

**Report on FY2023
Annual User Satisfaction Survey
on Patent Examination Quality**

October 2023

Japan Patent Office

Summary

1. Survey method and response rate

The FY2023 Survey was conducted online on the overall quality of patent examination on national applications (Sheet 1) and the overall quality of the international search and international preliminary examination on PCT applications (Sheet 2) (Submission period: May to June, 2023).

Table 1 shows year-on-year trends in response rates¹.

Table 1: Response rate of Questionnaire Sheets

	FY2023 (Responded/ Sent)	FY2022 (Responded/ Sent)	FY2021	FY2020	FY2019	FY2018	FY2017	FY2016	FY2015	FY2014	FY2013	FY2012
Sheet 1	80.4% (530/659)	84.9% (535/630)	87.3%	87.0%	88.0%	90.0%	90.6%	89.3%	85.5%	86.8%	91.8%	91.4%
Sheet 2	82.0% (314/383)	85.9% (317/369)	88.4%	85.1%	90.5%	93.5%	92.3%	91.2%	87.4%	88.7%	90.6%	91.8%

2. Satisfaction level with overall quality of patent examination on national applications (Sheet 1)

Respondents at the rate of 96.6% (95.7% in the previous year [PY]) evaluated the level of satisfaction with the overall quality of patent examination on national applications (overall satisfaction level) as neutral or higher, with positive responses² of 61.1% (61.3% in PY) (Figure 1).

In terms of individual items related to the quantitative goals of patent examinations to be achieved in the JPO, 96.3% of the respondents evaluated the level of satisfaction with “communication with examiners in face-to-face interviews and telephone conversations” as neutral or higher (95.9% in PY) with positive responses of 65.5% (66.1% in PY), higher than our objective of 65% or higher set in FY2022 (Figure 2).

The proportion of the respondents who evaluated “consistency of judgements among examiners” was 85.8% (81.8% in PY) with positive responses of 36.9% (38.6% in PY) (Figures 3). This item was treated as a priority³, according to the Survey results in the previous fiscal year.

The proportion of the respondents who evaluated “consistency of judgements on Article

¹ Questionnaire Sheets A and C used in the previous Surveys were replaced with Sheets 1 and 2 in the FY2020 Survey. In Table 3, the response rates of Sheets 1 and 2 in and before FY2019 indicate those in Sheets A and C.

² The sum of “Satisfied” and “Somewhat satisfied”

³ An individual evaluation item which received a low level of satisfaction in spite of a high correlation coefficient with the overall level of satisfaction. See Summary 5. (1) for details.

29 (2): inventive step” as neutral or higher was 83.4% (80.6% in PY), and the proportion of positive responses was 38.1% (38.7% in PY) (Figure 4). This item under “consistency of judgements among examiners” was also treated as a priority.

Regarding “consistency of judgements on Article 36 (4) (i) and Article 36 (6): descriptive requirements for description and claims,” a subitem of “consistency of judgements among examiners,” 79.0% (81.8% in PY) of the respondents evaluated the level of satisfaction as neutral or higher, with positive responses of 34.5% (36.9% in PY) (Figure 5).

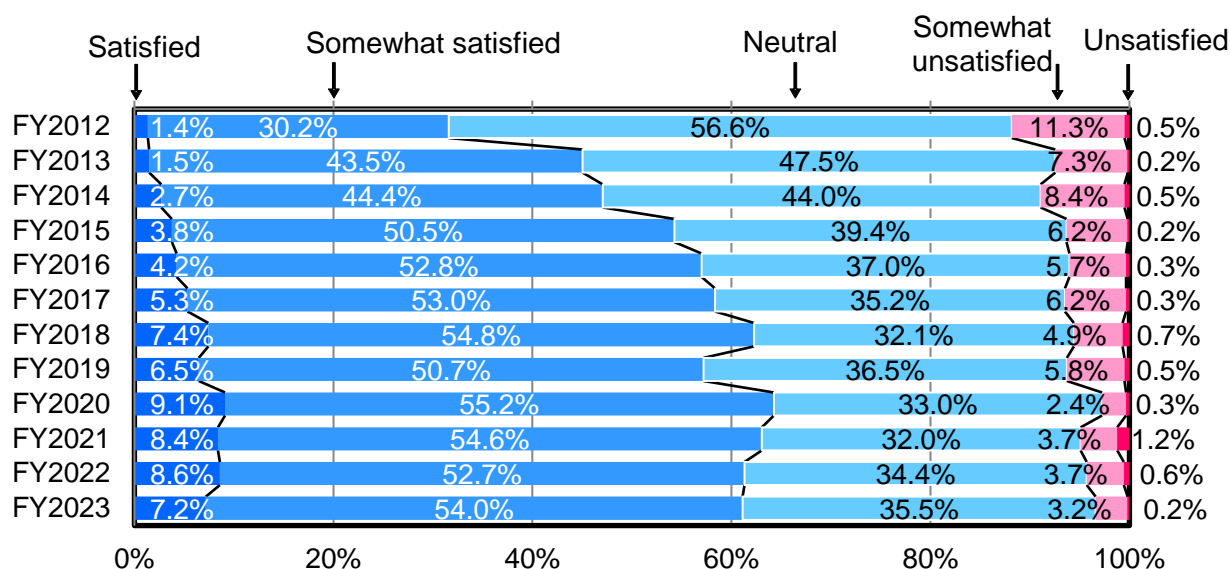


Figure 1: Satisfaction level with overall quality of patent examination on national applications (overall satisfaction level)

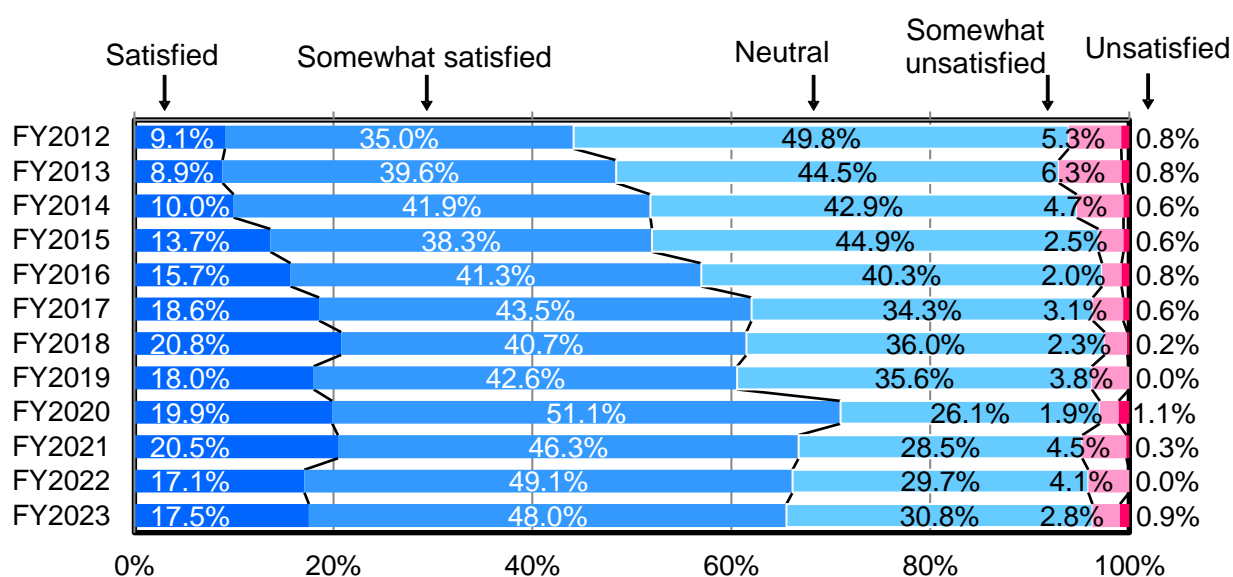


Figure 2: Satisfaction level with communication with examiners in face-to-face interviews and telephone conversations

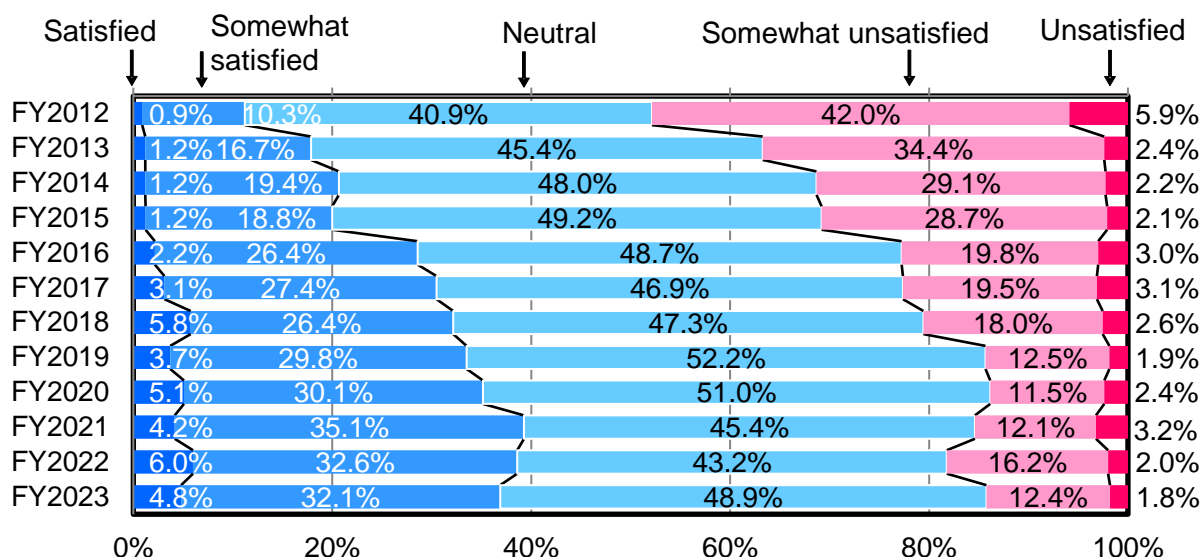
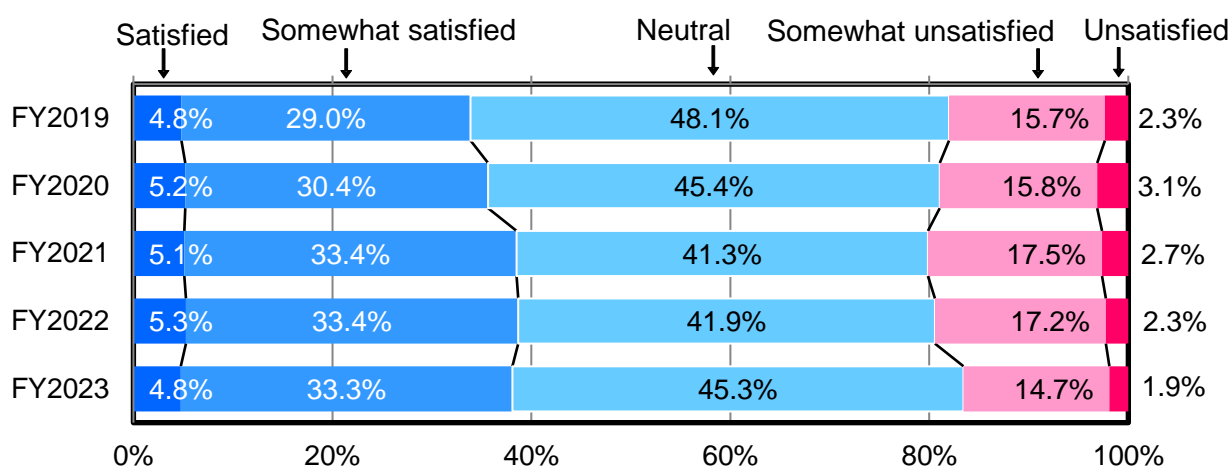
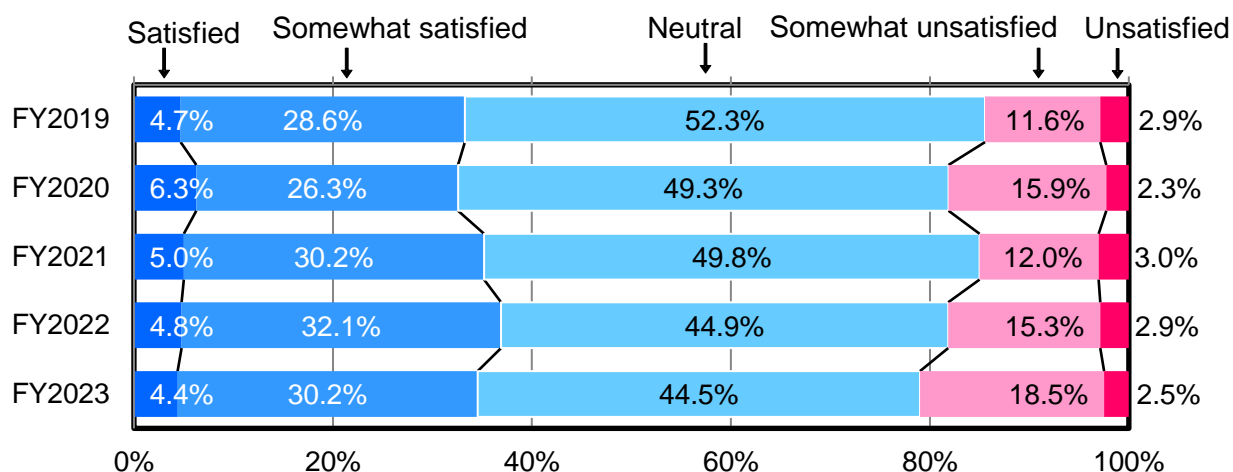


Figure 3: Satisfaction level with consistency of judgements among examiners



**Figure 4: Satisfaction level with consistency of judgements on Article 29 (2):
inventive step**



**Figure 5: Satisfaction level with consistency of judgements on Article 36 (4) (i) and
Article 36 (6): descriptive requirements for description and claims**

3. Satisfaction level of overall quality of the international search and international preliminary examination on PCT applications (Sheet 2)

Respondents at the rate of 97.1% (97.5% in PY) evaluated the level of satisfaction with the overall quality of the international search and international preliminary examination on PCT applications (overall satisfaction level) as neutral or higher, with positive responses⁴ of 63.7% (59.0% in PY) (Figure 6).

In terms of individual items, “consistency of judgements in the international and national phases” received neutral or higher responses of 90.9% (82.1% in PY) and positive responses of 52.1% (43.8% in PY) (Figure 7). The item was treated as a priority⁵, according to the Survey results in the previous fiscal year.

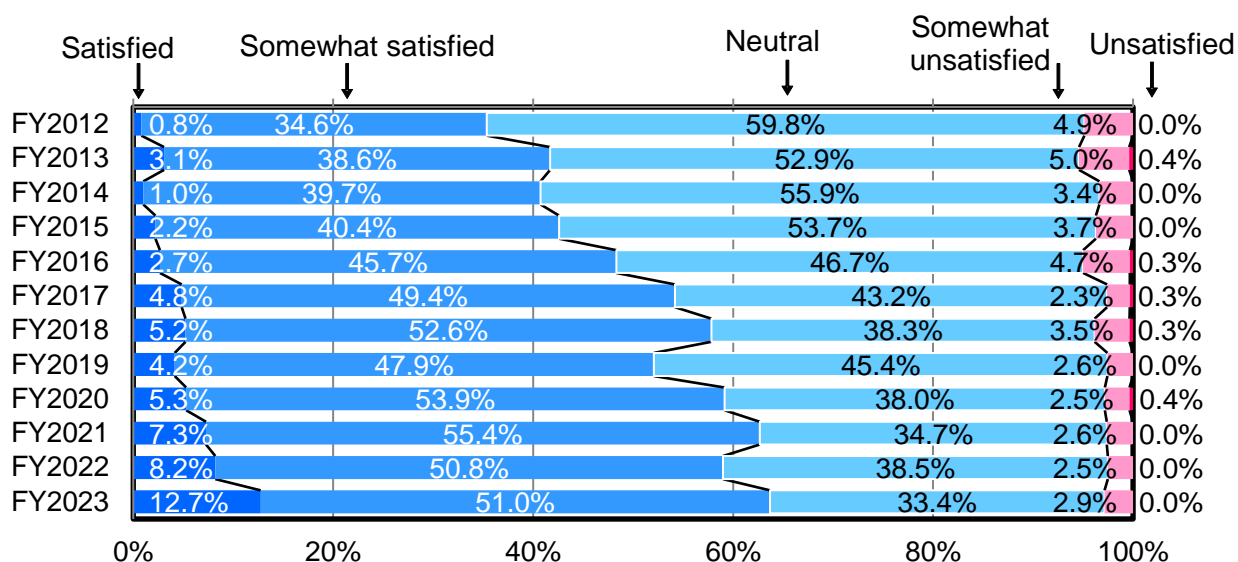


Figure 6: Satisfaction level with overall quality of the international search and international preliminary examination on PCT applications (overall satisfaction level)

⁴ The sum of “Satisfied” and “Somewhat satisfied”

⁵ An individual evaluation item which received a low level of satisfaction in spite of a high correlation coefficient with the overall level of satisfaction. See Summary 5. (2) for details.

