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STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES

ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORT

2001

ON PATENT INFORMATION ACTIVITIES*

submitted by

JAPAN

An annual series of reports on the patent information activities
of members of the Standing Committee on Information Technologies

*
– The term “patent” covers utility models and SPCs.
– Information related to design patent activities reported by industrial property offices issuing design patents is included in the series of documents SCIT/ATR/ID.

ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORT ON PATENT INFORMATION ACTIVITIES

submitted by

JAPANI. Evolution of patent activities:Changes experienced in terms of application filings and grants with respect to the previous year:

The number of applications in 2001 was 439,175. The number of registrations of post-grant opposition was 121,742.

Trends or areas experiencing rapid changes with respect to the previous year.II. Matters concerning the generation, reproduction, distribution and use of primary and secondary sources of patent information:Publishing, printing, copying (main types of publications of the office in the field of patent information, etc.):Main types of announcements of the Office in the field of patent information:

Japan Patent Office (referred to as the "JPO" hereafter) published the following patent documents in 2001:

Publication of patent applications	359,300 issues
Publication of unexamined utility model applications	44 issues
Published Japanese translations of PCT international publication for patent applications	27,740 issues
Published Japanese translations of PCT international publication for utility model applications	0 issues
Registered utility model gazette	8,500 issues
Patent Gazette	121,500 issues
Utility Model Gazette	900 issues
Published appeal and trial decisions	19,412 issues
The list of request for examination	246,000 issues
The list of request for technical evaluation	1,093 issues
Registration list	0 issue
Final decision list	240,000 issues

Mass storage media used (paper, microforms, optical storage, etc.);

Word processing and office automation;

(New) techniques used for the generation of patent information (printing, recording, photocomposing, etc.).

In December 1990, the JPO began accepting patent applications and utility model applications, filed via flexible disk or on-line (electric application). (The flexible disk application was abolished in 1999.) The JPO electronically edits the collected data acquired from the electric applications, or the applications by electric means, and creates a gazette on CD-ROM.

The gazette on CD-ROM contains mixed-mode type data, composed of text data and image data, thus text searches using the text data part is available.

a) Publication of Unexamined Applications on CD-ROM

The JPO has been publishing Publication of Unexamined Applications on CD-ROM since January 1993.

This is a single-volume CD-ROM, containing publication of (unexamined) patent applications and publication of unexamined utility model applications. A registered utility model gazette, first published in July 1994, has also been contained in the Publication of Unexamined Applications on CD-ROM. Further, since January 1996, the Publication of Unexamined Applications on CD-ROM has also contained the published Japanese translations of PCT international publication for patent applications, the published Japanese translations of PCT international publication for utility model applications, domestic re-publication of PCT international publication for patent application, and domestic re-publication of PCT international publication for utility model applications.

With respect to patent applications containing sequence listings, the JPO published a separate volume of CD-ROM containing sequence listings as Huge Data of Publication of Unexamined Applications on CD-ROM in October 2001.

A single-volume Publication of Unexamined Applications on CD-ROM contained a total of 4,200 issues of the gazettes and was published 97 times in 2001.

The Publication of Unexamined Applications on CD-ROM enables a search by using 15 items, including document number, IPC, applicant, name of invention, as search keys.

b) Patent Gazette on CD-ROM

Since January 1994, the JPO has been publishing the Publication of Examined Applications on CD-ROM, a single-volume CD-ROM containing the Patent Gazette and Utility Model Gazette. Because the post-grant opposition rule was introduced in January 1996, the Publication of Examined Applications was abolished by March 1996. Since May 1996, the JPO has been publishing the Patent Gazette on CD-ROM, containing post-grant registration gazettes (Patent Gazette and Utility Model Gazette).

Further, since September 1997, the JPO has been publishing the Patent Gazette on CD-ROM which contains the gazette of decision on opposition to the grant of patent and the gazette of decision on opposition to the grant of utility model.

A single-volume Patent Gazette on CD-ROM contains a total of 2,300 issues of the gazettes and was published 54 times in 2001.

The gazettes contained in the Patent Gazette on CD-ROM can be searched by using 20 items, including document number, IPC, applicant, name of invention, as search key.

