

The Update on JPO's Activities on IT Business Services

December 9, 2024

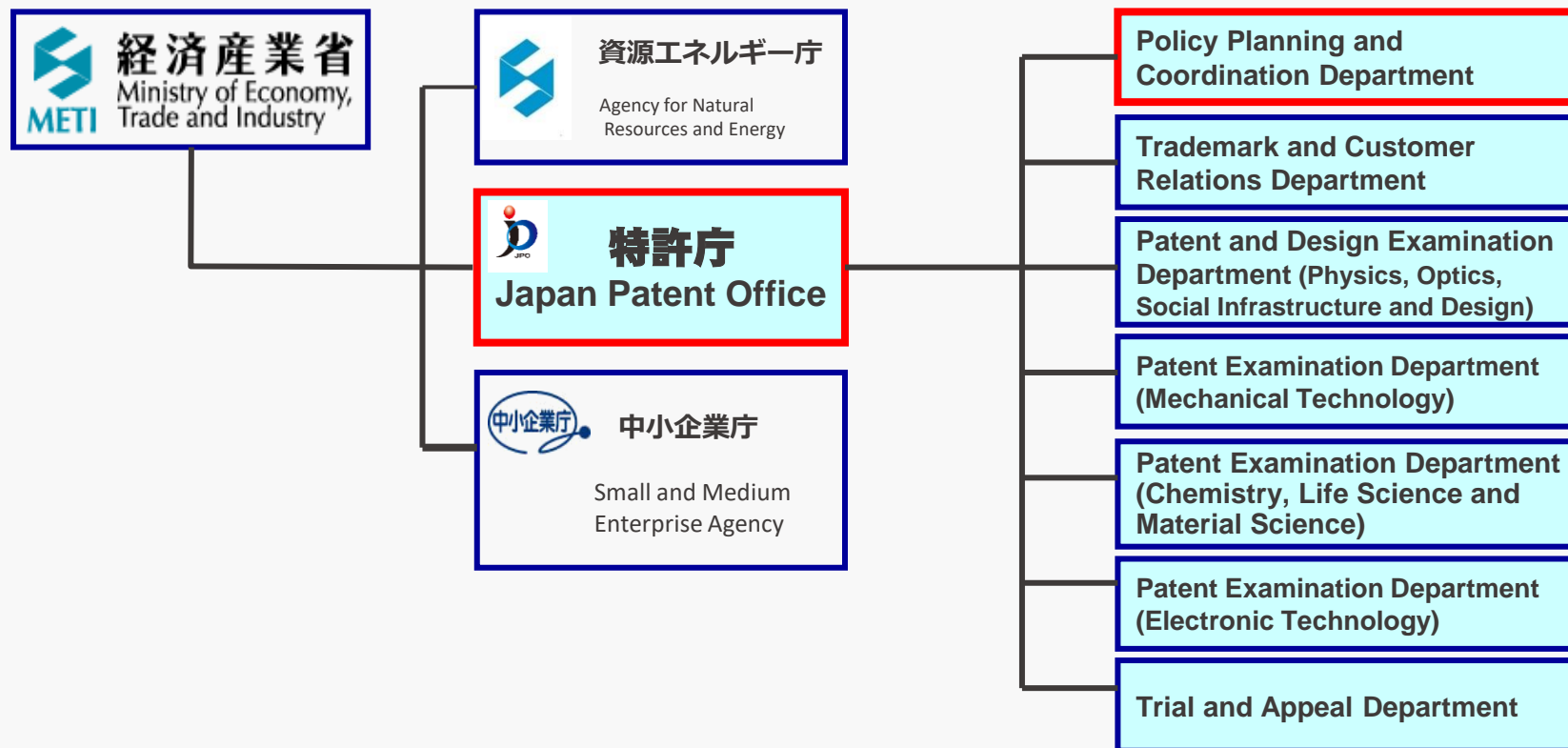
Japan Patent Office



- 1 Organization of the IT Division in JPO
- 2 Digitalized Procedure of JPO
- 3 International Cooperation among IP Offices
- 4 Supporting Projects by JPO
- 5 Potential for more Contribution

1. Organization of the IT Division in JPO

1-1. JPO Organizational Structure



1-2. Organization and Roles of the IT Division

Policy Planning and Coordination Department

Information Technology and Patent Information Management Office

Information Technology Policy Planning Office

- IT-related international measures
- IT-related projects
- IT-related budget
- IT-related procurement

Information Technology System Development Office

- System development, maintenance, and operation according to optimization plan
- Development, maintenance, and operation of current system

