests, which started in FY2008, 130 applications out of 645 have been selected to receive support to file design registration applications, with 92 actually being given designs (as of the end of April 2013).



The Patent Contest and the Design Patent Contest Submitted poster