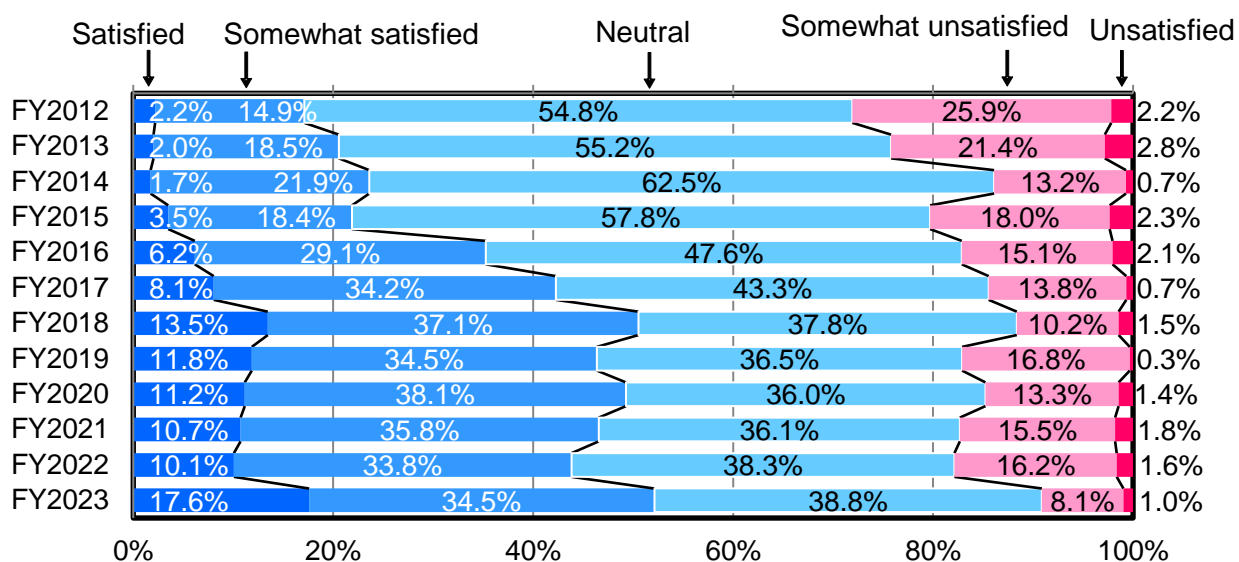


Figure 7: Satisfaction level with consistency of judgements in the international and national phases

4. Comparison with other national/regional Offices

Table 2 shows the aggregated results of a multiple-choice question as to what Office outperforms or is more desirable to perform than the other Offices in patent examination.

Table 2: Offices which the respondents think are superior or preferable for each evaluation item⁶

Evaluation Item	JPO	USPTO	EPO	CNIPA	KIPO
Thorough and easy-to-understand description in notifications of reasons for refusal	192 (58.2%)	61 (18.5%)	91 (27.6%)	44 (13.3%)	49 (14.8%)
Judgement on eligibility for patent and industrial applicability	110 (33.3%)	36 (10.9%)	51 (15.5%)	17 (5.2%)	23 (7.0%)
Judgement on novelty/inventive step	156 (47.3%)	41 (12.4%)	118 (35.8%)	32 (9.7%)	36 (10.9%)
Judgement on requirements for description and claims	120 (36.4%)	36 (10.9%)	60 (18.2%)	23 (7.0%)	26 (7.9%)
Consistency of judgements among examiners	144 (43.6%)	15 (4.5%)	97 (29.4%)	17 (5.2%)	21 (6.4%)
Prior art searches	138 (41.8%)	51 (15.5%)	131 (39.7%)	43 (13.0%)	15 (4.5%)
Level of examiners' expertise in technical details	156 (47.3%)	24 (7.3%)	103 (31.2%)	24 (7.3%)	23 (7.0%)
Responses to written opinions	139 (42.1%)	43 (13.0%)	65 (19.7%)	23 (7.0%)	19 (5.8%)
Communication with examiners in face-to-face interviews and telephone conversations	129 (39.1%)	78 (23.6%)	25 (7.6%)	28 (8.5%)	14 (4.2%)
Scope of patents granted after examination	125 (37.9%)	49 (14.8%)	62 (18.8%)	19 (5.8%)	31 (9.4%)

⁶ Excluding responses "No examination experience at the Office/Not sure." Percentages in brackets represent the ratio of valid responses (excluding Not sure / No experience or response).

5. Result Analysis

(1) Correlation between the levels of satisfaction with each evaluation item and the overall quality of patent examination on national applications

Correlation coefficients can be used to measure relationships between the levels of satisfaction with each evaluation item and with the overall quality of patent examination.

Figure 8 shows correlation between the average levels of satisfaction⁷ with each of 18 evaluation items and the overall quality of patent examination on national applications, with the former on the x-axis and the latter on the y-axis. The JPO should improve on priority basis evaluation items which received low levels of satisfaction (left side) in spite of high correlation coefficients with the overall level of satisfaction (upper side). This year's Survey reveals that evaluation items "consistency of judgements among examiners" and "consistency of judgements among examiners on Article 29 (2): inventive step" are the priorities.

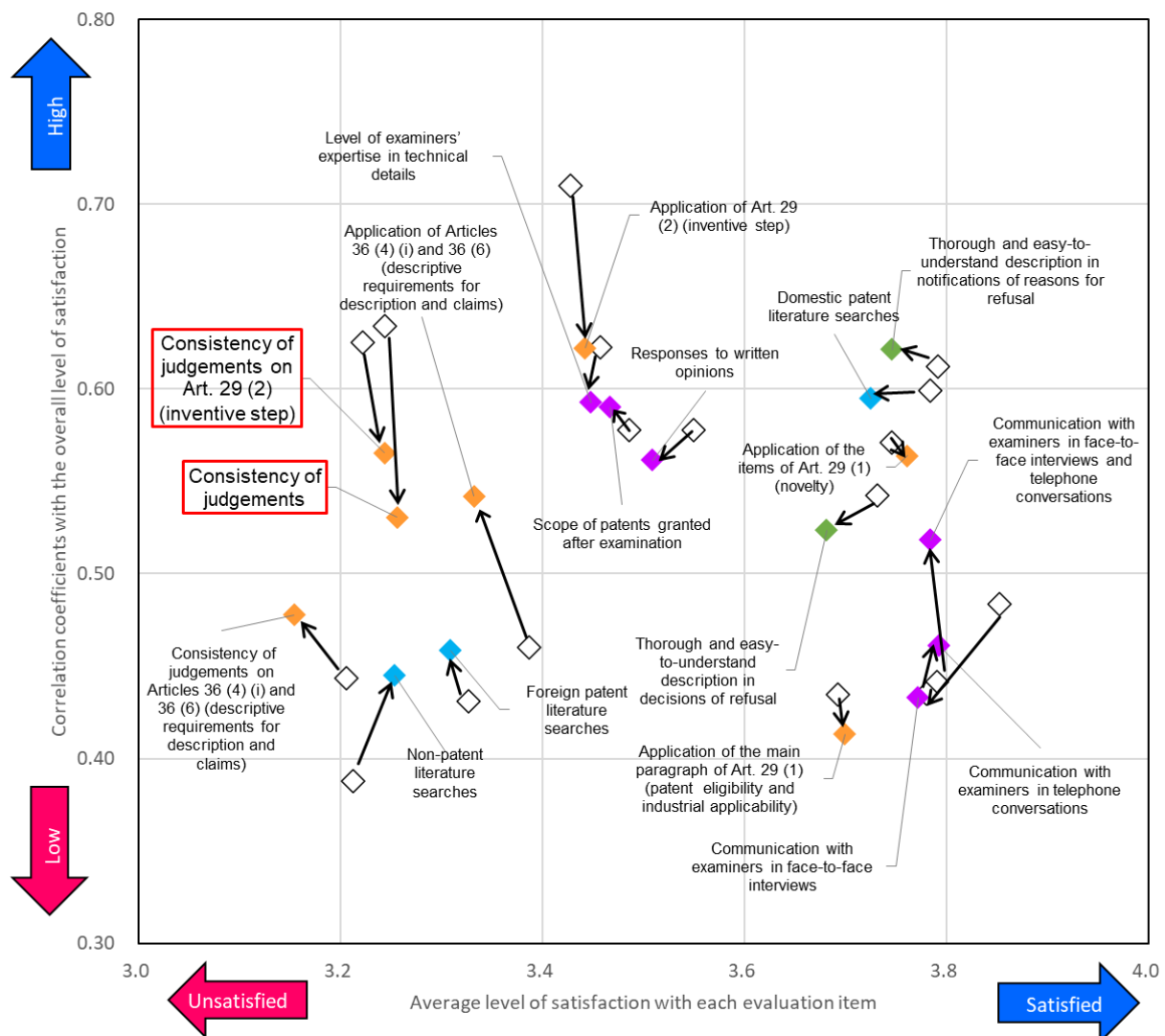


Figure 8: Average level of satisfaction for each evaluation item and correlation coefficients with overall satisfaction level (national applications)⁸

(2) Correlation between the levels of satisfaction with each evaluation item and the overall quality of the international search and international preliminary examination on PCT applications

Figure 9 shows correlation between the average levels of satisfaction⁷ with each of 12 evaluation items and the overall quality of the international search and international preliminary examination on PCT applications, with the former on the x-axis and the latter on the y-axis. This year's Survey reveals, as in (1) above, that “consistency of judgements in the international phase” is a priority.

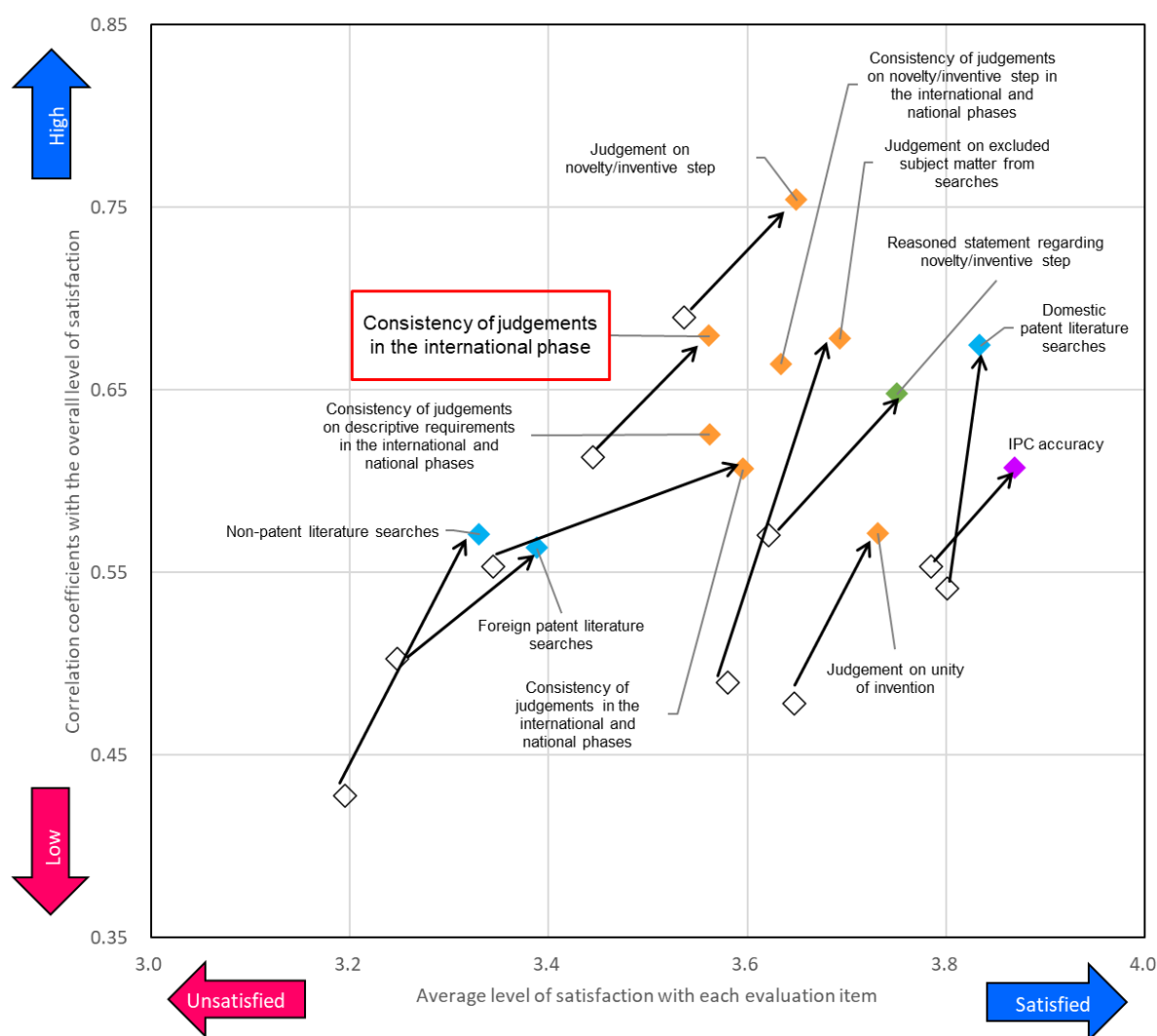


Figure 9: Average level of satisfaction for each evaluation item and correlation coefficients with overall satisfaction level (PCT applications)⁸

⁷ Average levels of satisfaction indicated in a 5-point scale, in which 5 indicates *satisfied*, 4 - *somewhat satisfied*, 3 - *neutral*, 2 - *somewhat unsatisfied*, and 1 – *unsatisfied*.

⁸ Plots are colored according to evaluation types: Light blue for prior art searches; orange for judgements; green for descriptions in notifications; purple for others. White plots representing Survey results and arrows representing changes in correlation coefficients are from the previous year's Survey.

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1. Overview

(1) Background

Globally reliable, high-quality examination and proper patent grant by the Japan Patent Office (JPO) are keys for supporting domestic enterprises in developing global business activities smoothly, driving innovation, and maintaining sound business practices. Based on this premise, the JPO released its Quality Policy on Patent Examination (hereinafter “Quality Policy”) in 2014, which outlines fundamental principles of its quality management policies designed to achieve the utmost examination quality in the world¹. The Quality Policy declares, under one of its six fundamental principles: “We meet wide-ranging needs and expectations,” that the JPO understands and respects broad-ranging needs of and expectations for patent examination so that it may contribute to the benefit of Japanese society and the satisfaction of people connected with the patent system.

Carefully listening to the opinions of users is essential to continuously formulate measures for achieving quality assurance in patent examination. The JPO has conducted its User Satisfaction Survey (hereafter “Survey”) annually since FY2012 and has reflected feedback from users in its quality management initiatives.

This report shows a summary of the Survey results and detailed analyses of responses as follows.

(2) Objective

This Survey aims to collect users’ opinions on and identify the current quality of the JPO’s patent examination and works as a means for the JPO to improve its practices in the future.

In other words, this Survey corresponds to the “Check” phase of the PDCA (Plan, Do, Check, Act) cycle outlined in the Quality Management Manual for Patent Examination since it evaluates patent examination procedures. The Survey results will be used to continuously improve the patent examination practices based on one of the principles of the Quality Policy: “We continually improve operations.”

(3) Method

This Survey was conducted using two types of online questionnaires (see Appendix):

¹ In this Report, the term “patent examination” means examination on inventions, including International Search and International Preliminary Examination under the PCT, and establishment of Reports of Utility Model Technical Opinion, as defined in the Quality Policy. Any reference to “patent examination” in the context of national applications means examination on inventions in national applications.

Sheet 1 asks respondents how they would evaluate the overall quality of patent examination on national applications in FY2022 and Sheet 2 asks them how they would evaluate the overall quality of the international search and international preliminary examination on PCT applications in FY2022. In the questionnaire sheets, a 5-point scale is used to indicate the level of satisfaction with multiple evaluation items (satisfied, somewhat satisfied, neutral, somewhat unsatisfied, and unsatisfied).

Respondents received an individual password to access the online Questionnaire Sheets by e-mail and were asked to answer the questions anonymously or otherwise (Submission period: May to June, 2023).

Tables 1 and 2 show how applicants were selected and how many were selected for each questionnaire sheet. It should be noted that respondents to Sheets 1 and 2 overlap to some degree. The number of respondents is 745, excluding the overlap.

Table 1: Method of selecting and number of applicants for Sheet 1

	Method of selecting applicants	No. of applicants	Total
Sheet 1 (Overall quality of patent examination on national applications)	Non-individual, <u>domestic residents</u> , who filed 50 or more national applications as a lead applicant in FY2021, obtained one or more final decisions for published applications in FY2022	513	659
	Non-individual, <u>foreign residents</u> , who filed 50 or more national applications as a lead applicant in FY2021, obtained one or more final decisions for published applications in FY2022	66	
	<u>Small-scale applicants</u> ² who filed less than 50 national applications as a lead applicant in FY2021	30	
	Top 50 <u>patent attorneys</u> who filed the most applications in FY2021	50	

² Small-scale applicants were selected from manufacturers with capital of not more than 300 million yen or less than 300 employees; and which previously had interviews or discussions with the JPO.

Table 2: Method of selecting and number of applicants for Sheet 2

	Method of selecting applicants	No. of applicants	Total
Sheet 2 (Overall quality of the international search and preliminary examination on PCT applications)	Non-individual, <u>domestic residents</u> , who filed 18 or more PCT applications as a lead applicant in FY2021	331	383
	<u>Small-scale applicants</u> ² who filed less than 18 PCT applications as a lead applicant in FY2021	22	
	Top 30 <u>patent attorneys</u> who filed the most PCT applications in FY2021	30	

(4) Response rate and breakdown of respondents by industry sector

Table 3 shows year-on-year trends in response rates³ and Table 4 is a breakdown of respondents by industry sector. Anonymous responses account for 39.1% of all responses to Sheet 1 and 40.1% of all the responses to Sheet 2 (42.2% and 44.2% respectively in the previous Survey). The number of respondents is 592, excluding those overlapping in Sheets 1 and 2.