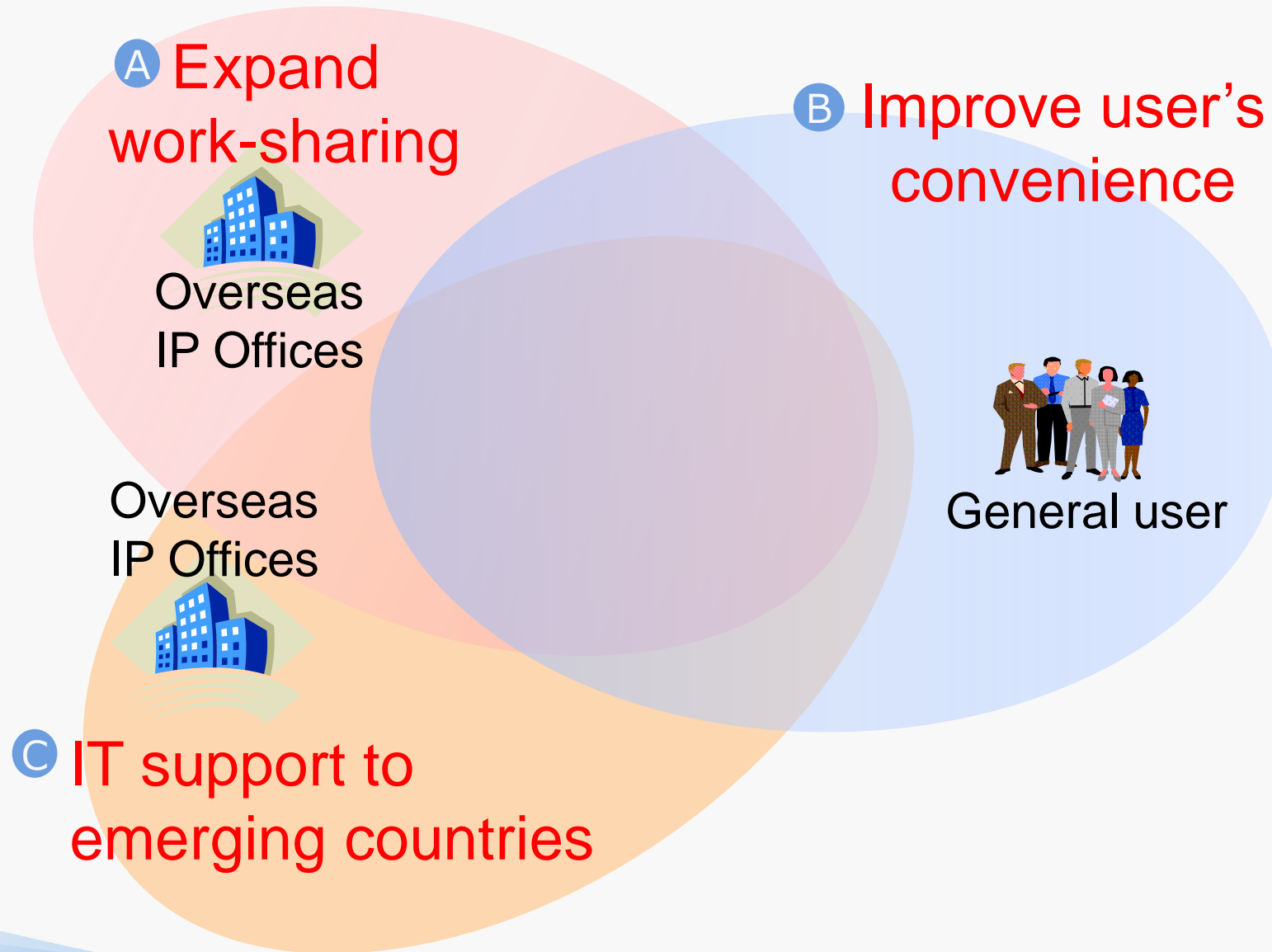
Patent Information Policy Planning Office

- Investigation and planning related to patent information
- Multilingual support of patent information
- Management of patent information

Information Technology Innovation Office

- In-house system development

1-3. Missions of International Team of IT Division

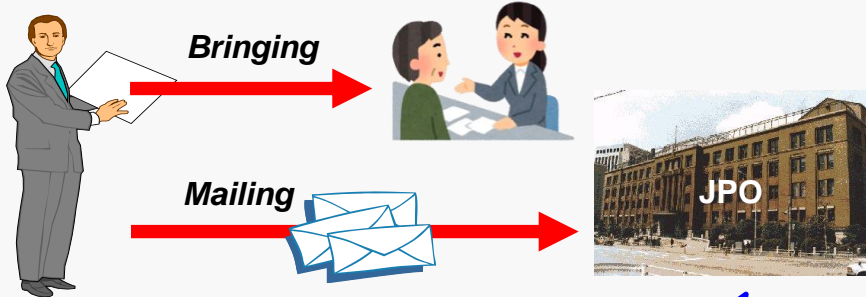


2. Digitalized Procedure of JPO

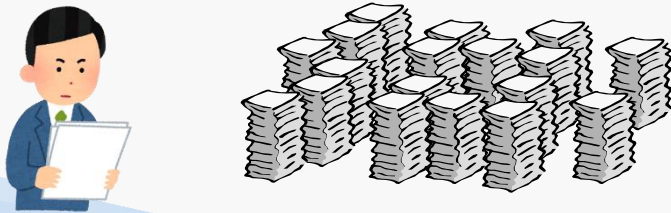
2-1. Background of Digitalization

Before digitalization
(- 1990)