At the time of writing, about 15 software publishers are selling Japanese-language software that provides effective use of the Official Gazette on CD-ROM. Several companies provide Internet-based patent information services, utilizing the data on the Official Gazette on CD-ROM. The JPO has been providing foreign patent offices, free of charge, with viewer software (JMSCD4) for the Official Gazette on CD-ROM. This software runs on the English version of MS-Windows. This software is updated to keep up with the changes in the contents of the Official Gazette on CD-ROM. At time of writing, the current version (JMSCD4.2) has been provided to foreign patent offices since April 2000.

Also, the simplified viewer software, (JPO.CONV), which has been contained on the Publication of Unexamined Applications on CD-ROM since January 1996 and the Patent Gazette on CD-ROM since May 1996, was modified to display the data under English system and made available in October 1997.

Matters concerning abstracting, classifying, reclassifying and indexing of technical information contained in patent documents:

Abstracting, reviewing, translating;

Preparation of and use of secondary documents:

a) Preparation of Patent Abstracts of Japan

The Patent Abstracts of Japan (referred as the "PAJ" hereafter) is a document, which combines English abstracts of publications of (unexamined) patent applications, filed by Japanese applicants, and their representative drawings. Since 1976, the JPO has been sending the PAJ (in paper booklet format) to foreign patent offices.

Since April 1995, the PAJ for the Publication of Patent Applications, issued in October 1994 or later, has been issued in mixed mode CD-ROM format by using MIMOSA software that Trilateral Patent Offices (JPO,USPTO,EPO) jointly procured since April 1995, instead of in the conventional paper booklet format. Currently the PAJ is sent to 95 patent offices or public institutions in 80 countries.

Past PAJs (the publication of unexamined patent applications published in 1976 to 1993) were sorted into 69 technical fields and published on 99-volume CD-ROMs.

The PAJ/CD-ROM is sold to the general public. It can be used to create in-house database or to provide information services to a third party.

b) Preparation of PAJ/INDEX CD-ROM

The PAJ/INDEX CD-ROM contains a bibliography and an abstract of PAJs, and the disk number of the corresponding PAJ/CD-ROM.

The JPO has been publishing PAJ/INDEX CD-ROM quarterly since April 1997. The information on each PAJ/INDEX CD-ROM is organized chronologically based on a 3-month period and covers a one-year period. The PAJ/INDEX CD-ROM is also sent to foreign patent offices that currently receive the PAJ/CD-ROM.

c) Preparation of PAJ/CD-ROM for Foreign Application Version

The PAJ/CD-ROM for Foreign Application Version contains an English abstract of the Publication of Unexamined Patent Applications from 1989 to 1997 which were filed by non-Japanese applicants before 1998 and have not been contained in the PAJ/CD-ROM before. A PAJ/CD-ROM for Foreign Application Version is prepared for each IPC section and published annually.

In March 1999, A and H sections were published. The PAJ/CD-ROM for Foreign Application Versions will be published until March 2001.

d) Foreign patent document

The JPO prepares the coded data of the Japanese abstract of US patent specifications and EPO patent application specifications. The data is stored as electric data and used as a search reference.

Classification and reclassification activities; Classification system used, e.g., International Patent Classification (IPC), other classification (please indicate whether or not patent documents are classified by your Office and, if so, which classification is used);

In 2001, the number of applications classified was: about 400,000 applications when laying-open the application, about 120,000 applications when the Patent Gazette or Utility Model Gazette was published, and about 8,500 applications when the registered utility model gazette was published.

The JPO was very active in the effort to revise IPC. Also, JPO delegates were sent to IPC-related WIPO meetings and were very active participants.

Coordinate indexing (ICIREPAT-types and/or domestic deep indexing systems, keyword indexing);

The JPO continued the indexing of ICIREPAT types in the alloy field.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. System name and symbol | Alloy AL |
| 2. Storage media | Magnetic disk, variable block |
| 3. Development stage | Indexing continued |
| 4. The number of indexed documents, year and origin | About 86,000 documents. By 2001. Japan. |

Hybrid system indexing;

Indexing code of hybrid systems are assigned to some documents and used as search keys.

Bibliographic data and full-text processing for search purposes.

To enable full text search of documents, such as the publication of unexamined applications and Patent Gazette, the JPO prepares a search index, based on “n gram” technology for Japanese and “word gram” technology for English.