Table 3: Response rate of Questionnaire Sheets

	FY2023 (Responded/ Sent)	FY2022 (Responded/ Sent)	FY2021	FY2020	FY2019	FY2018	FY2017	FY2016	FY2015	FY2014	FY2013	FY2012
Sheet1	80.4% (530/659)	84.9% (535/630)	87.3%	87.0%	88.0%	90.0%	90.6%	89.3%	85.5%	86.8%	91.8%	91.4%
Sheet2	82.0% (314/383)	85.9% (317/369)	88.4%	85.1%	90.5%	93.5%	92.3%	91.2%	87.4%	88.7%	90.6%	91.8%

³ Questionnaire Sheets A and C used in the previous Surveys were replaced with Sheets 1 and 2 in FY2020 Survey. In Table 3, the response rates of Sheets 1 and 2 in and before FY2019 indicate those in Sheets A and C.

Table 4: Breakdown of respondents by industry sector

Attribute (Sector) ⁴		Sheet 1		Sheet 2	
		Responses	Percentage	Responses	Percentage
Domestic applicants	Metal	20	3.8%	11	3.5%
	Construction	10	1.9%	2	0.6%
	Machinery	79	14.9%	46	14.6%
	Chemistry	59	11.1%	42	13.4%
	Food/medicine	8	1.5%	5	1.6%
	Electronics	61	11.5%	36	11.5%
	Others (manufacturing)	7	1.3%	2	0.6%
	Others (non-manufacturing)	32	6.0%	19	6.1%
	Institutes / public research organization	12	2.3%	9	2.9%
Patent attorneys		29	5.5%	16	5.1%
Foreign-resident applicants		6	1.1%	0	0.0%
Anonymous respondents		207	39.1%	126	40.1%
Total		530	100.0%	314	100.0%

⁴ Respondents were sorted into 9 sectors according to various industrial classifications, such as Japan Standard Industry Classification (revised in October, 2013) and the Report on Patent Examination Practices to Improve User-friendliness (February, 2011).

2. Aggregated Results

(1) Satisfaction level with overall quality of patent examination on national applications (Sheet 1)

Table 5 in the next page lists satisfaction levels of the overall quality of patent examination and the individual evaluation items (national applications) in FY2022.

Figure 1 shows year-to-year changes in levels of satisfaction with the overall quality of patent examination on national applications (overall satisfaction level)⁵. Respondents at the rate of 96.6% (95.7% in PY) evaluated the overall satisfaction level as neutral or higher, with positive responses⁶ of 61.1% (61.3% in PY).

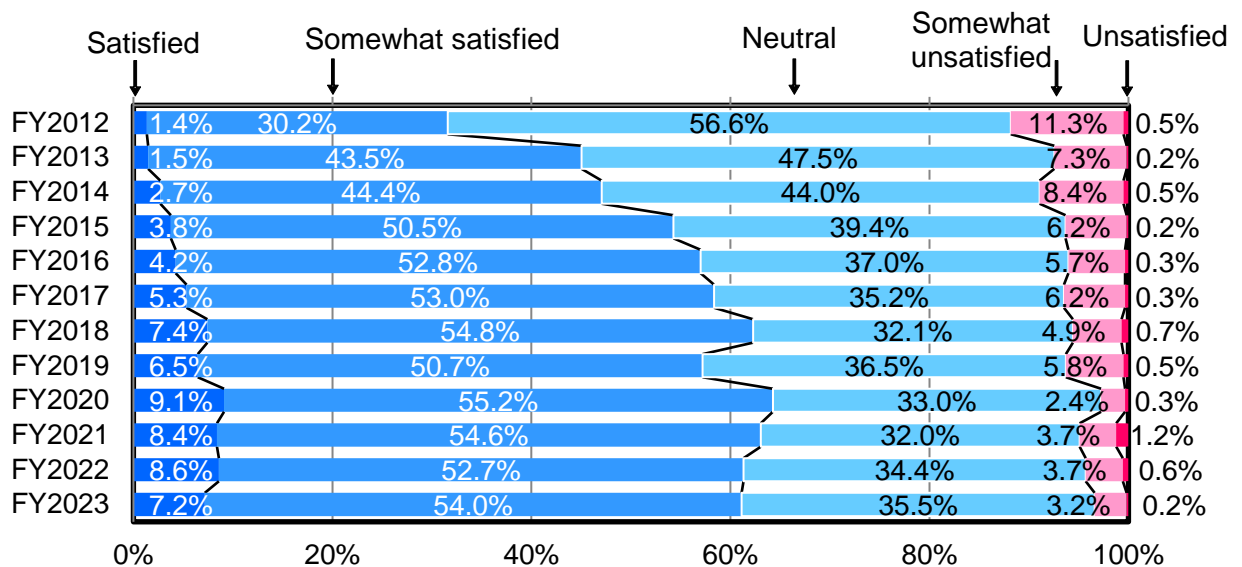


Figure 1: Satisfaction level with overall quality of patent examination on national applications (overall satisfaction level)

⁵ In any graph showing a year-to-year change in this report, the vertical axis represents the fiscal year of Survey. As the Survey each year questions user satisfaction with examination conducted by the JPO in the previous fiscal year, the FY2023 Survey covers user satisfaction with examination conducted in FY2022.

⁶ The sum of "Satisfied" and "Somewhat satisfied"

Table 5: Satisfaction levels of the overall quality of patent examination and the individual evaluation items (national applications)⁷

Evaluation item		Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Neutral	Somewhat Unsatisfied	Unsatisfied	Not sure/No experience or response
Overall evaluation							
Overall quality of patent examination		38 (7.2%)	286 (54.0%)	188 (35.5%)	17 (3.2%)	1 (0.2%)	0
Individual evaluation items							
Thorough and easy-to-understand description in notifications of reasons for refusal		61 (11.5%)	292 (55.2%)	160 (30.2%)	13 (2.5%)	3 (0.6%)	1
Thorough and easy-to-understand description in decision of refusal		60 (11.4%)	262 (49.9%)	184 (35.0%)	14 (2.7%)	5 (1.0%)	5
Application of provisions	Application of the main paragraph of Article 29 (1): eligibility for patent and industrial applicability	66 (15.6%)	170 (40.2%)	183 (43.3%)	2 (0.5%)	2 (0.5%)	107
	Application of Article 29 (1): novelty	77 (14.6%)	265 (50.2%)	170 (32.2%)	15 (2.8%)	1 (0.2%)	2
	Application of Article 29 (2): inventive step	35 (6.6%)	229 (43.3%)	207 (39.1%)	51 (9.6%)	7 (1.3%)	1
	Application of Article 36 (4) (i) and Article 36 (6): descriptive requirements for description and claims	35 (6.7%)	186 (35.4%)	233 (44.3%)	63 (12.0%)	9 (1.7%)	4
Consistency of judgements among examiners		24 (4.8%)	160 (32.1%)	244 (48.9%)	62 (12.4%)	9 (1.8%)	31
on Article 29 (2): inventive step		25 (4.8%)	175 (33.3%)	238 (45.3%)	77 (14.7%)	10 (1.9%)	5
on Article 36 (4) (i) and Article 36 (6): descriptive requirements for description and claims		23 (4.4%)	158 (30.2%)	233 (44.5%)	97 (18.5%)	13 (2.5%)	6
Prior art searches	Domestic patent literature searches	75 (14.2%)	259 (49.1%)	173 (32.8%)	16 (3.0%)	5 (0.9%)	2
	Foreign patent literature searches	29 (5.8%)	153 (30.7%)	267 (53.6%)	41 (8.2%)	8 (1.6%)	32
	Non-patent literature searches	26 (5.5%)	126 (26.6%)	274 (57.9%)	36 (7.6%)	11 (2.3%)	57
Level of examiners' expertise in technical details		43 (8.2%)	198 (37.8%)	241 (46.0%)	35 (6.7%)	7 (1.3%)	6
Responses to written opinions		37 (7.1%)	225 (42.9%)	234 (44.7%)	24 (4.6%)	4 (0.8%)	6
Communication with examiners		57 (17.5%)	156 (48.0%)	100 (30.8%)	9 (2.8%)	3 (0.9%)	205
in face-to-face interviews		46 (17.2%)	131 (48.9%)	79 (29.5%)	8 (3.0%)	4 (1.5%)	262
in telephone conversations		50 (17.2%)	140 (48.3%)	91 (31.4%)	8 (2.8%)	1 (0.3%)	240
Scope of patents granted after examination		27 (5.2%)	222 (42.5%)	243 (46.6%)	28 (5.4%)	2 (0.4%)	8

⁷ Percentages in brackets represent the ratio of valid responses (excluding Not sure / No experience or response). The percentages may not reach the sum of 100 due to rounding.

Figures 2 to 19 indicate year-to-year changes in levels of satisfaction with individual evaluation items.

In terms of individual items related to the quantitative goals of patent examinations to be achieved in the JPO, 96.3% of the respondents evaluated the level of satisfaction with “communication with examiners in face-to-face interviews and telephone conversations” as neutral or higher with positive responses of 65.5% (95.9% and 66.1% respectively in PY), higher than our objective of 65% or higher (Figure 16).

The proportions of the respondents who evaluated “consistency of judgements among examiners” was 85.8% (81.8% in PY) with positive responses of 36.9% (38.6% in PY) (Figures 8). This item was treated as a priority⁸, according to the Survey results in the previous fiscal year.

The proportion of the respondents who evaluated “consistency of judgements on Article 29 (2): inventive step” as neutral or higher was 83.4% (80.6% in PY), and the proportion of positive responses was 38.1% (38.7% in PY) (Figure 9). This item under “consistency of judgements among examiners” was also treated as a priority.

Regarding “consistency of judgements on Article 36 (4) (i) and Article 36 (6): descriptive requirements for description and claims,” a subitem of “consistency of judgements among examiners,” 79.0% (81.8% in PY) of the respondents evaluated the level of satisfaction as neutral or higher, with positive responses of 34.5% (36.9% in PY) (Figure 10).

Many respondents provided comments on items “communication with examiners in face-to-face interviews and telephone conversations” and “consistency of judgements among examiners” in the comment boxes. More than half of the respondents gave positive feedback on “communication with examiners in face-to-face interviews and telephone conversations,” appreciating examiners for their understanding of what users claim, appropriately indicating their impression on proposed amendments, and responding in a cordial manner. Many of the respondents also showed their expectations for improvements in changes of judgements after face-to-face interviews and telephone conversations and in examiners’ manner as some of them behaved high-handedly. As for “consistency of judgements among examiners,” many respondents expressed their expectations for improved consistency of judgements on descriptive requirements.

⁸ An individual evaluation item which received a low level of satisfaction in spite of a high correlation coefficient with the overall level of satisfaction. See Summary 3. (1) for details.

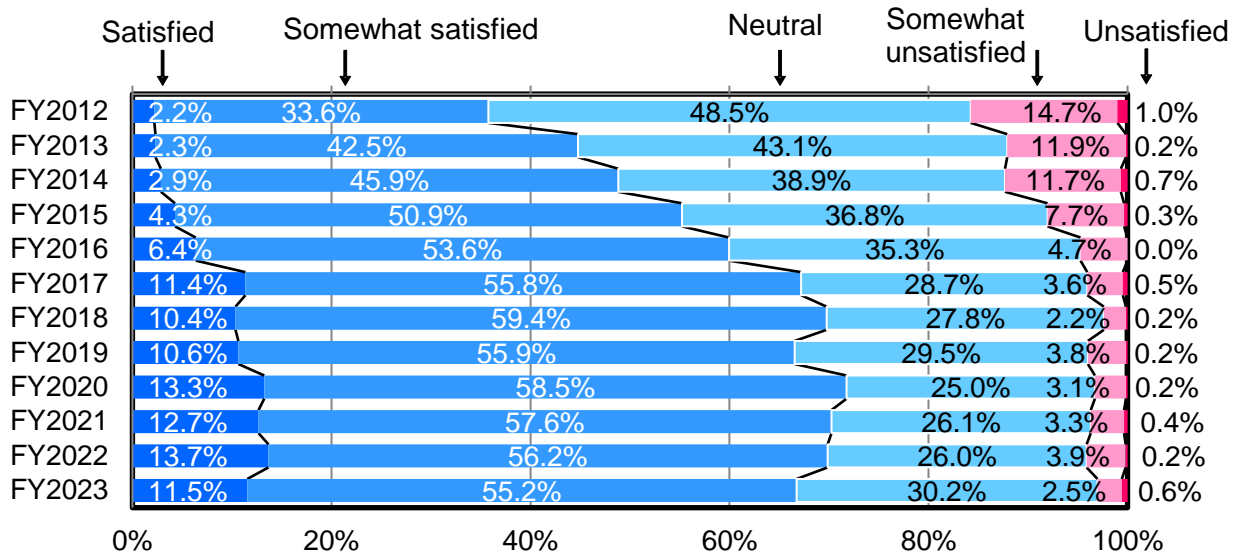


Figure 2: Satisfaction level with thorough and easy-to-understand description in notifications of reasons for refusal

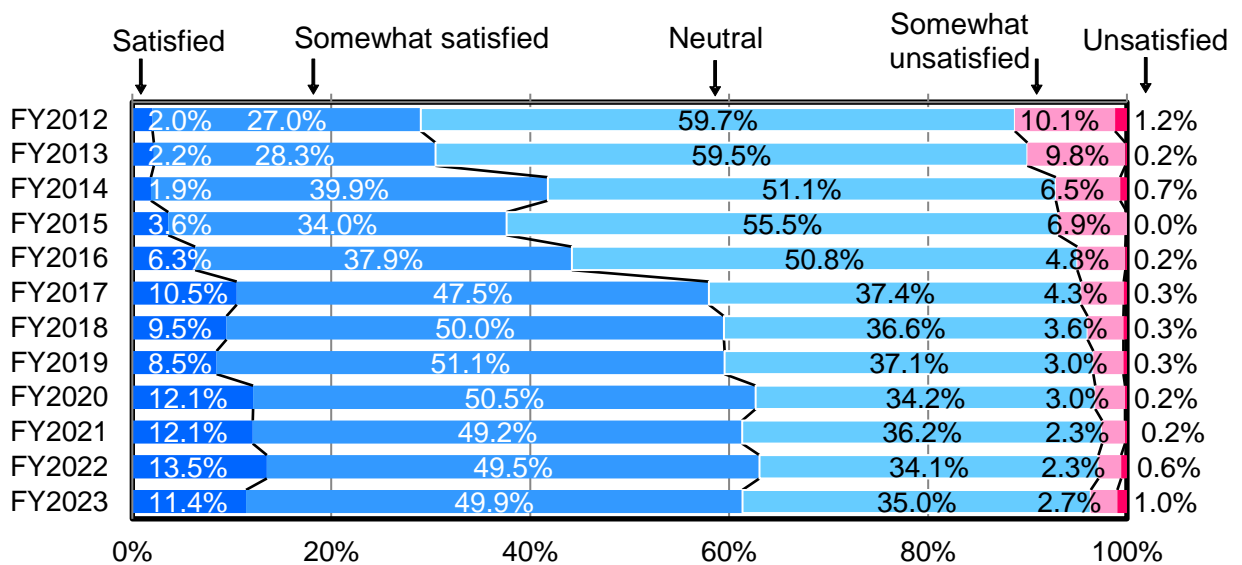


Figure 3: Satisfaction level with thorough and easy-to-understand description in decision of refusal

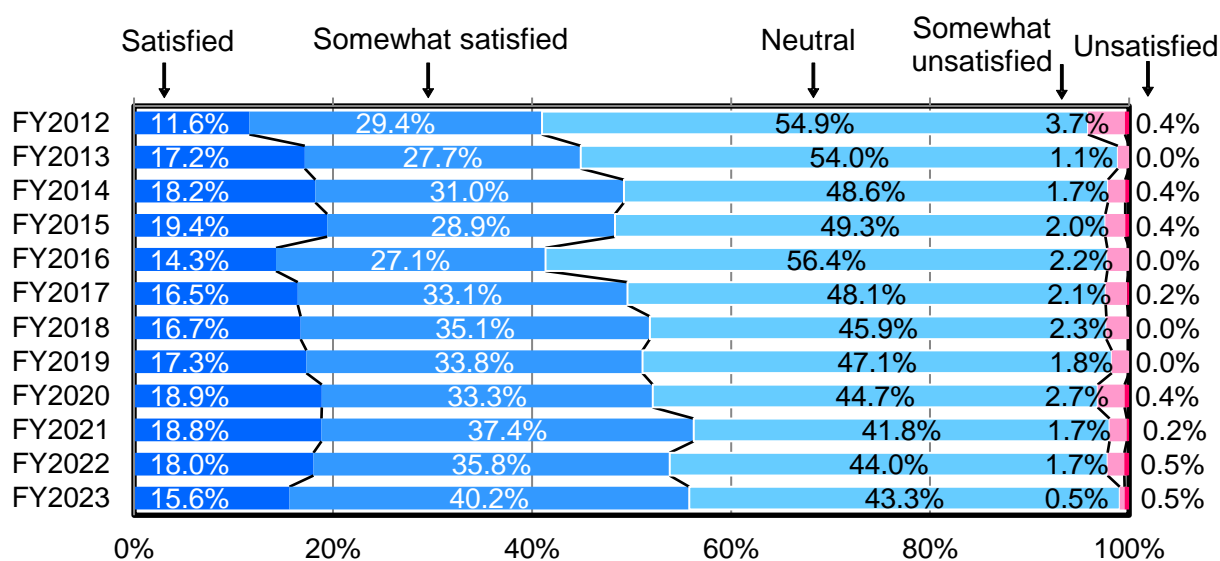


Figure 4: Satisfaction level with application of the main paragraph of Article 29 (1): patent eligibility and industrial applicability