Application



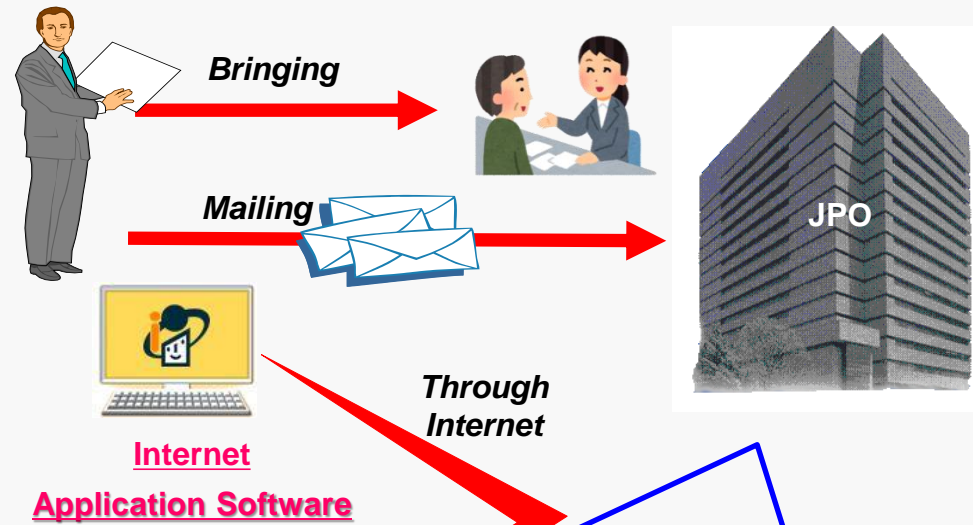
Examination



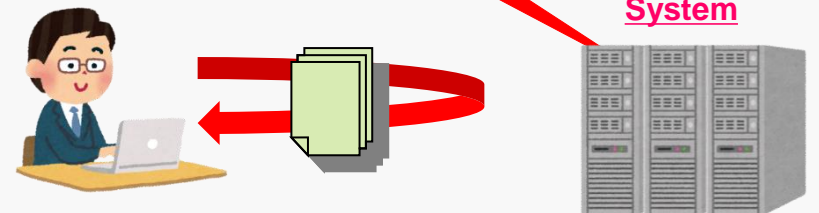
Japan Patent Office

Now

Application

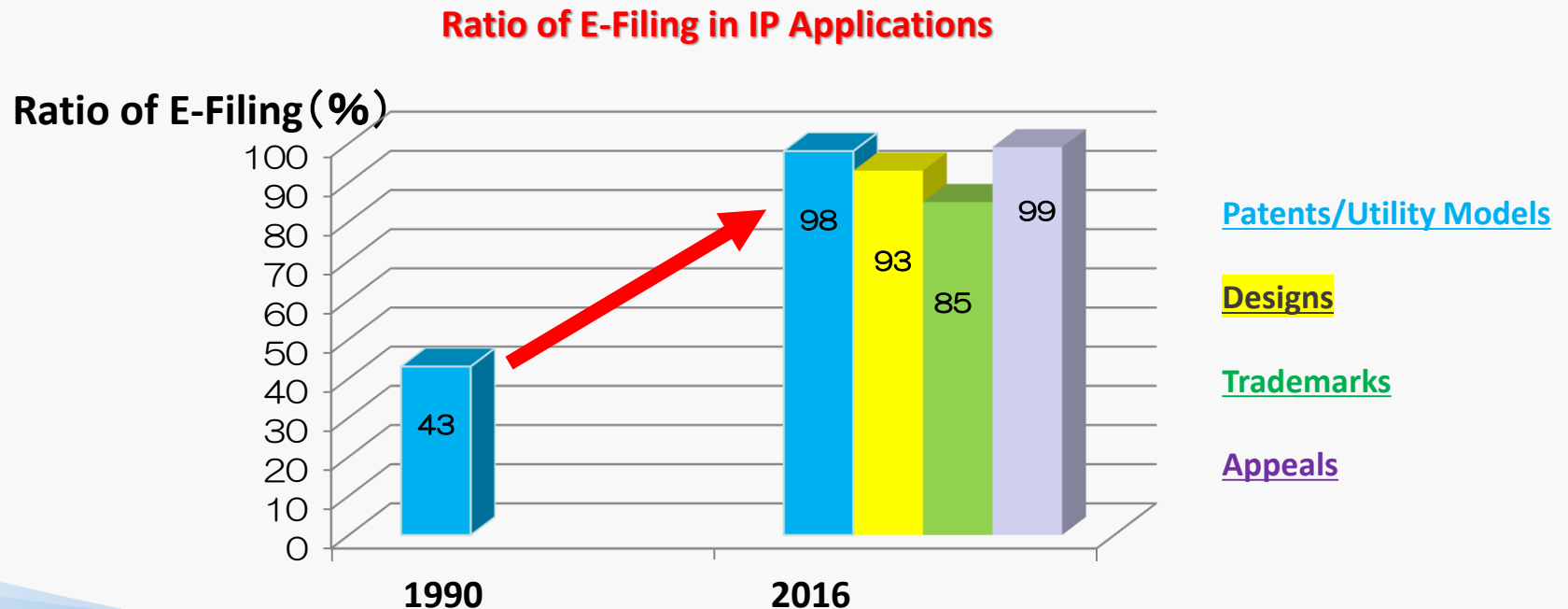


Examination

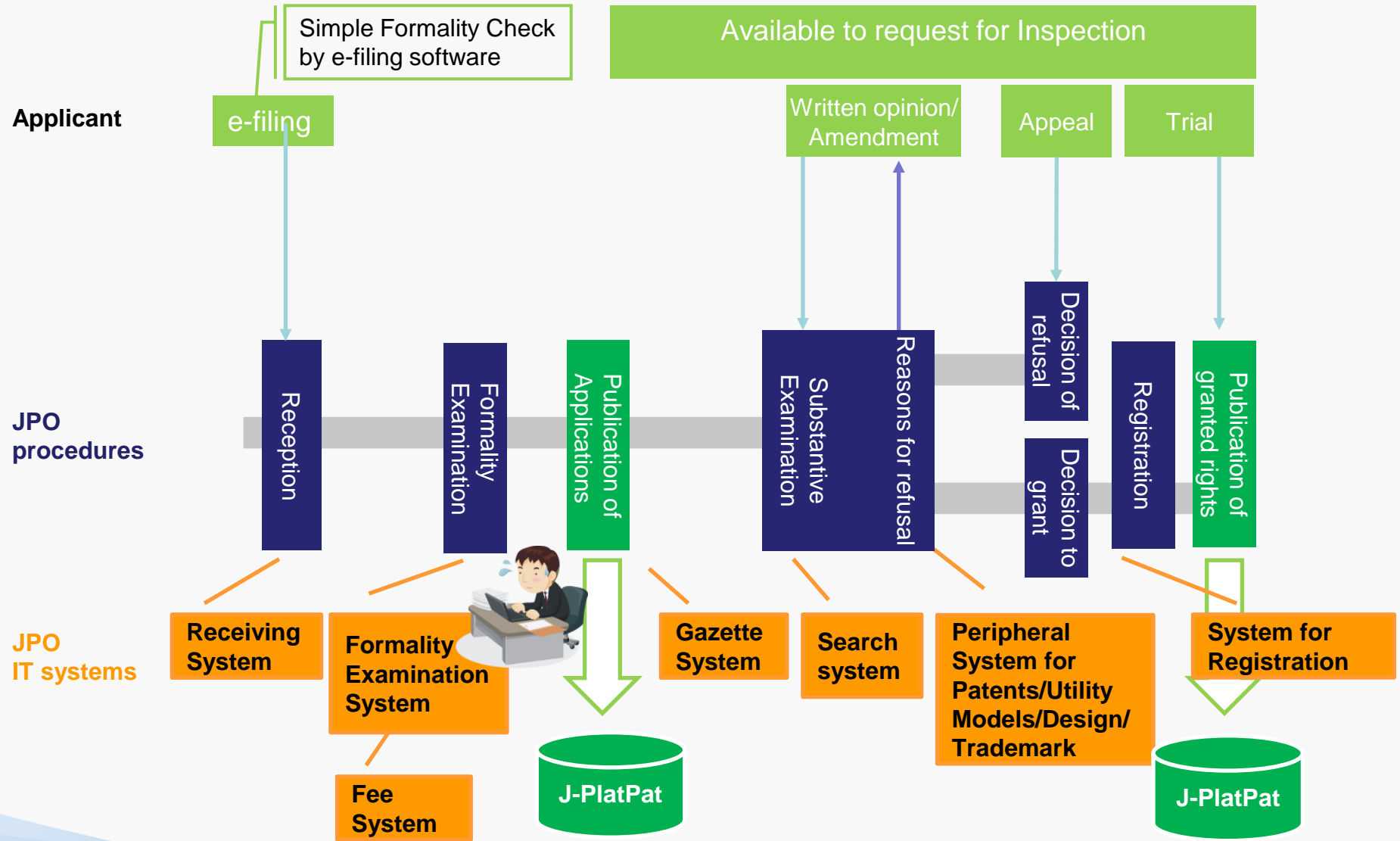


2-2. Background of Digitalization

- 1984 Paperless Project was formulated
- 1990 E-filing using a special machine for patents/utility models started
- 1998 E-filing using PC through ISDN line started
- 2000 E-filing for designs, trademarks, PCT and appeals and started
- 2005 E-filing using "Internet Application Software" started



2-3. Workflow and Related Systems



2-4. E-filing procedures in JPO

To Prepare e-filing circumstances:

- Purchase e-certification
- Download e-filing software

e-certification



Register e-certification to the JPO.