IV. Search file establishment and upkeep:

File building:

a)F-term analysis

The search file is classified into about 2,600 themes (technical fields). In 2001, about 1,700 themes were analyzed. Almost all themes, including about 900 themes for which F-term assignment is not needed (FI is sufficient) and about 1,700 themes for which analysis for the published documents have completed, can be used in the search. The number of documents that have analyzed F-terms has reached about 19.8 million.

b)Making F-terms available to general public

The JPO makes F-terms available to general public as the associated theme becomes available. As in the part of providing industrial property right information via the Internet, F-term is available to general public and a user can conduct F-term search via the Internet.

Updating:

Updating of the search file

The search file used by the examiner is continuously updated so that it is the latest one. Japanese patent documents (publication of patent applications, registered utility model gazettes, etc.) are added to the search file in accordance with the JPO's internal classifications established by further developing IPC (FI). In 2001, about 400,000 documents in total were included in the search file.

Storage, including mass storage media:

The search file used by the examiner is in electric data form and stored in a RAID system. Some of the search files are also saved in paper form.

Documentation from other offices maintained and/or considered part of the available search file.

The documents from the United States of America, the EPO and major European countries, including the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Federal Republic of Germany, the French Republic, and the Swiss Confederation, are stored as image data and available for ECLA searches.

V. Activities in the field of computerized and other mechanized search systems:In-house systems (online):

a) F-term search system

In December 1999, a patent and utility model search system, based on a distributed computing system, was put into operation. This system integrated (clustered) the existing search systems. The system integrated not only the F-term search system and a system to search computer-related non-patent document (CS document), but also a foreign patent document search system using EPO internal classification (ECLA) and the United States classification (USC). Multiple search keys, such as F-term, FI, free word, CS term, ECLA and USC, can be entered simultaneously; thus an examination environment, enabling seamless search of various documents, such as domestic patents, foreign patents and non-patents, was created. This system allows referencing by linking patent family documents and reference documents. Further, the text data of prior to laying-open specifications is stored and is available for prior to laying-open search.

A full text search in Japanese and English is also available, utilizing Patent Gazette text data and foreign patent gazette text data, collected through the paperless system. In January 2001, a new terminal incorporating a high-resolution LCD was introduced.

b) Appeal and trial decision search system (J-term search system)

Gazettes and other documents on appeal and trial decisions are converted into electric form and search keys, called J-term, are assigned to them; thereby enabling search and screening by using J-term. A full-text search is available for appeal and trial decisions issued after January 2000.

c) DNA search system

This is a search system for gene-related information and was introduced in January 1998. The system provides a homological search, which searches for a sequence utilizing the homogeneity and which covers nucleotide sequences and amino acid sequences, and a key word search, which utilizing bibliographic data.

(offline):

a) Elsevier

The JPO stores scientific association journals published by Elsevier Science in the in-house DB; thereby a search as well as the referring the document is available.

b) LiqCryst

The JPO stores in PC a database on liquid crystal material, provided in CD-ROM format by University of Hamburg, Federal Republic of Germany; thereby enabling a search.

External databases:

The JPO's examiners used the following external databases for searches: Any databases listed below can be used online from the terminal in the JPO.

a) PATOLIS

A Japanese patent document search system, provided by Japan Patent Information Organization (JAPIO).

b) JOIS

A scientific and technical document search system, provided by Japan Science and Technology Corporation (JST).

c) CAS Online

Technical information document search system on structures of chemical substances, provided by the Japan Association for International Chemical Information (JAICI)

d) Derwent WPI/WPIL

e) IEEE/IEE

An Internet search site provided by IEEE/IEE for searching their publications (including magazine and minutes), IEEE standard, etc.

f) ACM/DL

An Internet search site provided by the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) for searching their scientific association journals.

g) YAKUNET

An Internet search site provided by Yakuji Nippo Limited for searching "Yakuji Nippo" (a magazine specialized in medicine-related information).

h) Nikkei Biotech Online

An Internet search site provided by Nikkei Business Publications, Inc. for searching biotechnology-related articles published in "Nikkei Biotech" magazine.

i) INTERGLAD

An Internet search site provided by the New Glass Forum for searching information on glass formation.

j) Science Online

An Internet search site for biotechnology-related information published in "Science" magazine.

k) ProQuest

An Internet search site for searching economy and finance-related documents.

l) Web of Science

An Internet search site enabling search for citation links among more than 8,000 magazines stored in three citation databases provided by the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI).

m) G-Search

An Internet search site for enabling search for full text articles on general newspapers, industry journals and speciality magazines.

n) NRI Cyber Patent Desk

An Internet search site enabling search for abstracts of company technical journals and concepts thereon.

o) Shoku Net

An Internet search site for searching articles in various areas concerning foods.