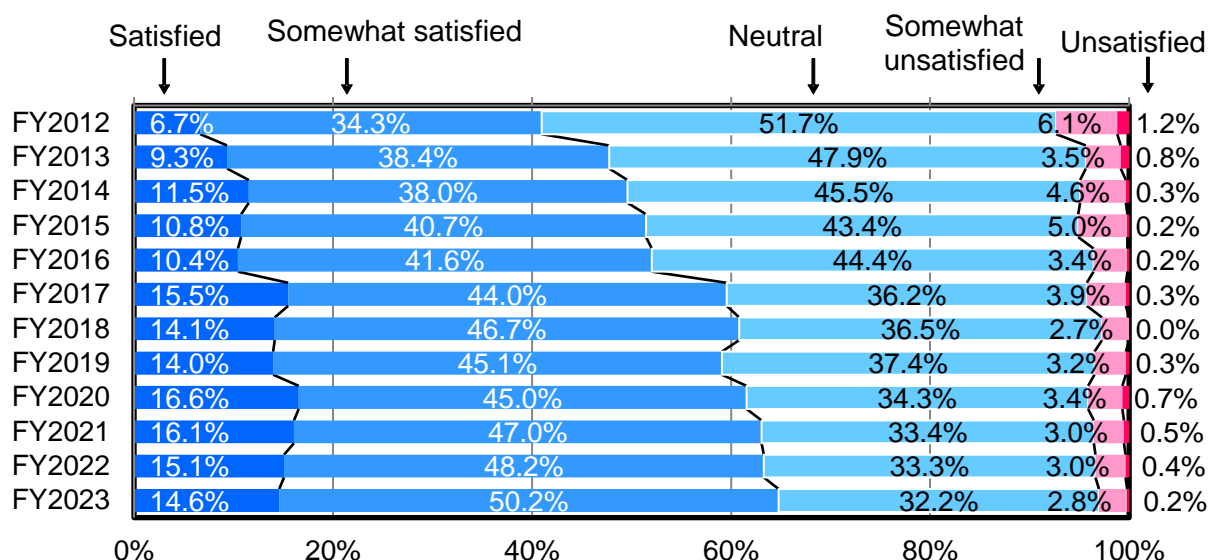


Figure 5: Satisfaction level with application of Article 29 (1): novelty

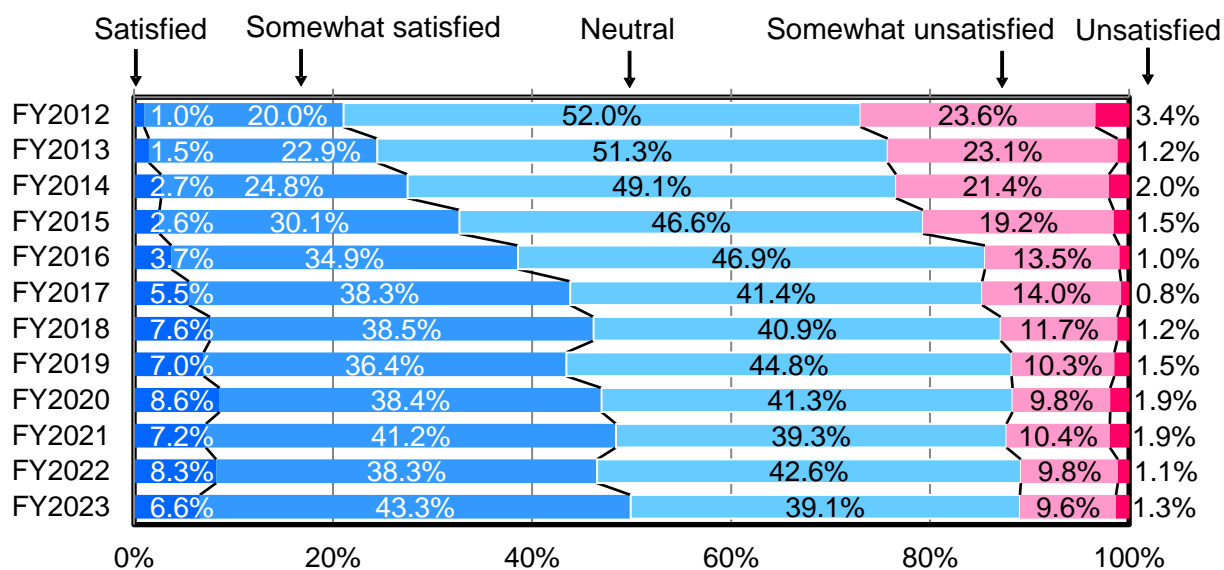


Figure 6: Satisfaction level with application of Article 29 (2): inventive step

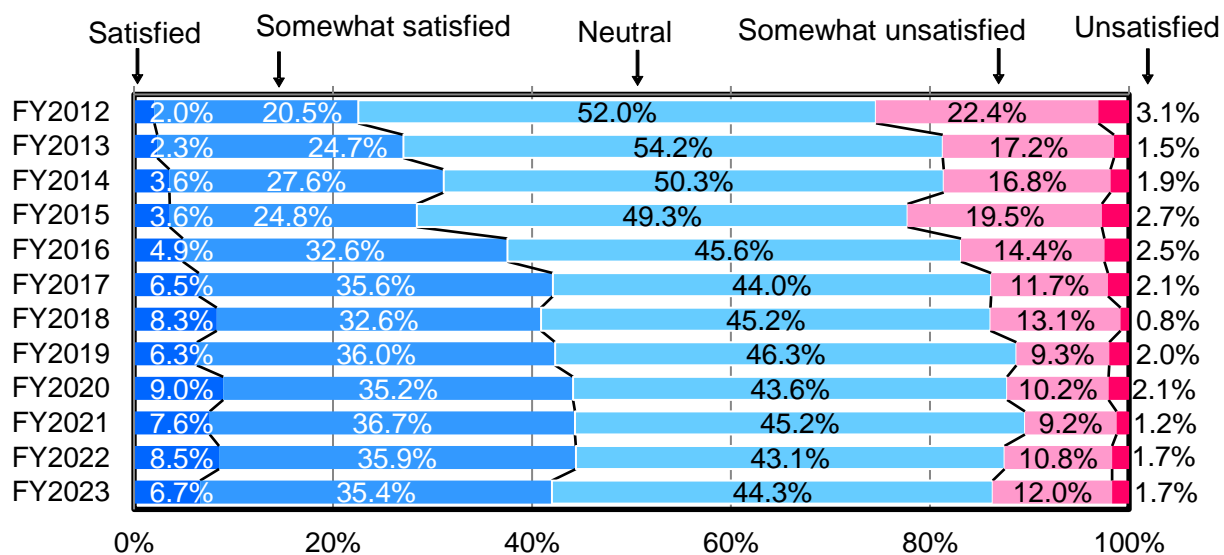


Figure 7: Satisfaction level with application of Article 36 (4) (i) and Article 36 (6): descriptive requirements for description and claims

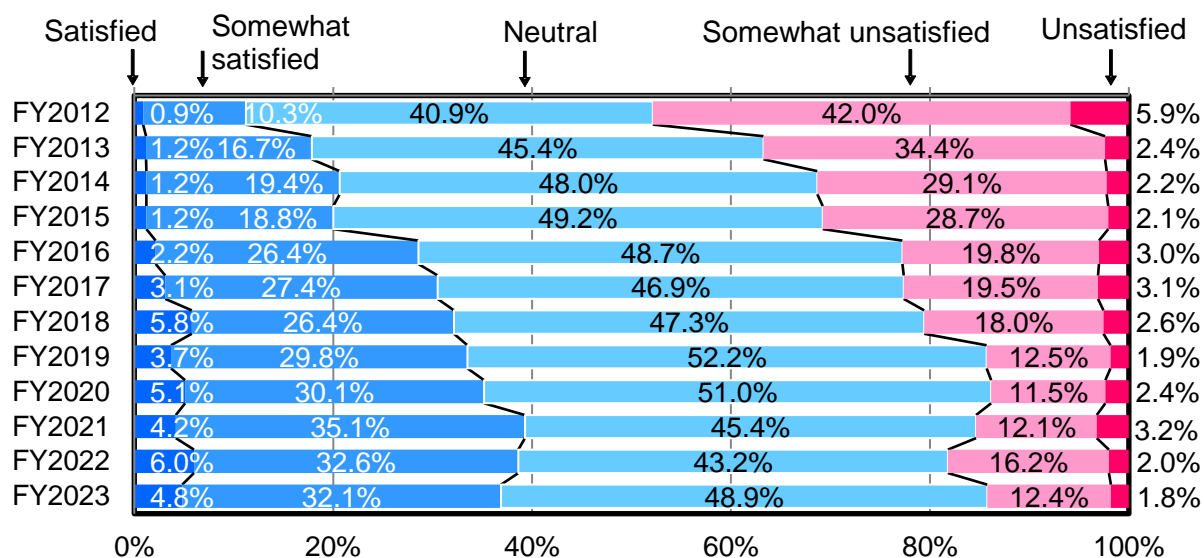
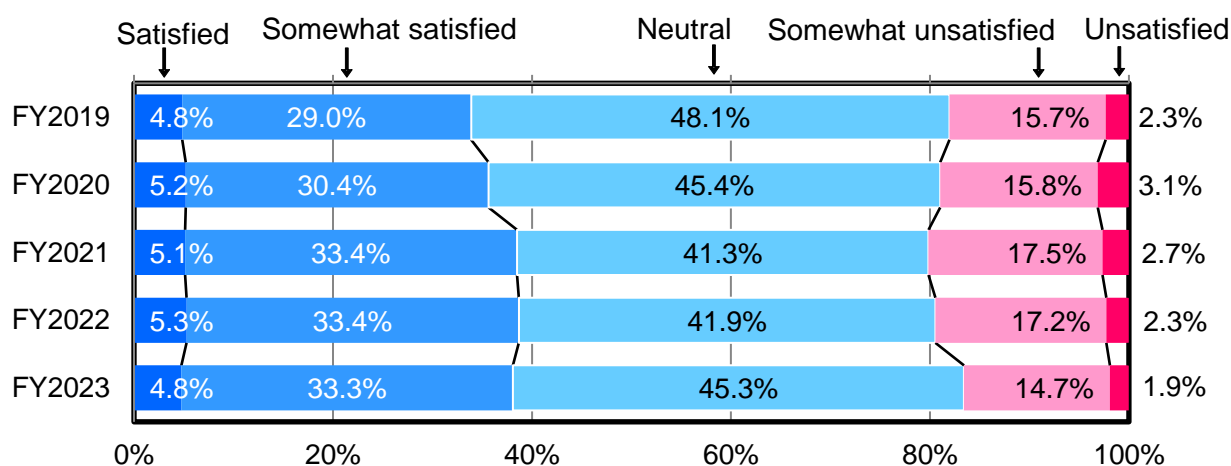
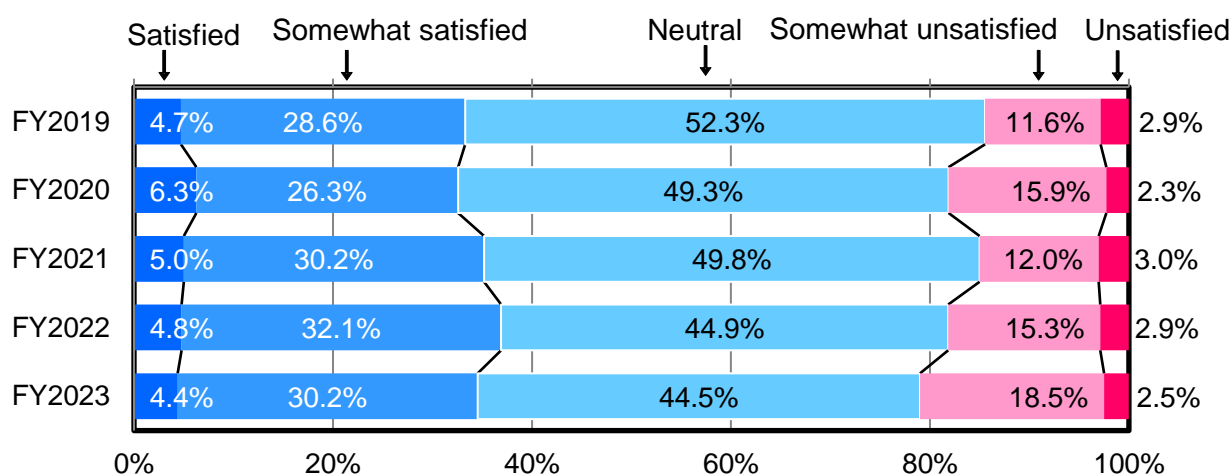


Figure 8: Satisfaction level with consistency of judgements among examiners



**Figure 9: Satisfaction level with consistency of judgements on Article 29 (2):
inventive step**



**Figure 10: Satisfaction level with consistency of judgements on Articles 36 (4) (i)
and 36 (6): descriptive requirements for description and claims**