e-filing software



①

E-filing software imports HTML files and converts them into XML files.

Applicants can verify the conversion results before filing.

②



1) Applicants draft an application with commercially available word processing software such as “MS WORD” and save it as a HTML document.



Application (XML)

2) Applicants import the application into e-filing software. The e-filing software converts the HTML document into XML and conduct formality check roughly.

④

Documents from JPO (XML)



dispatch

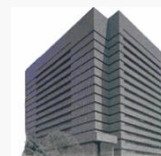


Applicants receive XML documents from the JPO via e-filing software.

Application (XML)



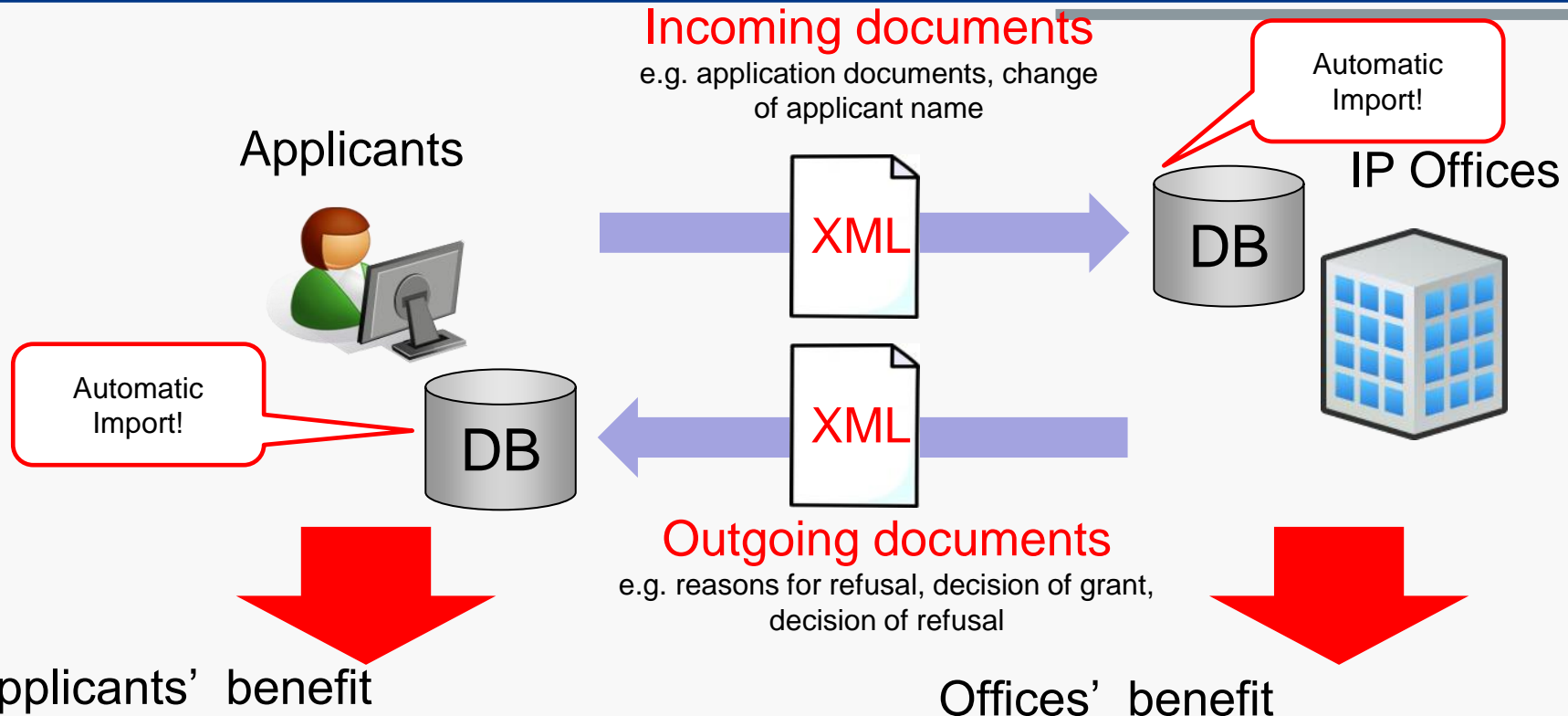
e-filing



Applicants submit the XML formatted documents to the JPO via e-filing software.