Administrative management systems (e.g., register, legal status, statistics, administrative support, etc.);

a) An electric application and file wrapping automation system

The JPO has been using an electric application and file wrapping automation system since December 1990. This system improves the efficiency of administrative works by electrifying duties, from filing an application, formality check and substantive examination, dispatching, registration, publishing a gazette, requesting for inspection of files, to requesting for certification. Whole contents of an application is electronized, stored in a record file, processed and managed.

Currently, to improve the efficiency of drafting by linking with the search systems and of examination by implementing electronic approval, and for faster gazette publication and for separate management of each application, the following subsystems are operating:

(1) Filing system (electric application filing)

(2) Formality check system (automated formality check, formality-check-related drafting, approval and time management)

(3) On-line dispatching system (online notification to applicant)

(4) On-line viewing system (online request and viewing)

(5) Examination-related administrative work system (substantive-examination-related drafting, approval and management)

With the introduction of this system, an applicant can file online a patent application or a utility model application.

In addition to filing an application from the specialized terminal, filing from a personal computer has been available since April 1998. By January 1999, filing an application by using a flexible disk (FD) was abolished and by the end of 2000, online filing from the specialized terminal was abolished.

On January 2000, a paperless system for administrative procedures was introduced. This system handles procedures relating to appeal (including reconsideration by examiner before appeal) and to the domestic administrative procedures of a JPO-designated PCT international application.

As of 2001, the ratios of online applications over all applications were 96% for patent and utility model, 84% for appeal, and 98% for the domestic administrative procedures of a PCT internal application. (The figures are for January to December averages.)

b) Other administrative procedure systems (existing system)

The following systems, operating before the electric application system was introduced, have been operating successfully:

(1) Application-related management system

This system provides computerized central management for application-related administrative work, including management of various progress information, extraction of an application for which a gazette is to be published and preparation of various statistical tables. (The management of patents, utility models, designs and trademarks filed prior to the electric application system.)

(2) A file wrapping administrative work system for the information center

This system provides computerized central management for administrative work data, relating to disposed file wrapper kept in the information center, and performs duties, such as management and storage of file wrapper, lending and returning a file wrapper by using terminals.

(3) Appeal/trial decision administrative work system

This system provides computerized central management for appeal/trial decision data, including management of progress information about various procedures and preparation of various statistical tables.

(4) Registration administrative work system

This system provides computerized central management for the register, including certificate of patent creation, annual fee management, patent right transfer management, and online-preparation of patent register copy and inspection document.

Equipment used (hardware, including the types of terminal and network used, and software), carriers used:

a) The hardware used

① Central processing unit	MP5800/160	1 set
	ACOS1510	1 set
	M-680H	1 set
② Terminals		4,300 units
③ Electronic disk unit		1 set
④ Semiconductor memory unit		1 set
⑤ Magnetic tape unit		15 sets
⑥ Magnetic disk unit		76 sets
⑦ Optical disk unit		11 sets
⑧ Optical disk library unit		6 sets
⑨ Server		201 sets
⑩ Disk array unit		425 sets
⑪ CD-ROM unit		12 sets

b) The communication lines used

① Leased line	23 lines
② ISDN	8 lines
③ Frame Relay	4 lines

Existing online thesauri; their structure, presentation and usefulness for computerized searches.

Since December 1999, the JPO has been operating the patent and utility model search system which enables a full text search function by utilizing the data collected through the paperless system. The collected text data includes Japanese Patent Gazette, foreign patent gazette and non-patent document. This search function supports the use of thesaurus dictionaries. By utilizing thesaurus dictionaries, a user can expand the search almost routinely without manually inputting equivalent, synonym, related term or by-form of the search word. Thus, thesaurus dictionaries are essential to reduce the user input burden, and to improve the accuracy and efficiency of the full text search.

Current thesaurus dictionaries and functions available under the patent and utility model search system are listed below. Of which, a user can freely edit the theme dictionary and the edited contents can be used by all users.