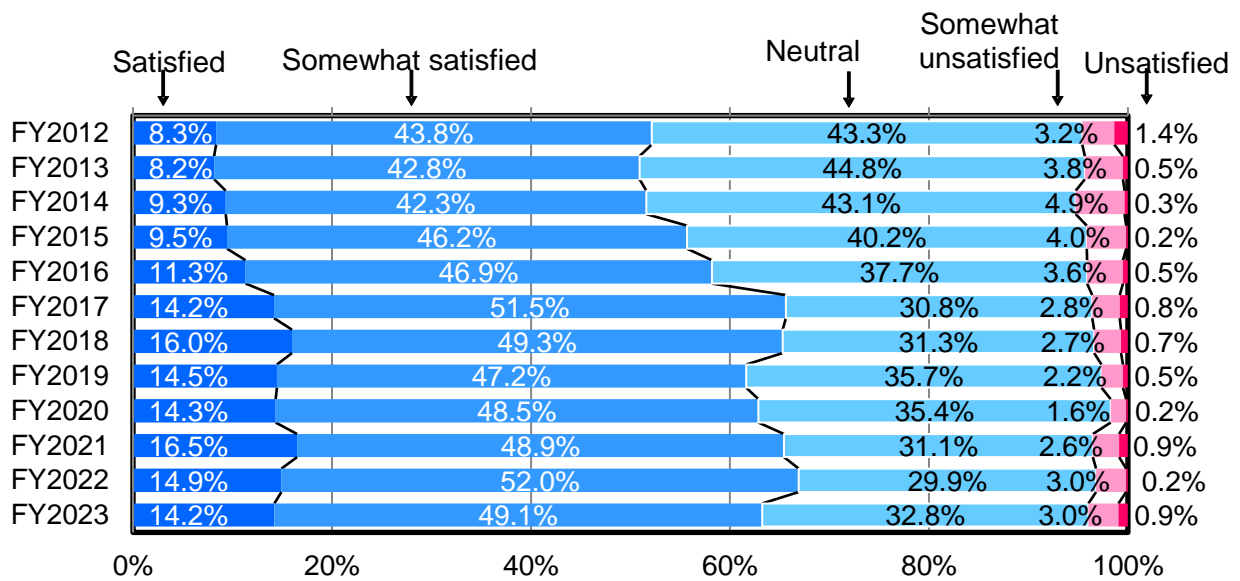


Figure 11: Satisfaction level with domestic patent literature searches

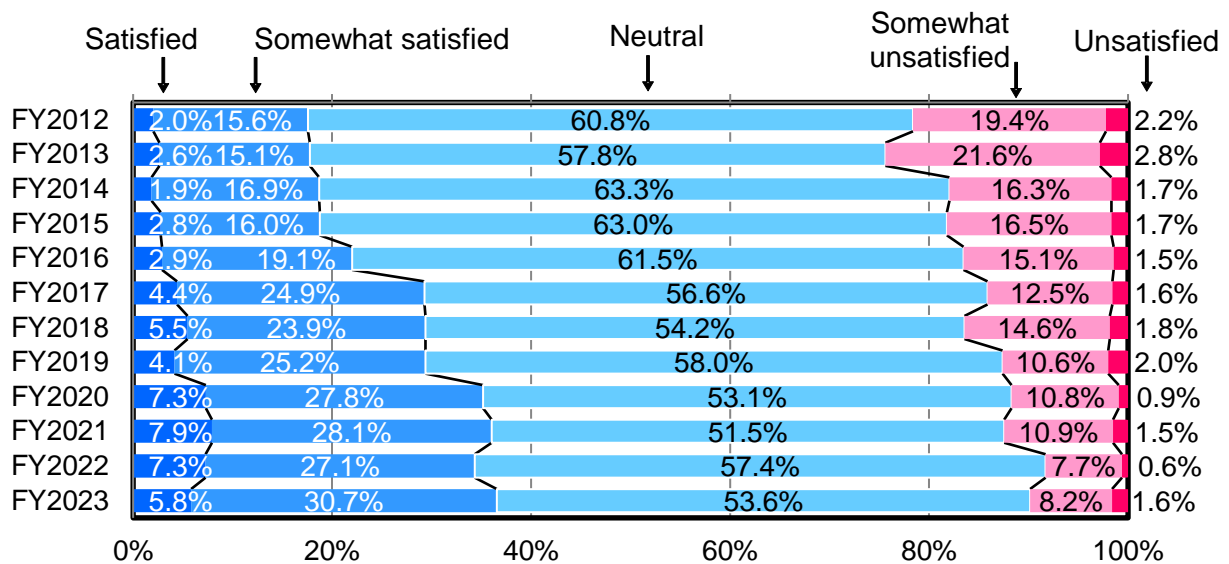


Figure 12: Satisfaction level with foreign patent literature searches

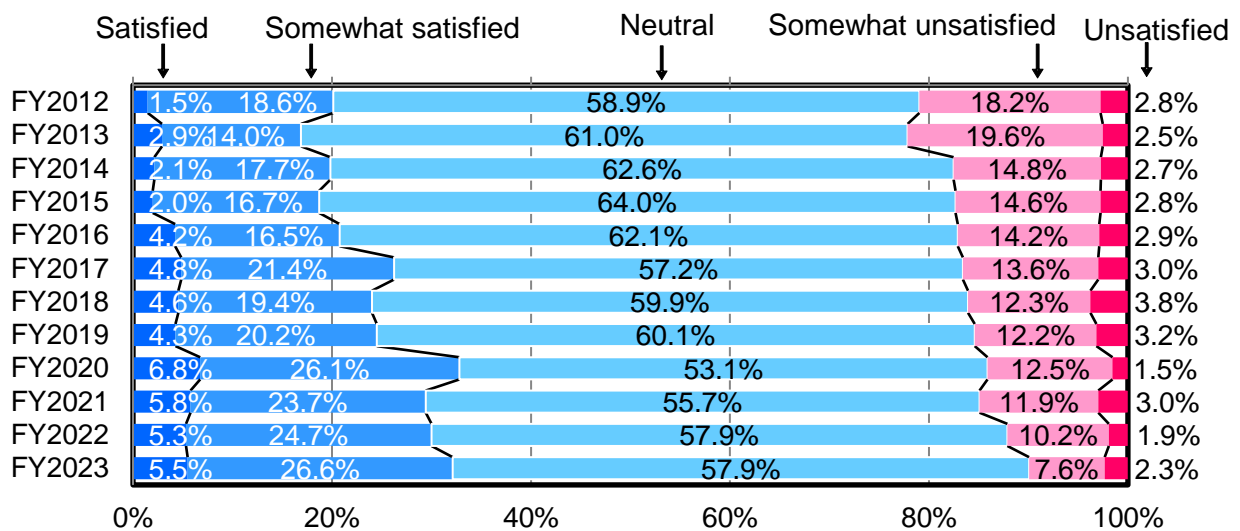


Figure 13: Satisfaction level with non-patent literature searches

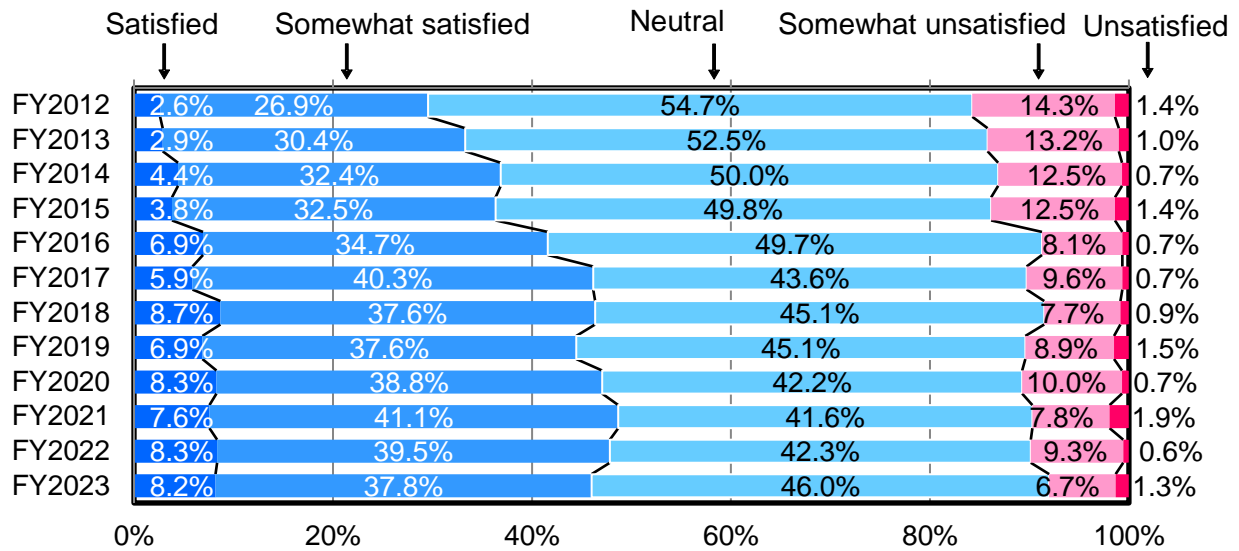


Figure 14: Satisfaction level with level of examiners' expertise in technical details

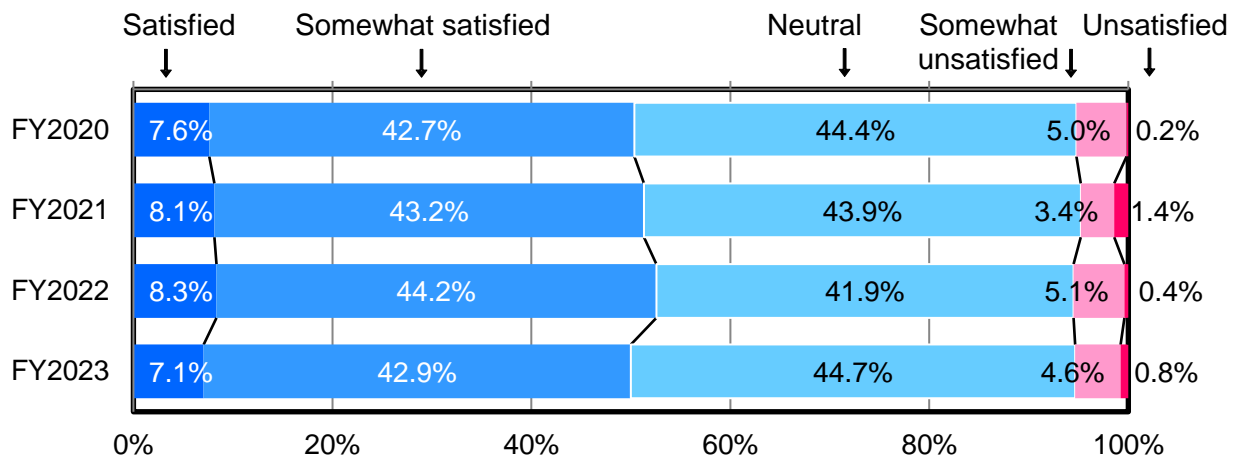


Figure 15: Satisfaction level with responses to written opinions

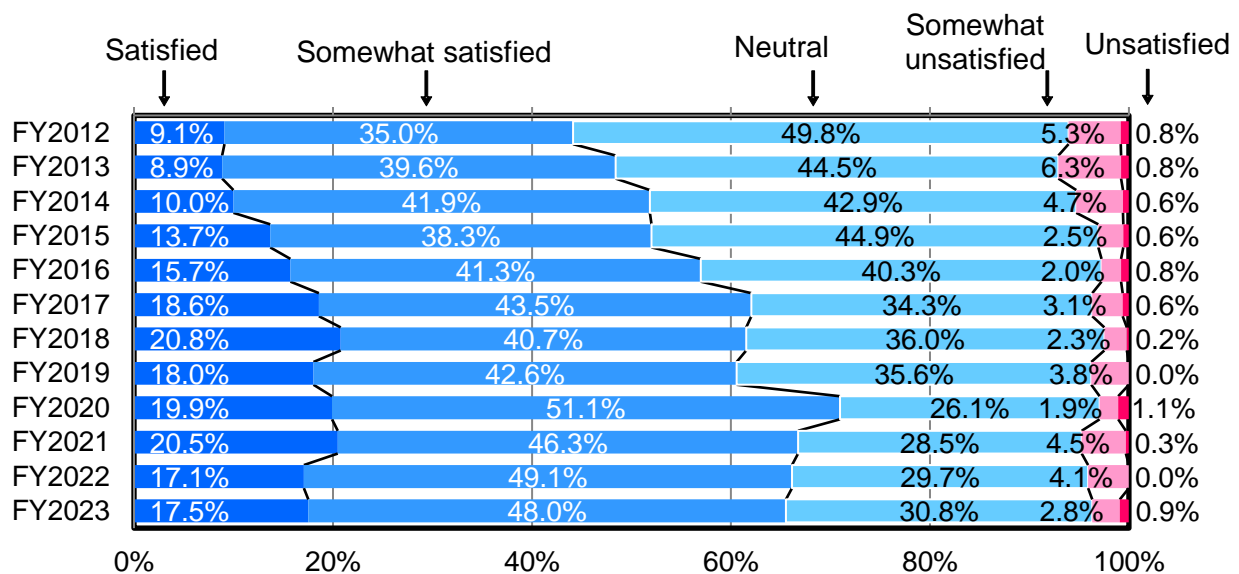


Figure 16: Satisfaction level with communication with examiners in face-to-face interviews and telephone conversations

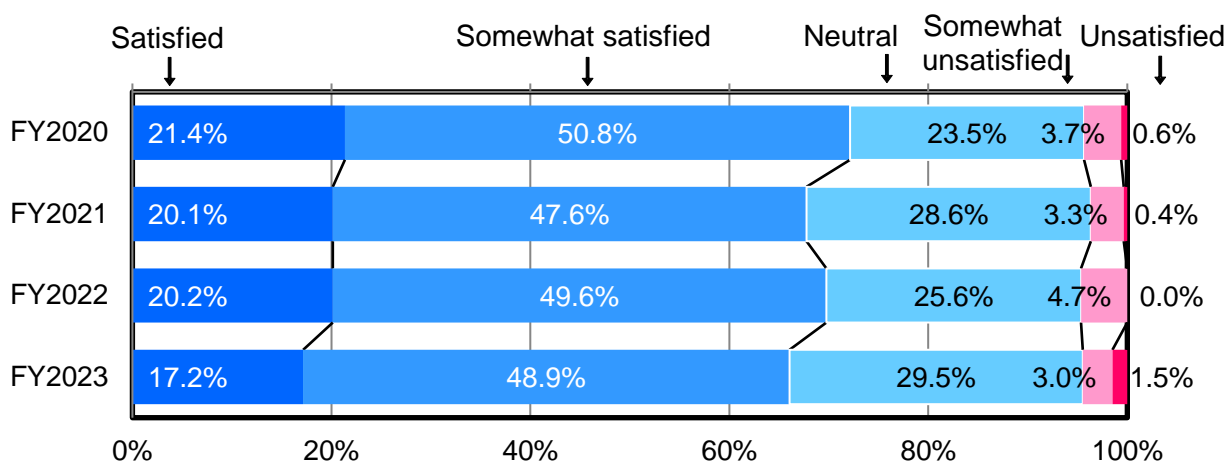


Figure 17: Satisfaction level with communication with examiners in face-to-face interviews

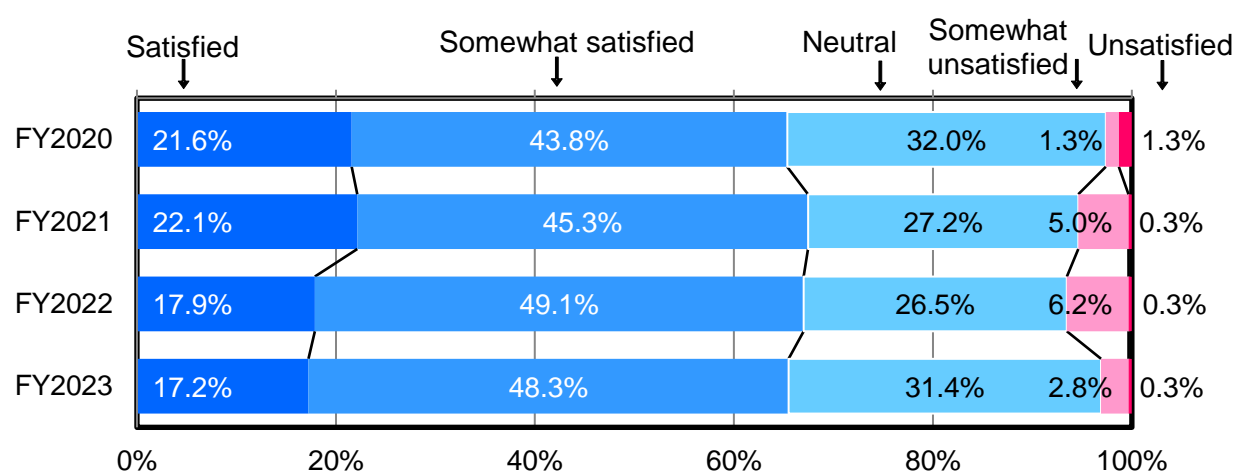


Figure 18: Satisfaction level with communication with examiners in telephone conversations

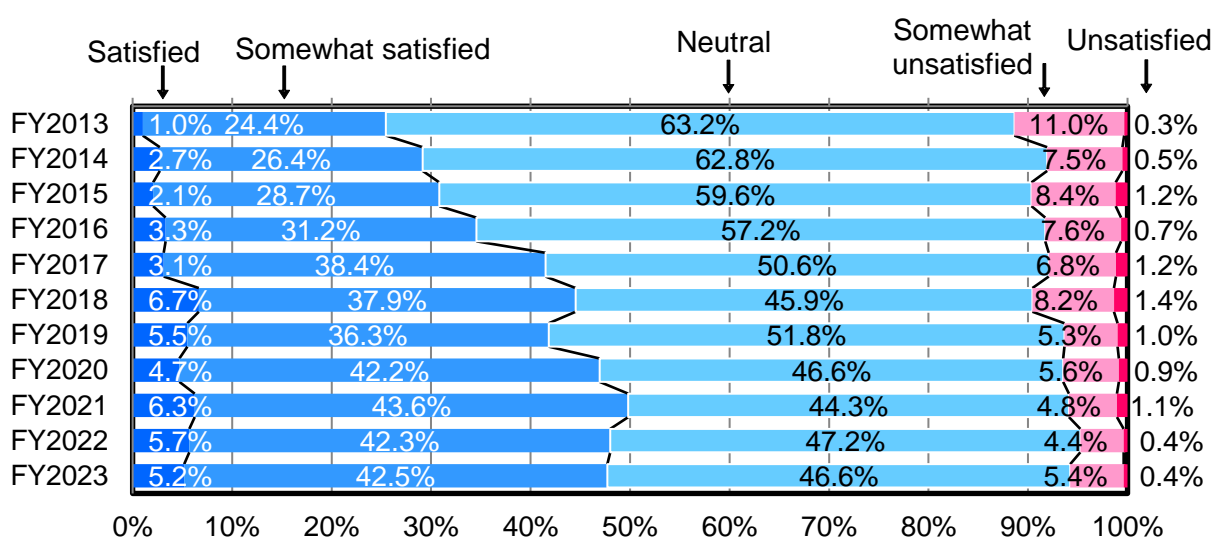


Figure 19: Satisfaction level with scope of patents granted after examination

(2) Satisfaction level of overall quality of the international search and international preliminary examination on PCT applications (Sheet 2)

Table 6 lists satisfaction levels of the overall quality and the individual evaluation items of the international search and international preliminary examination on PCT applications.

Table 6: Satisfaction levels of the overall quality and the individual evaluation items of the international search and preliminary examination on PCT applications⁹

Evaluation item	Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Neutral	Somewhat Unsatisfied	Unsatisfied	Not sure/No experience or response
Overall evaluation						
Overall quality of the international search and international preliminary examination	40 (12.7%)	160 (51.0%)	105 (33.4%)	9 (2.9%)	0 (0.0%)	0
Individual evaluation items						
IPC accuracy	69 (23.8%)	117 (40.3%)	102 (35.2%)	1 (0.3%)	1 (0.3%)	24
Judgement on excluded subject matter from searches	36 (20.5%)	54 (30.7%)	83 (47.2%)	2 (1.1%)	1 (0.6%)	138
Judgement on unity of invention	56 (20.6%)	90 (33.1%)	123 (45.2%)	3 (1.1%)	0 (0.0%)	42
Judgement on novelty/inventive step	46 (14.6%)	134 (42.7%)	115 (36.6%)	16 (5.1%)	3 (1.0%)	0
Reasoned statement regarding novelty/inventive step	51 (16.3%)	146 (46.6%)	105 (33.5%)	9 (2.9%)	2 (0.6%)	1
Consistency of judgements in the international phase	38 (12.4%)	113 (36.9%)	138 (45.1%)	17 (5.6%)	0 (0.0%)	8
Consistency of judgements in the international and national phases	54 (17.6%)	106 (34.5%)	119 (38.8%)	25 (8.1%)	3 (1.0%)	7
on novelty/inventive step	48 (15.5%)	122 (39.5%)	119 (38.5%)	18 (5.8%)	2 (0.6%)	5
on descriptive requirements	38 (13.2%)	107 (37.2%)	125 (43.4%)	15 (5.2%)	3 (1.0%)	26
Prior art searches						
Domestic patent literature searches	61 (19.4%)	146 (46.5%)	101 (32.2%)	6 (1.9%)	0 (0.0%)	0
Foreign patent literature searches	29 (9.6%)	85 (28.2%)	163 (54.2%)	22 (7.3%)	2 (0.7%)	13
Non-patent literature searches	23 (8.6%)	69 (25.9%)	150 (56.4%)	21 (7.9%)	3 (1.1%)	48

Figure 20 shows year-to-year changes in levels of satisfaction with the overall quality of the international search and international preliminary examination on PCT applications (overall satisfaction level). Respondents at the rate of 97.1% (97.5% in PY) evaluated the overall satisfaction level as neutral or higher, with positive responses¹⁰ of 63.7% (59.0% in PY).