③

2-5. XMLization – its Benefits for Offices and Users



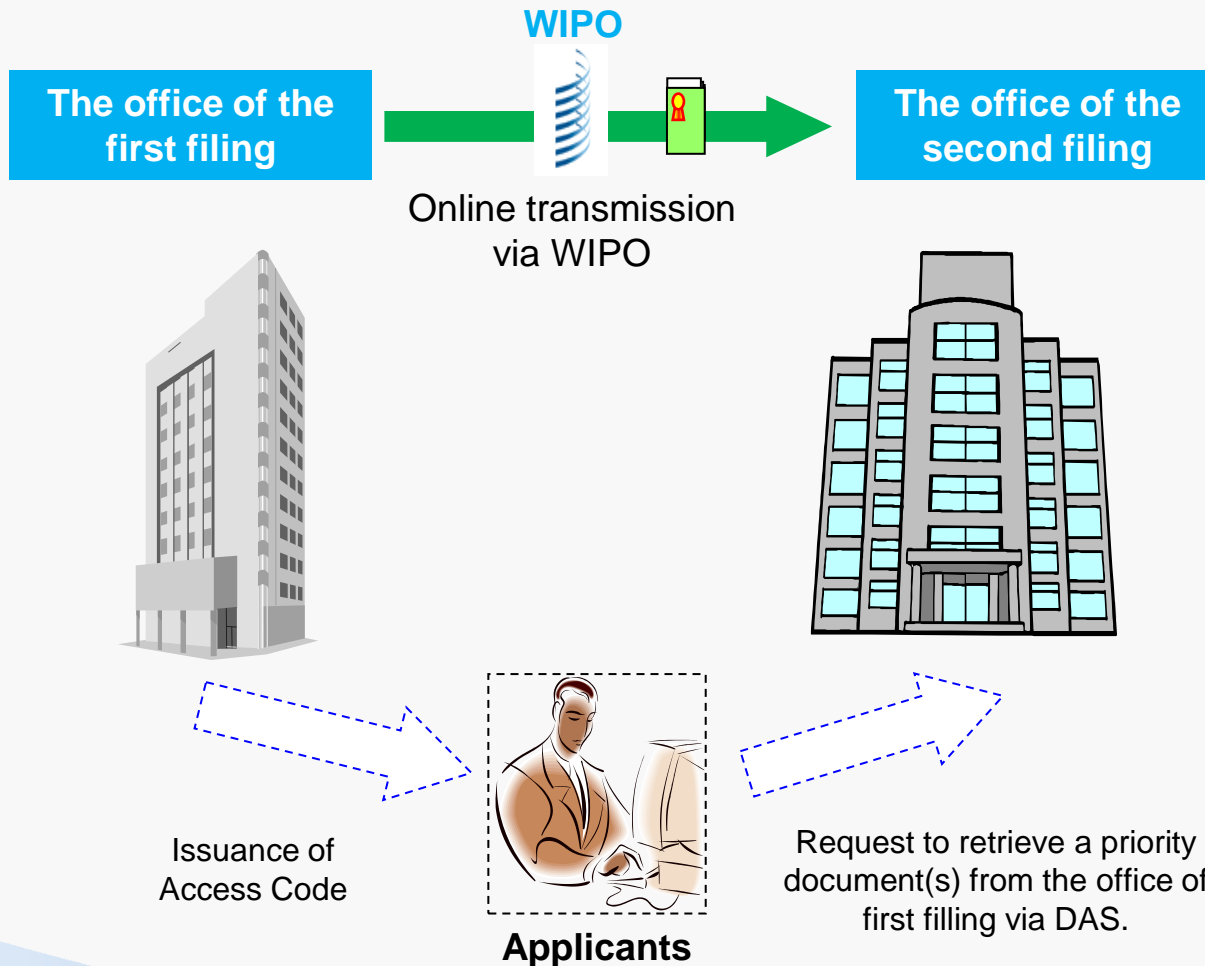
- ✓ **Save cost and time** of manual data import
- ✓ Accurate and comprehensive DB for further utilization, such as **big data analysis**

- ✓ **Save cost and time** of manual data import
- ✓ Utilize XML data for various ways, such as **automatic formality check, publication**

3. International Cooperation among IP Offices

3-1. Electronic Exchange of Priority Documents

WIPO Digital Access Service (WIPO DAS)



The Offices (As of January 2024)

which the JPO exchange priority documents with

[WIPO DAS]