(The available thesaurus dictionaries)

- a) Common dictionary (synonyms) Synonyms of common words are registered.
- b) Common dictionary (by-form) By-forms of common words are registered.
- c) JICST dictionary (Japanese) Technical term dictionary prepared by Japan Science and Technology Corporation (JST).
- d) JICST dictionary (English) English technical term dictionary prepared by Japan Science and Technology Corporation (JST).
- e) JICST dictionary (Japanese-English translation dictionary) A dictionary for the correspondence of technical terms between Japanese and English.
- f) Theme dictionary (Japanese) A synonym dictionary of technical terms in specific technical fields, prepared for a specific theme.

(Available functions)

- (1) Search word input assist function

A function used in inputting search words in full text searches.

Automatic expansion and manual expansion are available. In the automatic expansion, an examiner expands the search words by specifying the expansion level of the registered synonyms and creates a search formula. In the manual expansion, an examiner expands the search words by manually selecting the words from the registered synonym list and creates a search formula. Also, automatic assignment of search tag, neighborhood search selection and Japanese-English translation are available.

- (2) By-form word expansion function

A function to automatically expand Japanese by-form words and English by-form words.

VI. Administration of the industrial property office library and services available to the public (relating to facilities, e.g., for lodging applications, for assisting clients on searching procedures, for obtaining official publications and registry extracts):

Planning, administration, automation, security, buildings;

Collecting, acquisitions, preparation;

Collection management, preservation;

Interlibrary lending, resource sharing, networks of patent libraries in the country;

Information services available to the public (including computerized services and search files contained in libraries remote from your Office and patent information posted by your Office on the World Wide Web).

a) Providing industrial property rights information via the Internet

The JPO has been providing a patent electric library service since March 1999. This service is accessible through the Internet and allows searching information of about 47 million industrial property rights by using document number and/or classification as search keys.

Main services relating to patent information that the JPO provides are as follows:

(1) Patent/Utility Model Gazette database search

Various patent and utility model gazettes (including publication of patent applications, examined applications and registrations), published in 1885 and later can be searched by using document number.

(2) Front page search for publication of patent applications

Front pages of patent applications published in January 1993 and later can be searched by free word search or document number search.

(3) Patent Abstracts of Japan (PAJ) search

English abstracts of the publication of patent applications published from 1976, and after, can be searched by free word search or document number search.

Also, since March 2000, the JPO has been providing full text computer translation service of publication of patent applications.

(4) Gazette text search

Publications of patent and utility model applications, published in January 1993, and after, publication of examined patent and utility model application and publication of registration, published in January 1994 and later, can be searched by free word search or document number search.

(5) FI and/or F-term search

Patent and utility model gazettes can be searched by using FI and/or F-term for desired documents.

(6) Patent map guidance

IPC list, FI list, F-term description and F-term list can be referenced.

Further, the published appeal and trial decisions in 1940, and after, and as related information, the information on appeal and trial decisions, the progress information on applications, registration and decision, the collection of decisions on suit against appeal/trial decision, the list of field-specific examiners in charge, the information on Law handbook and others can be referenced.

b) Providing JPO data

In March 1999, the JPO began providing the JPO's bibliographical and progress information to outside users by organizing and converting it in the standard format for better usability for the users. About twice a month, the data is provided.

VII. Matters concerning mutual exchange of patent documentation and information:International or regional cooperation in the exchange of machine-readable information, e.g., bibliographic data, abstract and/or full text information;

a) Trilateral exchange of patent gazette text data

The JPO periodically provides bibliographic data of the publication of unexamined applications, recorded in electronic media (such as CD-ROM), to the European Patent Office (EPO) and the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO).

In addition, the JPO sends, on CD-ROM, concordance data of other patent document numbers, Patent Abstracts of Japan (PAJ) data and IPC file.

The EPO sends to the JPO the data by CMT. Incorporating the publication of unexamined applications bibliographical data provided by the JPO, the data includes the consolidated and edited bibliographical data of; publication of unexamined applications of each country; full text image data of laid-open patent application specifications; and the data of classifications, patent inventory and patent family.

The USPTO sends to the JPO full text image data of patent specification by DLT and classification data by FTP.

b) Trilateral exchange of DNA sequence data

The JPO sent the DNA sequence data published in Patent Gazette in 2001 (3,257 data) to National Institute of Genetics, one of the intermediaries for the trilateral data exchange.

c) English translation of F-terms

1,891 F-term themes have been translated into English under the cooperation of Trilateral Patent Offices. The translated data was sent to USPTO and EPO as trilateral exchange data.