⁹ Percentages in brackets represent the ratio of valid responses (excluding Not sure / No experience or response). The percentages may not reach the sum of 100 due to rounding.

¹⁰ The sum of "Satisfied" and "Somewhat satisfied"

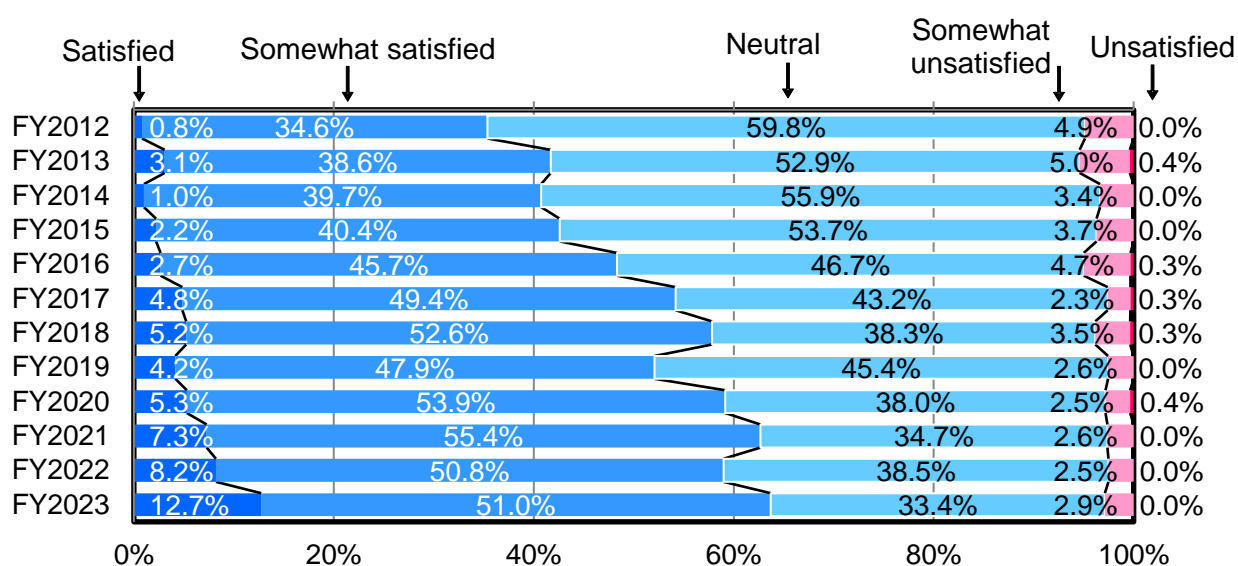


Figure 20: Satisfaction level with overall quality of the international search and international preliminary examination on PCT applications (overall satisfaction level)

Figures 21 to 30 indicate year-to-year changes in levels of satisfaction with individual evaluation items.¹¹

“Consistency of judgements in the international and national phases” received neutral or higher responses of 90.9% (82.1% in PY) and the proportion of positive responses was 52.1% (43.8% in PY) (Figure 27). This item was treated as a priority¹², according to the Survey results in the previous fiscal year.

Many respondents provided comments on items “consistency of judgements in the international and national phases” and “foreign patent literature searches.”

Regarding the former item, they showed their expectations for improvements in changes of judgements due to adding citations or changing identification of prior art and in issues pointed out regarding descriptive requirements in the national phase.

¹¹ Individual items of “consistency of judgements on novelty/inventive step in the international and national phases”, “consistency of judgements on descriptive requirements in the international and national phases” were introduced for FY2023 and are therefore not included in the y-o-y change graphs.

¹² An individual evaluation item which received low levels of satisfaction in spite of high correlation coefficients with the overall level of satisfaction. See 3. (2) for details.

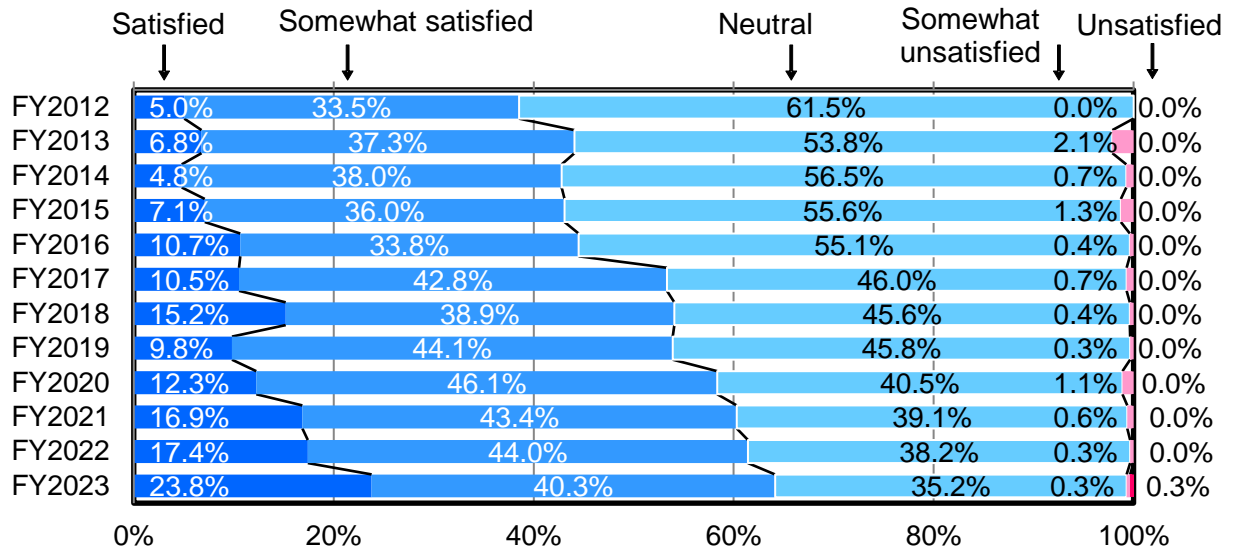


Figure 21: Satisfaction level with IPC accuracy

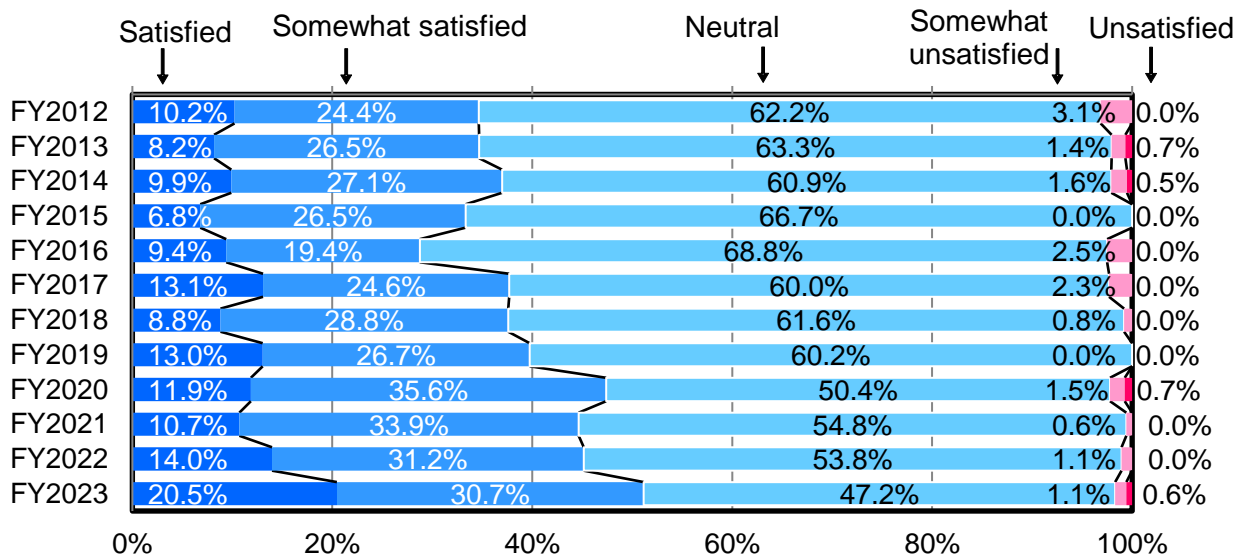


Figure 22: Satisfaction level with judgement on excluded subject matter from searches

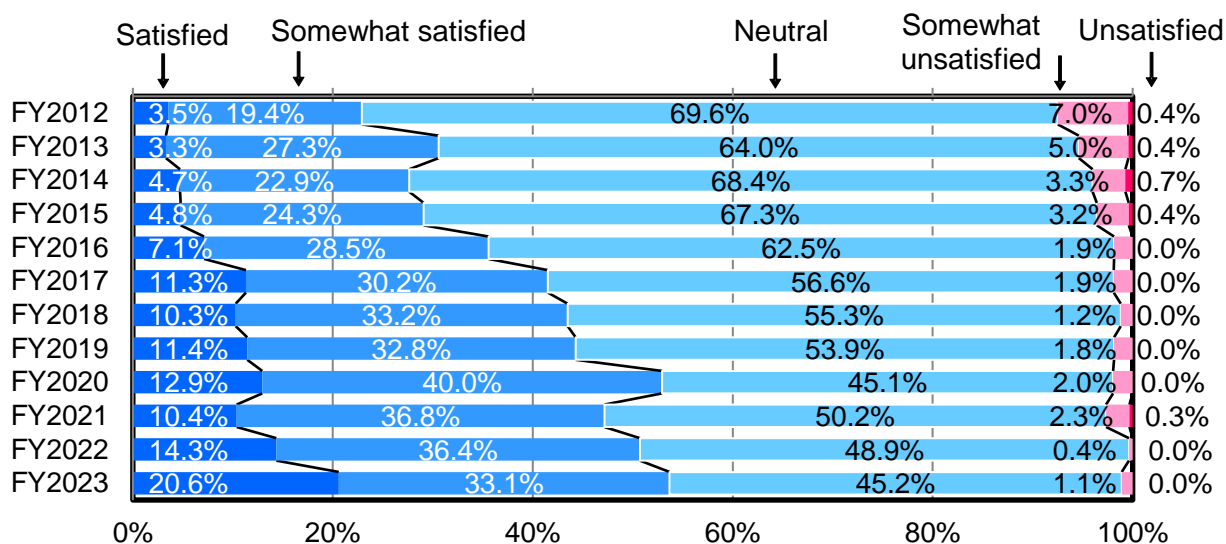


Figure 23: Satisfaction level with judgement on unity of invention

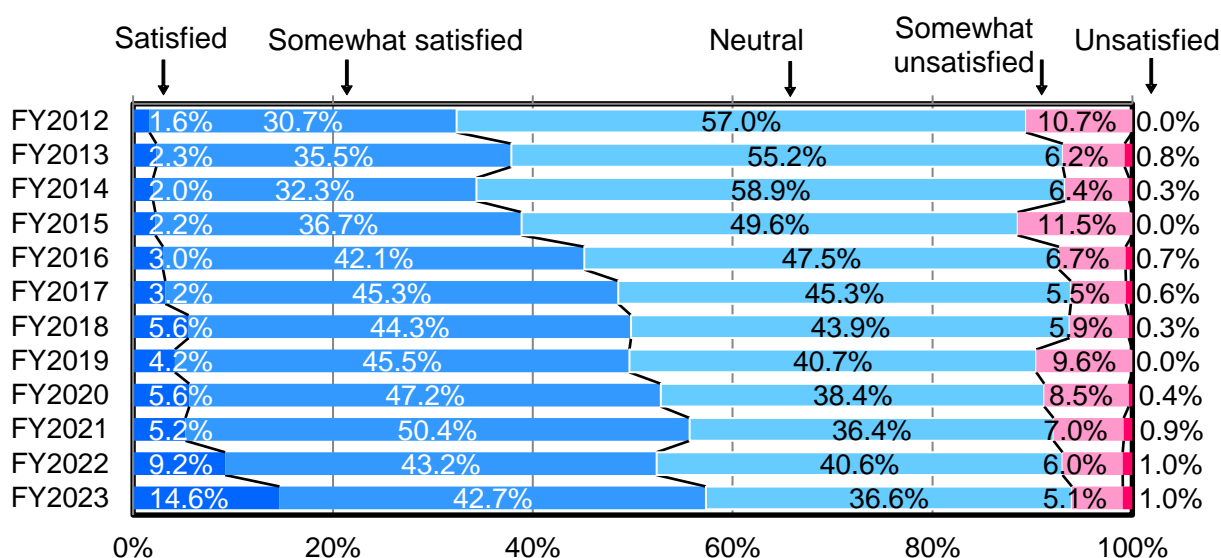


Figure 24: Satisfaction level with judgement on novelty/inventive step

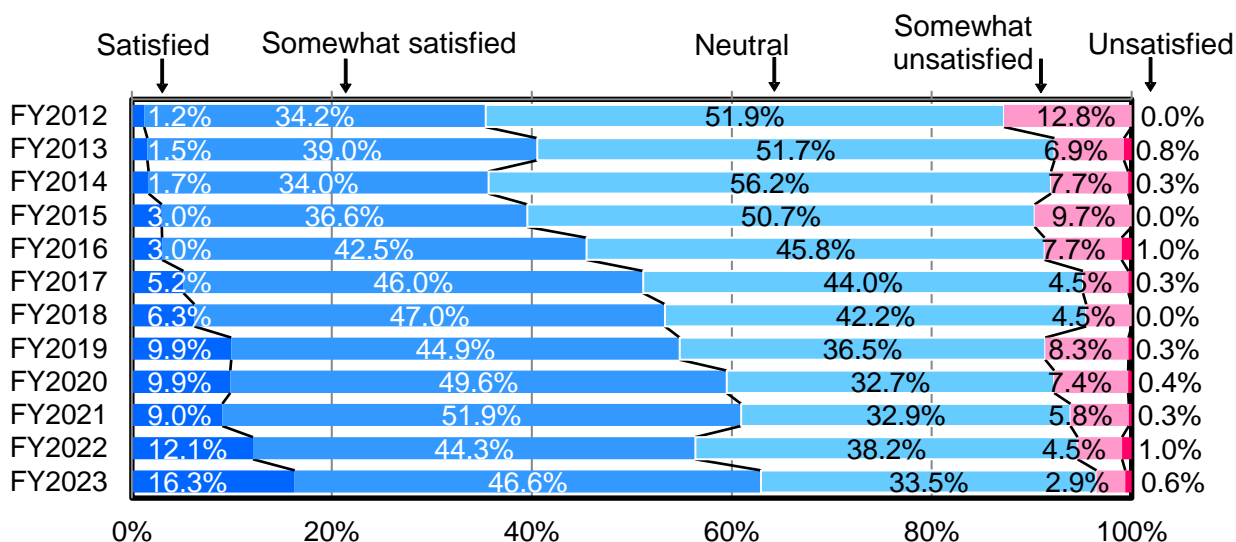


Figure 25: Satisfaction level with reasoned statement regarding novelty/inventive step

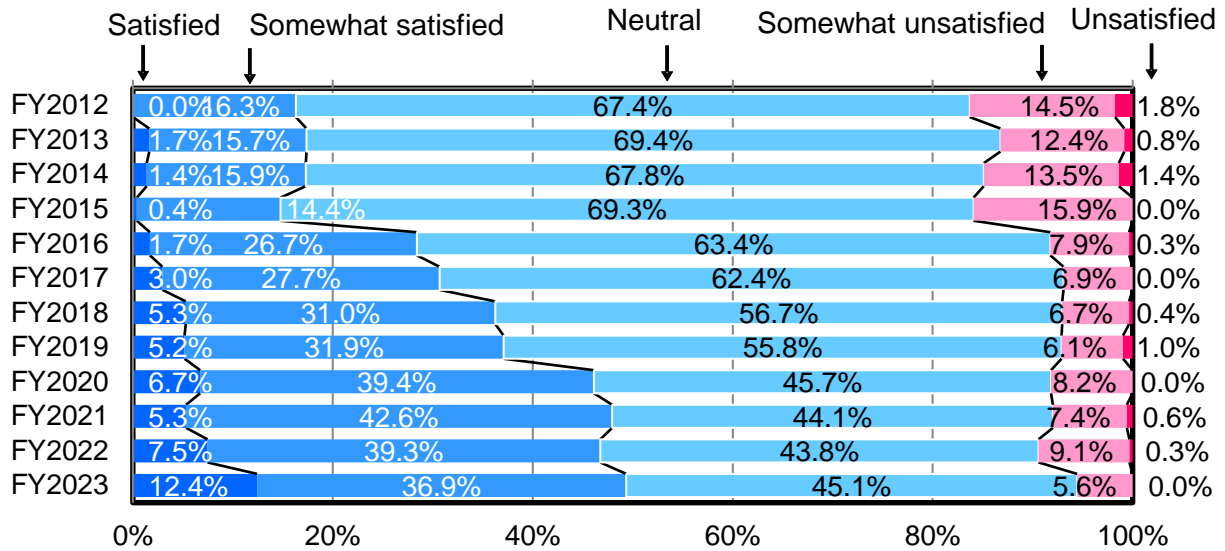


Figure 26: Satisfaction level with consistency of judgements in the international phase