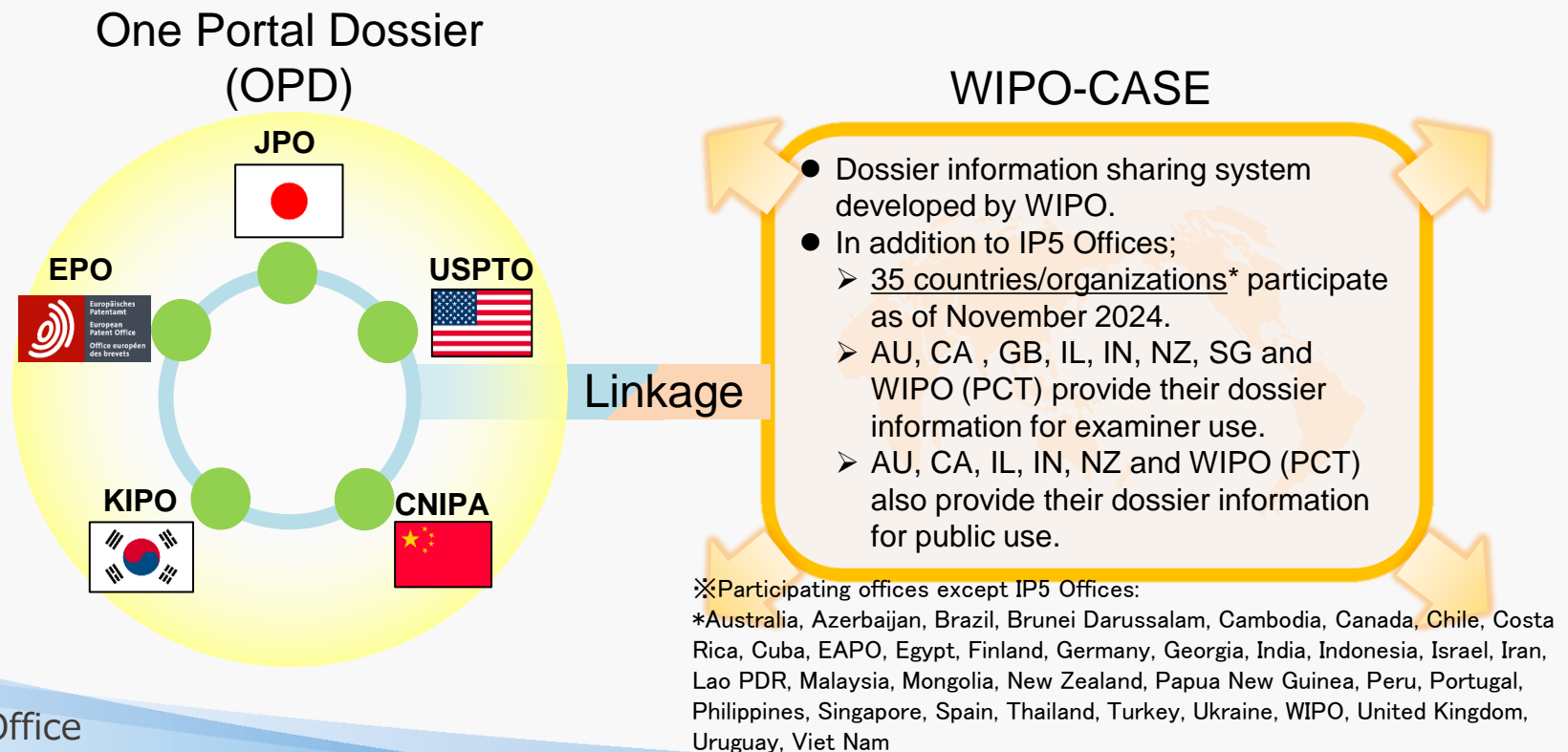
- US
- China
- Korea
- UK
- Ireland
- Argentina
- Israel
- Italy
- Iran
- India
- Estonia
- Australia
- Austria
- Netherlands
- Canada
- Columbia
- Georgia
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Spain
- Denmark
- Chile
- Turkey
- New Zealand
- Norway
- Finland
- Brazil
- France
- Belgium
- Mexico
- Poland
- Morocco
- Monaco
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Cuba
- EAPO
- EPO
- EUIPO
- WIPO

[bilateral PDX]