In addition, because the translation is the result of and shared by Trilateral Patent Offices, the JPO has been publishing it under the JPO's Industrial Property Digital Library (IPDL) since March 2001.

(d) Sending Official Gazette on CD-ROM to overseas

To date, the JPO has sent a total of 90 CD-ROMs of Patent Gazette to 1 international organization, 33 patent offices and others.

Also, the JPO has sent a total of 93 CD-ROMs of publication of applications to 1 international organization, 27 patent offices and others.

Medium used for exchange of priority documents;

Medium allowed for filing applications;

Implementation of the Statement of Principles Concerning the Changeover to Electronic Data Carriers for the Exchange of Patent Documents² (please make a status report on the extent to which your Office has changed over to electronic data carriers for the exchange of patent documents).

VIII. Other relevant matters concerning education and training in, and promotion of, the use of patent information, including technical assistance to developing countries:

Training courses for national and foreign participants, use of audiovisual means;

Assistance to developing countries (sending consultants and experts, receiving trainees from developing countries, etc.);

a) Assistance to developing countries in cooperation with WIPO

As a contribution to the WIPO technical-level search program, the JPO provides search results without charge to developing countries via WIPO. In 2000, the JPO provided 103 search results.

b) Activities and assistance using a voluntarily contribution fund (trust fund) to WIPO

(1) In September 2001, the JPO held a WIPO Asia-Pacific Regional Forum in Tokyo under the theme of "The role of Intellectual Property Offices in the 21st Century." About 50 participants from 24 Asia-Pacific region countries attended the Forum.

(2) In October 2001, the JPO held a WIPO Asian Regional Workshop in the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam under the theme of "International Protection of Marks." 28 participants from 21 Asia-Pacific region countries and about 70 participants from the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam attended the Workshop.

(3) In February 2002, the JPO held a WIPO Asian Regional Workshop in the Kingdom of Thailand under the theme of "The use of Information Technology in the Management of Industrial Property Rights for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs)." 52 participants from 21 Asia-Pacific region countries including 2 international organizations and about 60 participants from the Kingdom of Thailand attended the Workshop.

² See WIPO *Handbook on Industrial Property Information and Documentation* CD-ROM, Part 8.4.

(4) In April 2002, the JPO held a WIPO Asian Regional Workshop in the Islamic Republic of Iran under the theme of "Technology Management and Commercialization of Inventions and Research Results" 36 participants from 22 Asia-Pacific region countries and about 100 participants from the Islamic Republic of Iran attended the Workshop.

(5) Sending experts

To provide training and advice on patent examination and computerization, the JPO sent 1 expert official to the Department of Justice and Human Right Republic of Indonesia Directorate General of Intellectual Property Rights and to the National Office of Industrial Property of Viet Nam, respectively.

(6) Training for government officials

In cooperation with the JIII, the JPO accepted 58 trainees in total from the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Indonesia, Malaysia, the Republic of the Philippines, the Kingdom of Thailand, Papua New Guinea, the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of the Fiji Islands, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, the Union of Myanmar, the Kingdom of Nepal, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka (17 countries) for training on Industrial Property Administration, the Enforcement of the Intellectual Property Rights, the Examination Practices of Industrial Property Rights, and the Use of Information Technology in Industrial Property Administration.

c) Assistance to developing countries using other institutions

(1) Sending experts

Under the Japan International Cooperation Agency's (JICA) scheme, the JPO sent 1 expert official to the Department of Justice and Human Right Republic of Indonesia, Directorate General of Intellectual Property Rights, 4 officials to the National Office of Industrial Property of Viet Nam, and 5 officials to the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines, to provide training and advice on patent examination and computerization.

(2) Modernization of Intellectual Property Administration

The JPO carried out the following projects in the Kingdom of Thailand, the Republic of the Philippines, and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam through the JICA project-type technical cooperation;

The Kingdom of Thailand: The JPO cooperation with JICA helped to establish the Industrial Property Information Center (IPIC) in the Department of Intellectual Property of Thailand in 1995. The JPO helped establish an industrial property right automation system and provided assistance, until June 2000, to provide and promote industrial property right information to users.