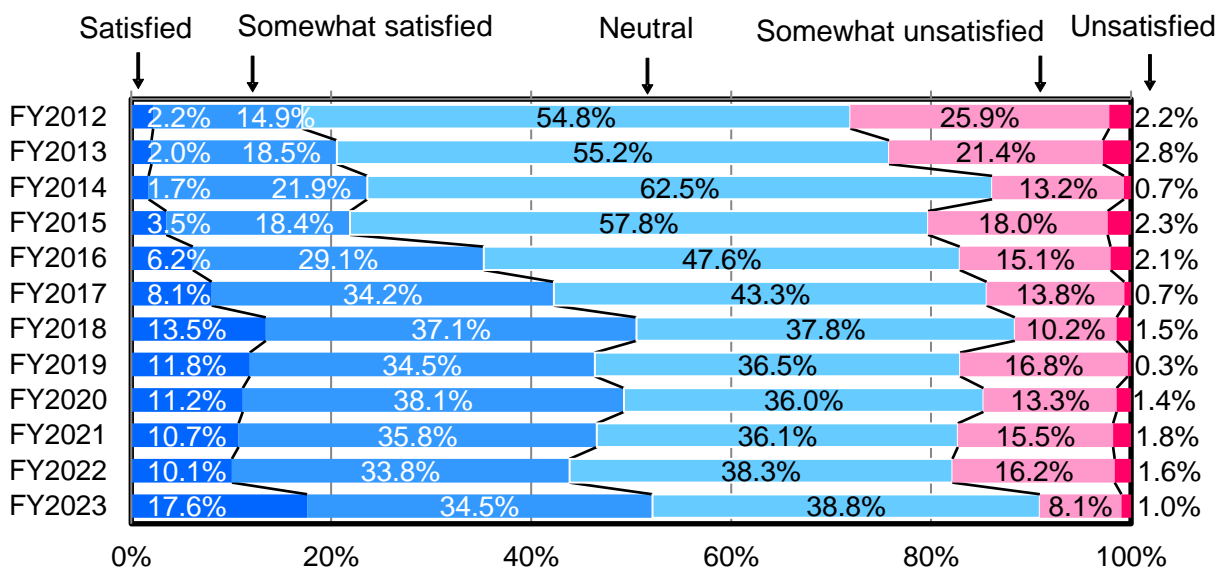


Figure 27: Satisfaction level with consistency of judgements in the international and national phases

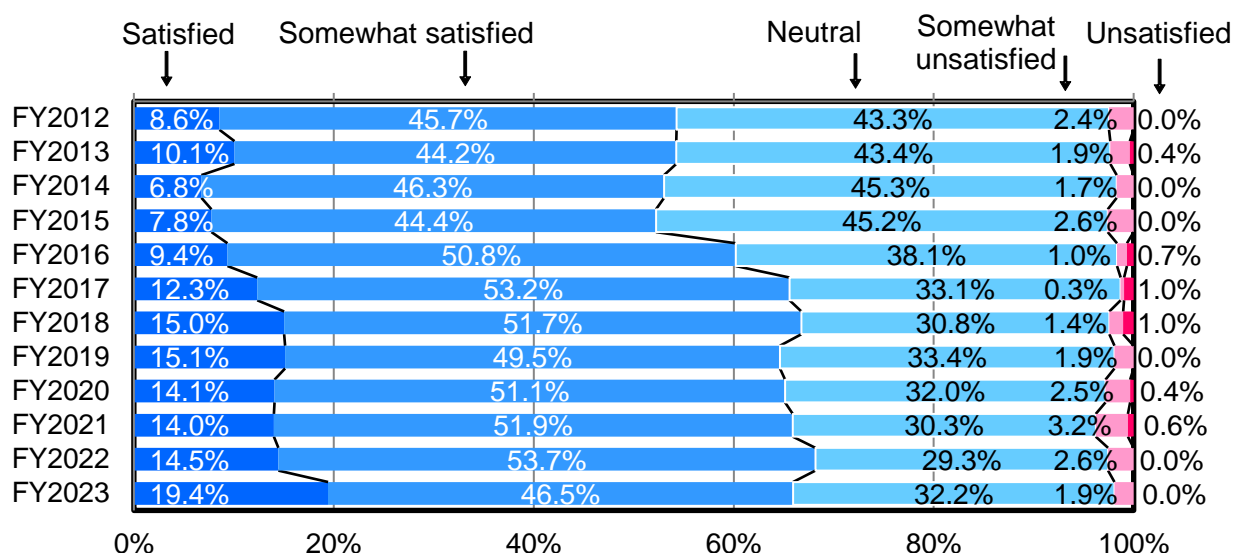


Figure 28: Satisfaction level with domestic patent literature searches

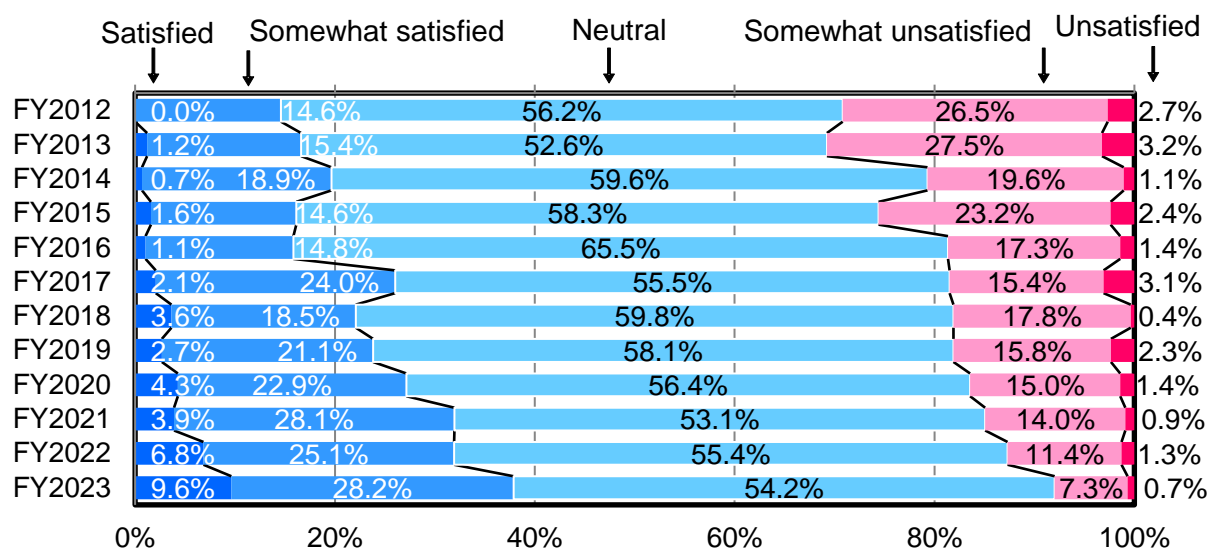


Figure 29: Satisfaction level with foreign patent literature searches

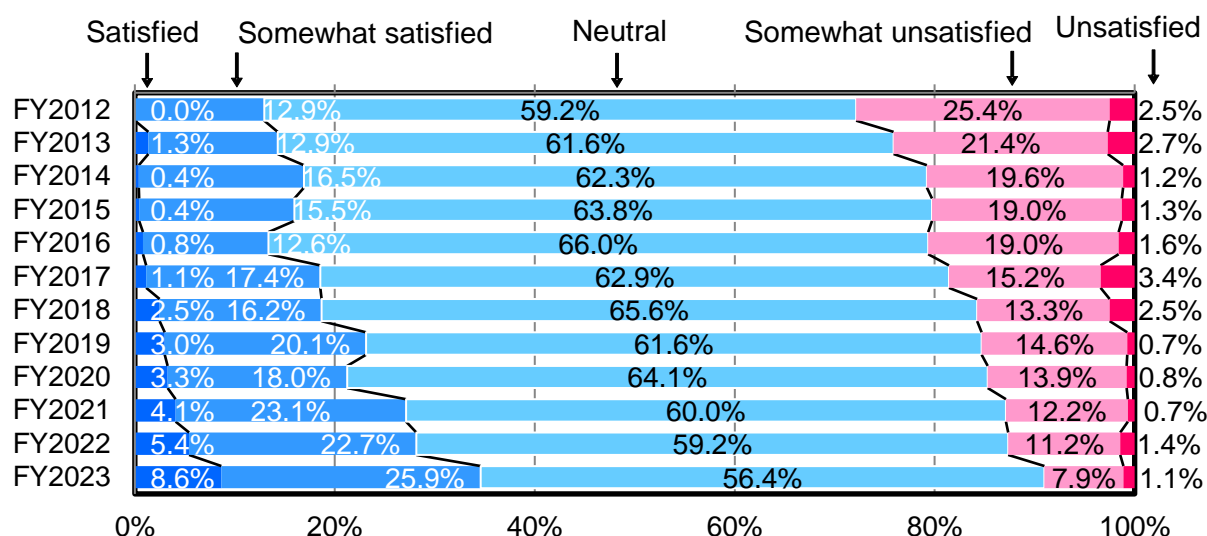


Figure 30: Satisfaction level with non-patent literature searches

(3) Comparison with other national/regional Offices

Table 7 shows the aggregated results of a multiple-choice question as to which of the IP5 Offices (JPO: Japan Patent Office, USPTO: United States Patent and Trademark Office, EPO: European Patent Office, CNIPA: China National Intellectual Property Administration, and KIPO: Korean Intellectual Property Office) are superior to or more preferable than the other Offices for each evaluation item in patent examination.

The results showed that the JPO gained the most support from the respondents in every evaluation item. Several respondents commented that the JPO's notifications of reasons for refusal more appropriately explain what coincided with and differed from the prior art that the other Offices' notifications.

Table 7: Offices which the respondents think are superior or preferable for each evaluation item¹³

Evaluation Item	JPO	USPTO	EPO	CNIPA	KIPO
Thorough and easy-to-understand description in notifications of reasons for refusal	192 (58.2%)	61 (18.5%)	91 (27.6%)	44 (13.3%)	49 (14.8%)
Judgement on eligibility for patent and industrial applicability	110 (33.3%)	36 (10.9%)	51 (15.5%)	17 (5.2%)	23 (7.0%)
Judgement on novelty/inventive step	156 (47.3%)	41 (12.4%)	118 (35.8%)	32 (9.7%)	36 (10.9%)
Judgement on requirements for description and claims	120 (36.4%)	36 (10.9%)	60 (18.2%)	23 (7.0%)	26 (7.9%)
Consistency of judgements among examiners	144 (43.6%)	15 (4.5%)	97 (29.4%)	17 (5.2%)	21 (6.4%)
Prior art searches	138 (41.8%)	51 (15.5%)	131 (39.7%)	43 (13.0%)	15 (4.5%)
Level of examiners' expertise in technical details	156 (47.3%)	24 (7.3%)	103 (31.2%)	24 (7.3%)	23 (7.0%)
Responses to written opinions	139 (42.1%)	43 (13.0%)	65 (19.7%)	23 (7.0%)	19 (5.8%)
Communication with examiners in face-to-face interviews and telephone conversations	129 (39.1%)	78 (23.6%)	25 (7.6%)	28 (8.5%)	14 (4.2%)
Scope of patents granted after examination	125 (37.9%)	49 (14.8%)	62 (18.8%)	19 (5.8%)	31 (9.4%)

¹³ Excluding responses "No examination experience at the Office/Not sure." Percentages in brackets represent the ratio of valid responses (excluding Not sure / No experience or response).

3. Result Analysis

(1) Correlation between the levels of satisfaction with each evaluation item and the overall quality of patent examination on national applications

Correlation coefficients can be used to measure relationships between the levels of satisfaction with each evaluation item and with the overall quality of patent examination.

Figure 31 shows correlation between the average levels of satisfaction¹⁴ with each of 18 evaluation items and the overall quality of patent examination on national applications, with the former on the x-axis and the latter on the y-axis. The JPO should improve on priority basis evaluation items which received low levels of satisfaction (left side) in spite of high correlation coefficients with the overall level of satisfaction (upper side). This year's Survey reveals that evaluation items "consistency of judgements among examiners" and "consistency of judgements among examiners on Article 29 (2): inventive step" are the priorities¹⁵.

(2) Correlation between the levels of satisfaction with each evaluation item and the overall quality of the international search and international preliminary examination on PCT applications

Figure 32 shows correlation between the average levels of satisfaction¹⁴ with each of 12 evaluation items and the overall quality of the international search and international preliminary examination on PCT applications, with the former on the x-axis and the latter on the y-axis. This year's Survey reveals, as in (1) above, that "consistency of judgements in the international phase" is the priority.

¹⁴ Average levels of satisfaction indicated in a 5-point scale, in which 5 indicates *satisfied*, 4 - *somewhat satisfied*, 3 - *neutral*, 2 - *somewhat unsatisfied*, and 1 – *unsatisfied*.

¹⁵ Items to be addressed on a priority basis

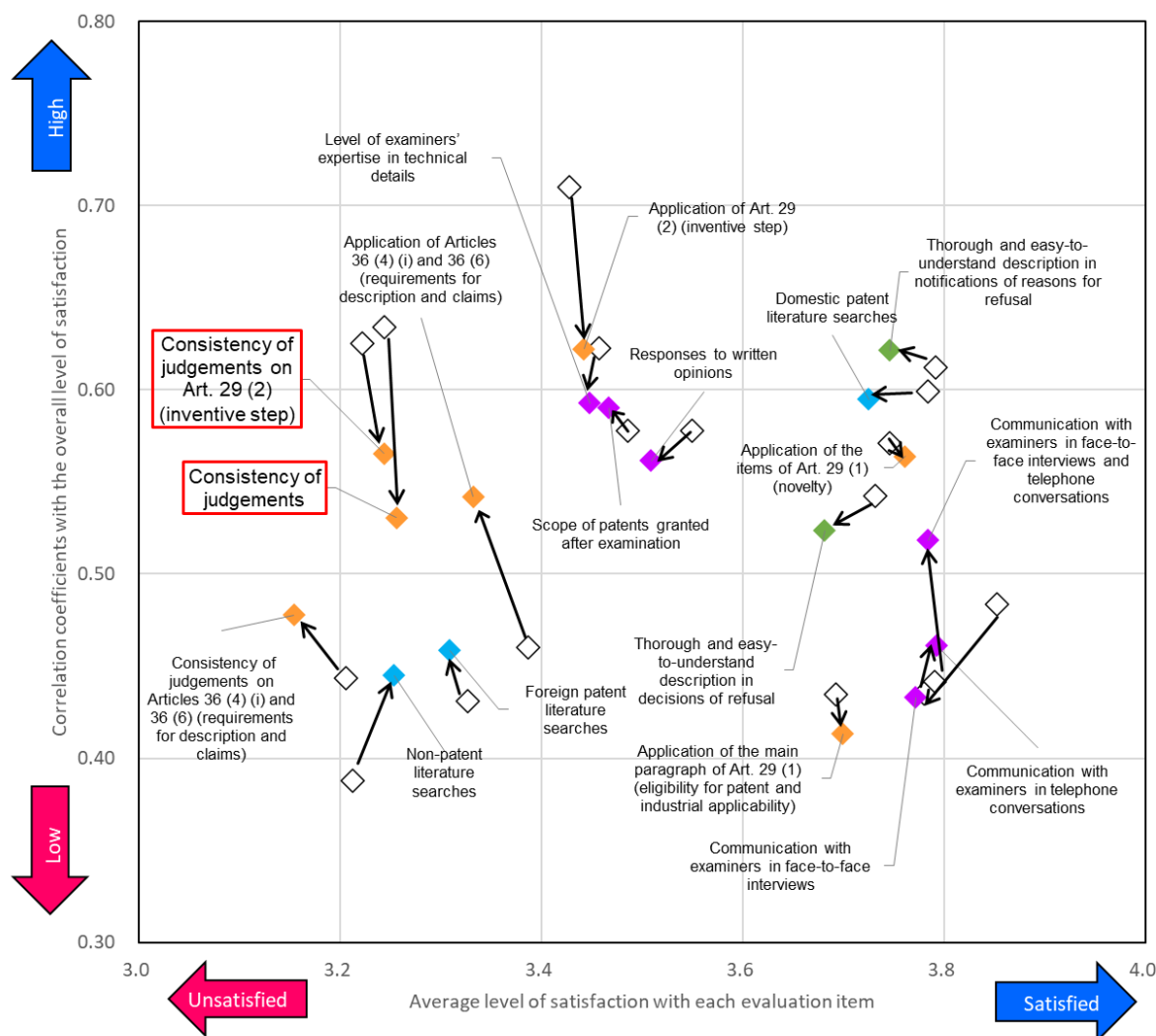


Figure 31: Average level of satisfaction for each evaluation item and correlation coefficients with overall satisfaction level (national applications)¹⁶

¹⁶ Plots are colored according to evaluation types: Light blue for prior art searches; orange for judgements; green for descriptions in notifications; purple for others. White plots representing Survey results and arrows representing changes in correlation coefficients are from the previous year's Survey.