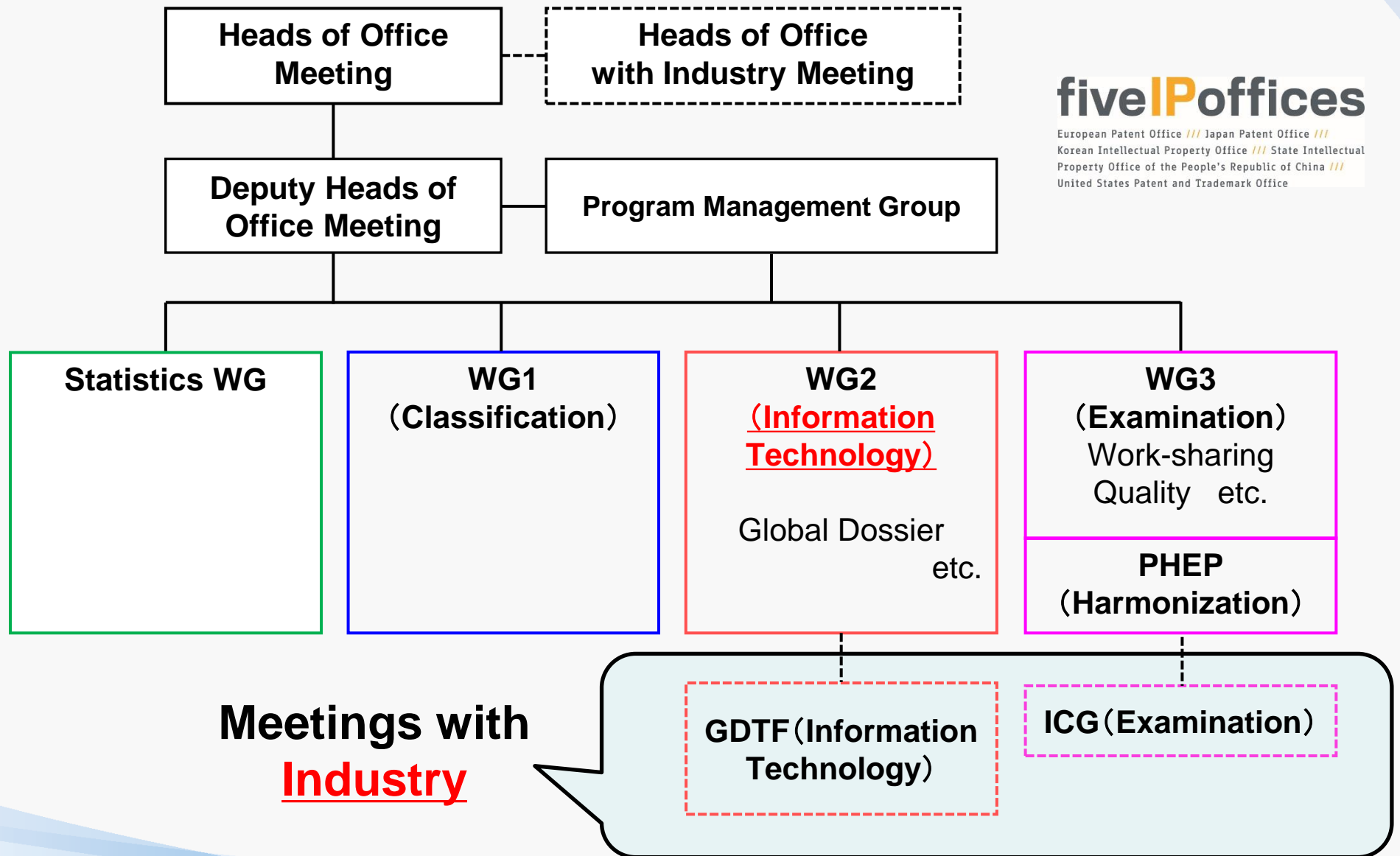
- Taiwan

3-2. Global Dossier

- The “Global Dossier” concept aims for building up a virtual common system by mutually linking the IT systems of IP Offices to provide new IT-based services.
- Under the Global Dossier concept, the One Portal Dossier (OPD), which allows users to retrieve dossier information of other offices collectively, has been developed.
- The linkage between the OPD and WIPO-CASE was established in 2014.



3-4. The Structure of IP5



fiveIPoffices

European Patent Office /// Japan Patent Office ///
 Korean Intellectual Property Office /// State Intellectual
 Property Office of the People's Republic of China ///
 United States Patent and Trademark Office

3-5. GDTF Meeting

GDTF (Global Dossier Task Force) was created in 2012 in order to facilitate the discussion between IP5 Offices and Industries.

Jan. 2013

1st GDTF meeting

⋮

⋮

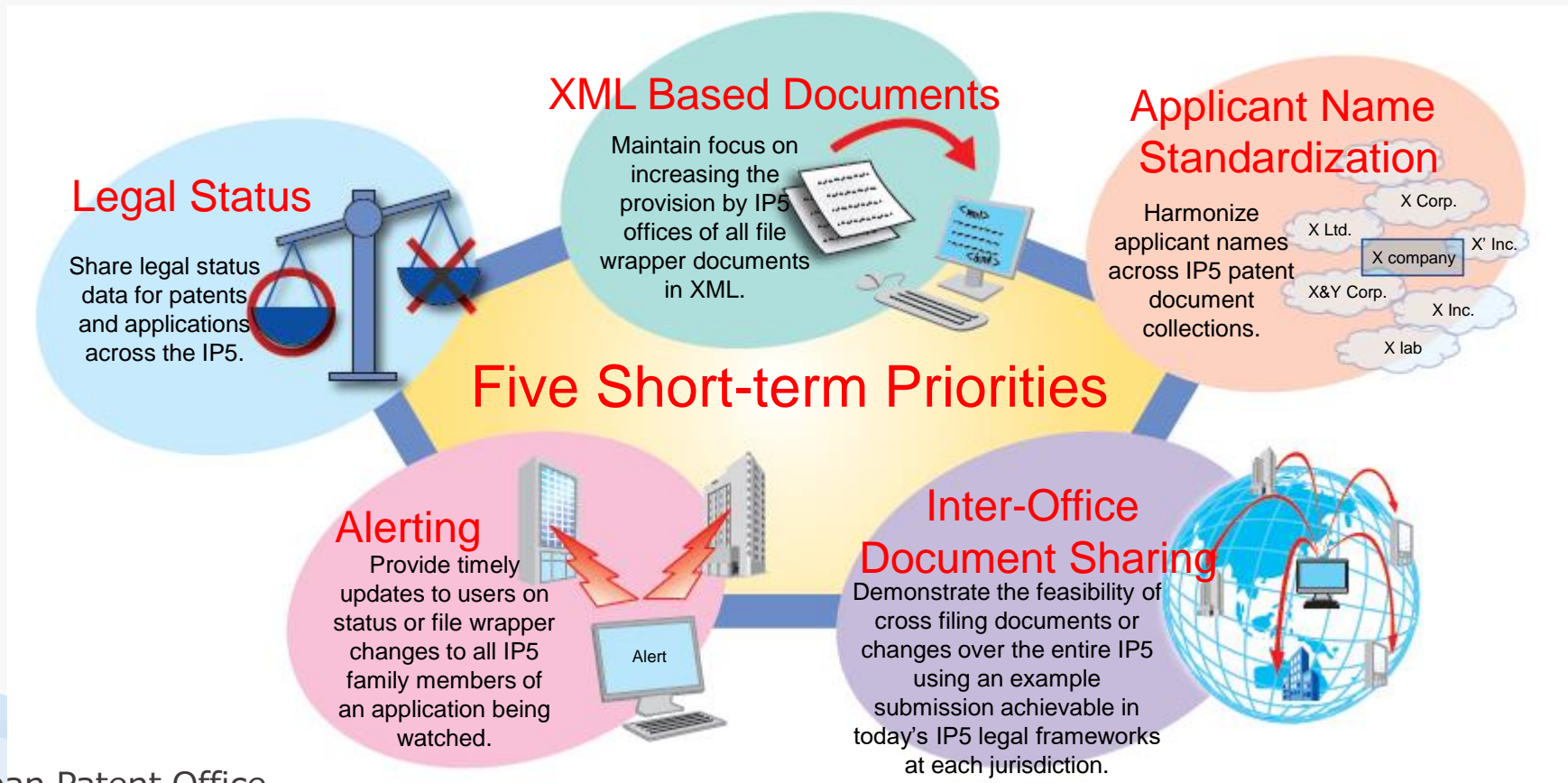
Mar. 2024

11th GDTF meeting

11th GDTF meeting was hosted online by EPO on Mar. 5th, 2024, where next stage of five priorities of Global Dossier was discussed.

