

## **The results of the 4th Plurilateral Patent Prosecution Highway Working Level Meeting**

### 1. Participants

Japan, the USA, the European Patent Office (EPO), South Korea, the UK, Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Spain, Portugal, Austria, Hungary, Russia, Canada, Mexico, China, Norway and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) (19 countries/regions/organizations in total)

### 2. Outline of the meeting results

At the meeting, 19 national/regional intellectual property offices and organizations gathered and conducted discussions on the following points:

- Participants have agreed to establish a PPH Policy, which is a common recognition of PPH including the improvement of first action allowance rate through the use of interview, the transparency of data about PPH applications in each office, accelerated examination of PPH applications, search and examination policy of the office of later examination.
- They have discussed a Plurilateral PPH arrangement which suggests moving away from multiple, bilateral agreements with differing practices, to a Plurilateral framework with more standardized requirements.
- They have shared information on PPH MOTTAINAI including the number of its requests.
- They have confirmed the importance of streamlining procedures and maximizing use of available electronic dossier access systems.
- They have fostered the sense to harmonize the Offices' practices for amendments after the first action and for corrections to PPH requests.
- They have agreed to actively cooperate to increase public awareness of PPH.