For 11 out of 18 evaluation items, the average level of satisfaction was lower than the previous year, while it was higher for the remaining 7 items. The 11 items with a lower average level of satisfaction are, in a descending order of how much the level was lowered, "communication with examiners in face-to-face interviews," "domestic patent literature searches," "application of Articles 36 (4) (i) and 36 (6): requirements for description and claims," "consistency of judgements among examiners on Articles 36 (4) (i) and 36 (6): requirements for descriptions and claims," "thorough and easy-to-understand description in decision of refusal," "thorough and easy-to-understand description in notifications of reasons for refusal," "responses to written opinions," "scope of patents granted after examination," "foreign patent literature searches," "level of examiners' expertise in technical details," and "communication with examiners in face-to-face interviews and telephone conversations." The remaining 7 items with a higher level of satisfaction are, in a descending order of how much the level was increased, "non-patent literature searches," "consistency of judgements among examiners on Article 29 (2): inventive step," "application of Article 29 (1): novelty," "application of Article 29 (2): inventive step," "communication with examiners in telephone conversations," "consistency of judgements among examiners" and "application of the main paragraph of Article 29 (1): eligibility for patent and industrial applicability."

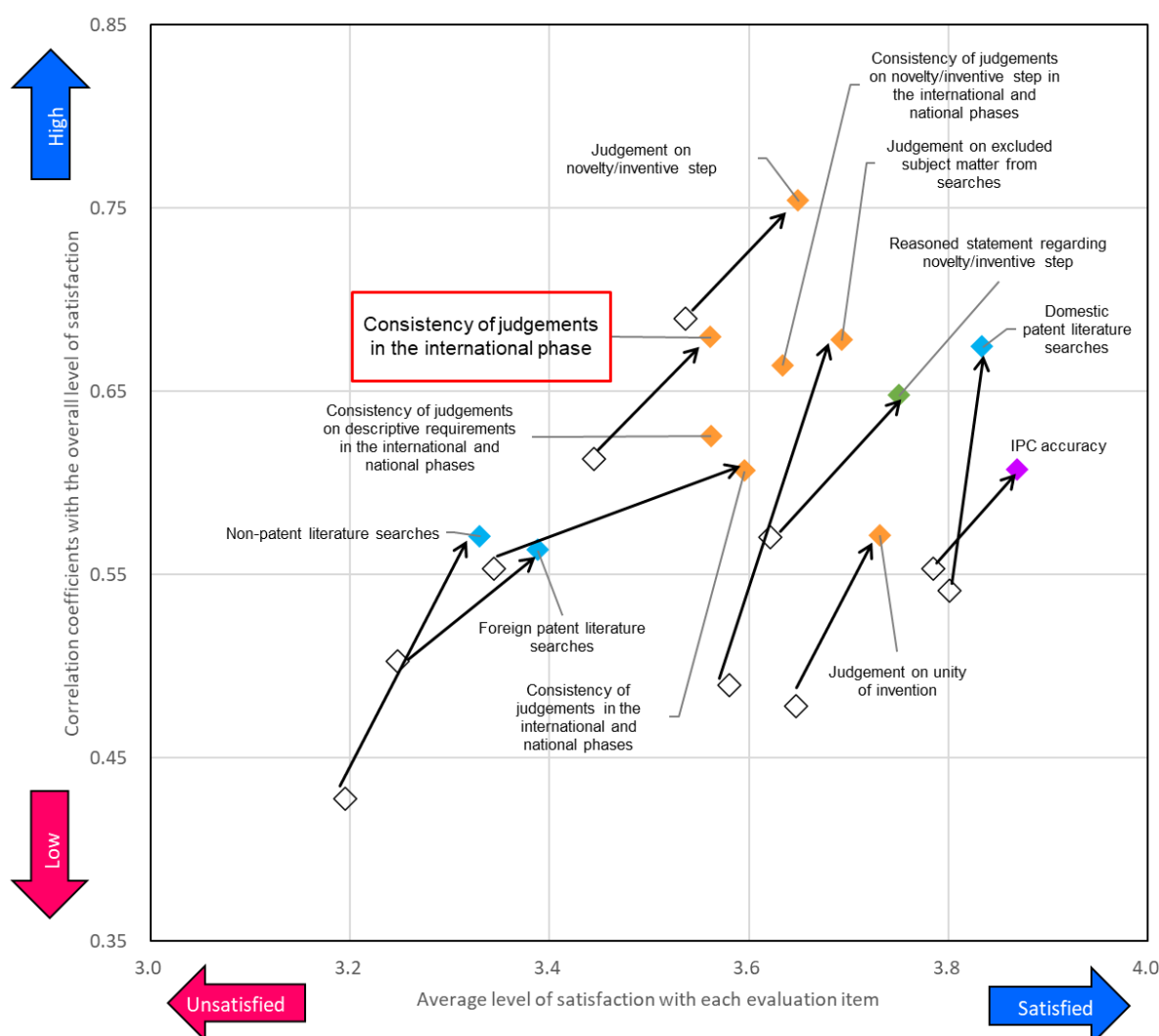


Figure 32: Average level of satisfaction for each evaluation item and correlation coefficients with overall satisfaction level (PCT applications)¹⁷

¹⁷ Plots are colored according to evaluation types: Light blue for prior art searches; orange for judgements; green for reasoned statement in the international phase; purple for others. White plots representing Survey results and arrows representing changes in correlation coefficients are from the previous year's Survey.

For 10 out of all 12 evaluation items, the average level of satisfaction was higher than the previous year, while the remaining 2 items were introduced this fiscal year. The 10 items are, in a descending order of how much the level was increased, "consistency of judgements in the international and national phases," "foreign patent literature searches," "reasoned statement regarding novelty/inventive step," "non-patent literature searches," "consistency of judgements in the international phase," "judgement on novelty/inventive step," "judgement on excluded subject matter from searches," "judgement on unity of invention," "IPC accuracy," and "domestic patent literature searches."

4. Summary of the Survey results

This year's Survey shows that 96.6% of the respondents (95.7% in PY) evaluated the level of satisfaction with the overall quality of patent examination on national applications as neutral or higher, with positive responses¹⁸ of 61.1% (61.3% in PY), which means that there has been no significant change since last year. It showed no significant change, either, in the level of satisfaction with individual evaluation items (Figures 1 to 19).

Many respondents provided comments on "communication with examiners in face-to-face interviews and telephone conversations," appreciating examiners for their understanding of what users claim and showing their expectation for an improvement in examiners' judgements changing after they conduct their interviews and telephone conversations.

The correlation analysis of the levels of satisfaction with each evaluation item and the overall quality revealed that "consistency of judgements among examiners" and "consistency of judgements among examiners on Article 29 (2): inventive step" are considered as priorities¹⁹ (Figure 31).

Meanwhile, it was also shown that 97.1% of the respondents (97.5% in PY) evaluated the level of satisfaction with the overall quality of the international search and international preliminary examination on PCT applications as neutral or higher, with positive responses of 63.7% (59.0% in PY), which means that the JPO received the most positive responses to the overall evaluation and almost all individual evaluation items since the Survey started in FY 2012 (Figures 20 to 30).

The correlation analysis of the levels of satisfaction with each evaluation item and the overall quality revealed that "consistency of judgements in the international phase" is considered as a priority (Figure 32).

While making steady progress in current measures and initiatives to improve examination quality, we will address issues, such as "consistency of judgements among examiners," identified in this Survey with the help of other analysis results produced by us.

¹⁸ The sum of "Satisfied" and "Somewhat satisfied"

¹⁹ Individual evaluation items which received low levels of satisfaction in spite of high correlation coefficients with the overall level of satisfaction. See 3. (1) for details.

5. The Survey in the future

We will continue the Survey in the coming years to keep understanding our users' needs, considering further improvement in the timing and method of the Survey, methods to select applicants to be surveyed and Survey questions among others.

This year's Survey results will be the basis of discussions on what to be improved in the implementation status and system of quality management in the Subcommittee on Examination Quality Management under the Intellectual Property Committee of the Industrial Structure Council.

Acknowledgment

We would like to express our gratitude to all the respondents for their cooperation in taking this Survey. We would also appreciate our users' further support as we need to continue to conduct the User Satisfaction Survey and improve patent examination and other operating practices based on the Survey results, which will lead to a higher examination quality.

<Appendix> Questionnaire Sheets of the FY2023 Survey

[Patent (Sheet 1)] Overall Quality of Patent Examination on National Applications (1/2)						
Please answer questions [1] to [4], according to your experience in the patent examination process (excluding appeal examination) in FY2022.						
[1] How would you rate the overall quality of patent examination at the JPO in FY2022? [Required]						
<input type="radio"/> Satisfied	<input type="radio"/> Somewhat Satisfied	<input type="radio"/> Neutral	<input type="radio"/> Somewhat Unsatisfied	<input type="radio"/> Unsatisfied		
[2] How would you rate the following items in patent examination at the JPO in FY2022? [All items are required]						
Please select <i>Not Sure/No Experience</i> in items 8, 8-1, and 8-2 if you did not communicate with examiners directly.						
Item 9 means whether the scope of granted patent is sufficient or not, in view of the contents of the application and prior art.						
	Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Neutral	Somewhat Unsatisfied	Unsatisfied	Not Sure/No Experience
1. Thorough and easy-to-understand description in notifications of reasons for refusal	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2. Thorough and easy-to-understand description in decision of refusal	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3-1. Application of the main paragraph of Article 29 (1) (eligibility for patent and industrial applicability)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3-2. Application of Article 29 (1) (novelty)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3-3. Application of Article 29 (2) (inventive step)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3-4. Application of Article 36 (4) (i) and Article 36 (6) (requirements for description and claims)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4. Consistency of judgements among examiners	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4-1. Consistency of judgements among examiners on Article 29 (2) (inventive step)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4-2. Consistency of judgements among examiners on Article 36 (4) (i) and Article 36 (6) (requirements for description and claims)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
5-1. Prior art searches (Domestic patent literature searches)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
5-2. Prior art searches (Foreign patent literature searches)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
5-3. Prior art searches (Non-patent literature searches)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
6. Level of examiners' expertise in technical details	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
7. Responses to written opinions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
8. Communication with examiners in face-to-face interviews and telephone conversations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
8-1. Communication with examiners in face-to-face interviews	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
8-2. Communication with examiners in telephone conversations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
9. Scope of patents granted after examination	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Please provide specific cases, if any, behind your evaluations of the item in [2] above. [Voluntary]						
* Alternatively, you can later provide your cases in the User Satisfaction Survey on Examination Quality on Specific Applications conducted throughout the year.						
Please choose the individual item from the pull-down menu.						
*Any information, however trivial, would be much appreciated especially on 8. Communication with examiners in face-to-face interviews and telephone conversations, as well as 8-1. and 8-2.						
<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div>						
Please specify cases (application and registration numbers) and technical fields behind your evaluations.						
*For technical fields to be specified, please refer to Outline of Technology Examined in Examination Departments (PDF:69KB)						
*For 4. Consistency of judgements among examiners, 4-1. and 4-2., please provide as many cases as possible, including ones to be compared with.						
<Example>						
・ (1) Japanese Patent Application No. 2020-012XXX ・ (2) Japanese Patent No. 765XXXX ・ Technical field: measurement						
<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 40px; width: 100%;"></div>						
Please give us main reasons for your satisfaction/dissatisfaction with the case(s) and technical field(s).						
*If you provide multiple cases, you need to provide the reasons for each case separately.						
<Example>						
・ (1): I am satisfied/dissatisfied with ... because/in terms of ... ・ (2): I am satisfied/dissatisfied with ... because/in terms of ... ・ From (1) and (2), I found the judgement inconsistent in terms of ...						
<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div>						
Cases and information you provide could be fed back to our examiners in charge for quality improvement. If you do not wish that, please check the box on the right.				<input type="checkbox"/> I do NOT wish my responses to be shared with the examiner.		
If you would like to give us feedback on other individual items, please check the box on the right to add an entry field for your comments.				<input type="checkbox"/> Add an entry field		
Please feel free to comment on the items in [2]						
<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div>						

[Patent (Sheet 1)] Overall Quality of Patent Examination on National Applications (2/2)

[3] Please select all Offices you think are superior at (or preferable for) the following items in patent examination. [Voluntary]

Please leave all boxes unchecked if you feel that no office is superior at any item or if you are unable to compare.

Please check the box(es) in item 0 (Not sure/No experience) if you are unsure about an office's examination quality or if you have an insufficient number of application examinations by an office to make a viable comparison.

JPO: Japan Patent Office, USPTO: United States Patent and Trademark Office, EPO: European Patent Office, CNIPA: China National Intellectual Property Administration, KIPO: Korean Intellectual Property Office

Please leave the box(es) in item 9 unchecked if you did not communicate with examiners directly or indirectly (through your attorneys).

Item 10 means whether the scope of granted patent is sufficient or not, in view of the contents of the application and prior art.

	JPO	USPTO	EPO	CNIPA	KIPO
0. Not sure/No experience	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1. Thorough and easy-to-understand description in notifications of reasons for refusal and decision of refusal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Judgement on eligibility for patent and industrial applicability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Judgement on novelty/inventive step	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Judgement on requirements for description and claims	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Consistency of judgements among examiners	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Prior art searches	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Level of examiners' expertise in technical details	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Responses to written opinions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Communication with examiners in face-to-face interviews and telephone conversations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Scope of patents granted after examination	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please feel free to comment on items in [3] or other national/regional offices.

[4] Please provide any other comments/requests/suggestions in the column below. [Voluntary]

Request for User Satisfaction Survey on Quality of Examination on Specific Applications

We would also like to invite you to participate in our [User Satisfaction Survey on Quality of Examination on Specific Applications](#) regarding the quality of patent examination on specific national applications (sent final decisions within a year and published). We would appreciate your cooperation in helping us improve the quality of patent examination.

[Patent (Sheet 2)] Overall Quality of the International Search and International Preliminary Examination on PCT Applications

Please answer questions [1] to [3], according to your experience in the international search and international preliminary examination process, including ISRs (Form PCT/ISA/210), WO/ISAs (Form PCT/ISA/237), and IPRs (Form PCT/ISA/409), in FY2022.

[1] How would you rate the overall quality of the international search and international preliminary examination at the JPO in FY2022? [Required]

☐ Satisfied
 ☐ Somewhat Satisfied
 ☐ Neutral
 ☐ Somewhat Unsatisfied
 ☐ Unsatisfied

[2] How would you rate the following items in the international search and international preliminary examination at the JPO in FY2022? [All items are required]

Item 2 means judgement on excluded subject matter from searches including scientific and mathematical theories, methods of doing business, and mere presentations of information etc.

In item 7, please let us know how you would rate consistency of judgements between the international search by the JPO and after the national phase in Japan. Please note that, in the international phase, the examiner points out only a violation of description requirements accompanied by "significant and pertinent issues" of the substantive violations of description requirements (see §4. 7 (2) a and other provisions of the Handbook for PCT International Search and Preliminary Examination). If inconsistency of judgements on descriptive requirements in the international and national phases could be due to the difference in such operation between the phases, you can consider your case to have consistency of judgements.

	Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Neutral	Somewhat Unsatisfied	Unsatisfied	Not Sure/No Experience
1. IPC accuracy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2. Judgement on excluded subject matter from searches	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3. Judgement on unity of invention	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4. Judgement on novelty/inventive step	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
5. Reasoned statement regarding novelty/inventive step	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
6. Consistency of judgements in the international phase	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
7. Consistency of judgements in the international and national phases	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
7-1. on novelty/inventive step	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
7-2. on descriptive requirements	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
8-1. Prior art searches (Domestic patent literature searches)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
8-2. Prior art searches (Foreign patent literature searches)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
8-3. Prior art searches (Non-patent literature searches)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please provide specific cases, if any, behind your evaluations of the item in [2] above. [Voluntary]

* Alternatively, you can later provide your cases in [the User Satisfaction Survey on Examination Quality on Specific Applications](#) conducted throughout the year.

Please choose the individual item from the pull-down menu.

Please specify cases (application and registration numbers) and technical fields behind your evaluations.

*For technical fields to be specified, please refer to [Outline of Technology Examined in Examination Departments \(PDF:69KB\)](#)

*For 6. Consistency of judgements in the international phase, please provide as many cases as possible, including ones to be compared with.

<Example>

• (1) PCT/JP2022/012XXX

• (2) WO/2023/012XXX

• Technical field: measurement

Please give us main reasons for your satisfaction/dissatisfaction with the case(s) and technical field(s).

*If you provide multiple cases, you need to provide the reasons for each case separately.

<Example>

• (1): I am satisfied/dissatisfied with ... because/in terms of ...

• (2): I am satisfied/dissatisfied with ... because/in terms of ...

• From (1) and (2), I found the judgement inconsistent in terms of ...

Cases and information you provide could be fed back to our examiners in charge for quality improvement. If you do not wish that, please check the box on the right.

☐ I do NOT wish my responses to be shared with the examiner.

If you would like to give us feedback on other individual items, please check the box on the right to add an entry field for your comments.

☐ Add an entry field

Please feel free to comment on the items in [2]

[4] Please provide any other comments/requests/suggestions in the column below. [Voluntary]

Request for User Satisfaction Survey on Quality of Examination on Specific Applications

We would also like to invite you to participate in our "User Satisfaction Survey on Quality of Examination on Specific Applications" regarding the quality of the international search and international preliminary examination on specific PCT applications (examined within a year and published internationally). We would appreciate your cooperation in helping us improve the quality of the international search and international preliminary examination.