3-6. Five Priorities of Global Dossier

- IP5 Industries requested to make five priority items come true.
- IP5 Offices drew up their vision and takes steps to consider substantial solutions for their implementation.



4. Supporting Projects by JPO

4-1. Funds-In-Trust Japan Industrial Property Global

- Funds-In-Trust Japan Industrial Property Global (FIT/Japan IP Global) supports developing countries to improve their knowledge of IP systems and enhance their IP capabilities to facilitate innovation and technology transfer worldwide.
- Since the government of Japan, through the Japan Patent Office (JPO), made its first voluntary contribution to WIPO in 1987, it contributed to more than 100 million CHF to more than 100 countries in Asia and Pacific region and African region for supporting diverse activities in the field of Intellectual Property.
- In 2019, FIT/Japan IP Global was established to expand the supporting area, and the JPO currently contributes around 8 million CHF per year.



FIT/Japan IP
Global



Supporting
Projects



- 
- Asia and Pacific region
 - African region
 - Latin American region
 - others

4-2. IT systems-related Contributions

- FIT Japan IP Global has supported the development of WIPO's IT systems and organized seminars or workshops to encourage their use in developing countries.
- WIPO's support to IP offices in the ASEAN, Africa and other region utilizing the FIT Japan IP Global has achieved following several milestones.

WIPO CASE

- developed and made available in the ASEAN region
- successfully linked to the IP5 One Portal Dossier
- public access was implemented through the IP5 Global Dossier and through WIPO PATENTSCOPE

WIPO products

- enhanced to provide better solutions for IP administration and for online filing and online publication of IP data

ASEAN IP Register

- upgraded from ASEAN PATENTSCOPE and cloud-based online IP database has become available
- ASEAN IP Register Regional coordinators meetings were held in several times

4-3. Digitization and Full-text Conversion

- FIT Japan IP Global has supported digitization and full-text conversion of paper documents in developing countries and organizations.
- Digitized and full-text converted documents can be browsed in online databases and exchanged between IP offices.

Recent Achievements

Digitization

- In 2021, a digitization project for IP documents (patents, trademarks, industrial designs, and utility models) of the Companies and Intellectual Property Authority (CIPA) of Botswana was completed and about 40,000 paper files were scanned.
- In 2022, a digitization project of IP documents (patents, trademarks, industrial designs, and utility models) for the government of Malawi was completed and approximately 500,000 pages were digitized.
- In 2022, a digitization project in Thailand in cooperation with the Department of Intellectual Property (DIP) was implemented in order to scan 43,000 patent applications covering 5,580,884 pages (1997-2015).

Full-text Conversion

- In 2023, nearly 23,000 full-text documents of the Philippines patent collection became available and searchable in PATENTSCOPE, the WIPO's global database.

4-4. JPO/IPR Training Program

- JPO provided “JPO/IPR Training Course on Information Technology” in 2023.
- 18 trainees who are involved with IT operations at IP offices from 15 countries completed the course.
- The course aims to enhance specialized expertise that is needed to improve the efficiency of business operations at IP offices by utilizing IT and to manage IP offices based on advancing IT infrastructure.
- The trainees also learned effective ways for using IP information and the overview of various tools for improving the efficiency of business operations.



5. Potential for more Contribution

5-1. Importance of Improving IP Data Accessibility

- Ensuring IP data access and improving the convenience of IP data providing services, including participation in WIPO-CASE, will help raise the level of attractiveness as an investment destination.

Improving Data Access and Data Providing Services

- Join WIPO-CASE as a Providing Office
- Provide IP data via Online IP Database Services

-> Increased Accessibility of IP Information by domestic and foreign users

-> Expanding possibility of investment consideration

-> Improving attractiveness as an investment destination

5-2. Major Issues to be Solved

- In past workshops that have been conducted with the support of the Funds in Trust Japan, we have found common issues that have been presented by several IP Offices.

The issues are as follows

1. Lack of Resources(budget, HR, equipment, etc.)
2. Documents not Digitized
3. Inaccuracy of IP Data

5-3. How to cope with the Issues (1)

- It is difficult to hire people or invest in equipment as a supporting project from JPO, but it is possible to train the personnel already in place; the JPO/IPR Training Course on Information Technology offer a diverse menu and can be used as one means to develop IT personnel.
- Reporting on the content of the workshops as FIT/JP projects to high-level colleagues and inviting high-level colleagues to the workshop may convey the importance of enhancing resources.

Issue: Lack of Resources(budget, HR, equipment, etc.)

Possible Solutions:

- JPO/IPR Training Course on Information Technology

- Involving high-level colleagues to Workshops

5-3. How to cope with the Issues (2)

- In the opinion of Japanese industry, there is a high demand for digitization of paper documents at the ASEAN IP Offices.
- It is important not only to digitize paper documents but also to convert them to full-text so that they can be searched online.
- As FIT/JP projects, WIPO and JPO have been cooperating for digitization and full-text conversion projects every year, which could contribute to each IP Office.

Issue: Documents not Digitized

Possible Solutions:

- Digitization Projects supported by FIT/JP
- Full-text Conversion Projects supported by FIT/JP

5-3. How to cope with the Issues (3)

- The accuracy of databases is very important, and many Japanese users have expressed their opinions about the accuracy of foreign IP databases. Even if digitization is advanced, if the content is not accurate, it is inconvenient for users.
- As FIT/JP activities, WIPO and JPO have been cooperating for data cleaning projects, which could contribute to each IP Office.
- At the workshops supported by FIT/JP, some members of the IP Office who have experience in data cleaning, and you can take advantage of the opportunity to exchange information.

Issue: Inaccuracy of IP Data

Possible Solutions:

- Data Cleaning Projects supported by FIT/JP
- Information and Opinion Exchange at the Workshops

Thank you!

Japan Patent Office