The Republic of the Philippines: The JPO has transferred technology needed for modernization of industrial property right administrative procedures of the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines, through establishing the patent administrative procedure system. This project began in May 1999, and it has gradually produced visible results, e.g. the bibliographic database has been established. Currently, the JPO carries out technology transfer and human resource development through establishment of the system applicable to the old law and of the PCT subsystem.

The Socialist Republic of Viet Nam: In April 2000, the JPO began the “Modernization of Industrial Property Administration Project in Viet Nam”, a four-year project for the modernization of administrative procedure at the National Office of Industrial Property of Viet Nam. This project is aimed at developing human resources through the automation of the administrative works.

(3) Training for government officials

In cooperation with JICA, the JPO provided a group training course on industrial property for government officials from developing APEC economies involved in industrial property right administration and examination. 16 officials in total from the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Indonesia, the Republic of the Philippines, the Kingdom of Thailand, the Republic of Peru and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam attended the training course. Patent information lectures and practical training regarding searches were provided.

The JPO sent expert officials to the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Indonesia and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and invited 1 or 2 counterpart(s) from each of these countries for specialized training such as lectures on computer-related technology and practical training.

The JPO held industrial property right enforcement seminars in the Republic of Singapore and the Republic of Korea. 27 participants from 3 countries, such as the Republic of Korea, the People's Republic of China and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam attended the seminar held in the Republic of Korea, and 36 participants from 5 Asian countries including the Republic of Singapore attended the seminar.

(4) Training for the private sector

In cooperation with the Association for Overseas Technical Scholarship (AOTS) and the JIII, the JPO held a total of 8 industrial property right training courses. Lectures were given on industrial property rights in general, including industrial property right information searches. 126 participants from the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Indonesia, the Republic of Chile, the Republic of Peru, Malaysia, the United Mexican States, the Republic of the Philippines, the Kingdom of Thailand, the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, India, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia and the Union of Myanmar attended the seminar.

(5) Cooperative seminars on promoting cooperation in the field of industrial property rights
In the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam in January 2002, the JPO held an industrial property - related seminar under the theme of “Modernization of Industrial Property Rights--- What

Users Demand” for strengthening the industrial property system and promoting the sharing of knowledge and experience and the information exchange among experts of industrial property Offices of member countries under the framework of ASEAN.

d) Project for Production of CD-ROMs containing laws and regulations related to intellectual property rights

In order to assist intellectual property offices in developing countries in which domestic laws on intellectual property rights are being established, the JPO has been engaged in the “Project to Assist in Gathering Information Related to Overseas Industrial Property Right Systems.” Under this program, laws and regulations related to the industrial property rights of major developed and developing countries are translated into English, if necessary, and recorded on CD-ROM, to which a search function is added

In fiscal year 2001, industrial property right laws (including laws and enforcement rules) from a total of 45 countries and a total of 5 international agreements (agreements concerning the Benelux countries, the Eurasian Patent Office, the EPO, the European Community and the TRIPS Agreements) were recorded on CD-ROM and provided without charge to developing countries, mainly in the APEC region. Information from the Argentine Republic, Australia, the Republic of Austria, the Republic of Belarus, the Kingdom of Belgium, the Federative Republic of Brazil, the Republic of Bulgaria, Canada, the Republic of Chile, the People's Republic of China, Taiwan, the Czech Republic, the Kingdom of Denmark, the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Finland, the French Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Hellenic Republic, Hong Kong, the Republic of Hungary, the Republic of Indonesia, Republic of Italy, Japan, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, Malaysia, the United Mexican States, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, New Zealand, the Kingdom of Norway, the Republic of the Philippines, the Portuguese Republic, the Republic of Korea, Romania, the Republic of Singapore, the Slovak Republic, Spain, the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, the Republic of Sudan, the Kingdom of Sweden, the Swiss Confederation, the Kingdom of Thailand, the Republic of Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, and the Socialist republic of Viet Nam is provided. The JPO intends to increase the number of countries and laws covered under this program.

Promotional activities (seminars, exhibitions, visits, advertising, etc.):

a) In Japan, the JPO held IPC seminars for promoting the understanding of IPC among the users of patent information in private sectors. The place and date of the seminars were as follows:

October 2001	Tokyo, Osaka, Nagoya
November 2001	Sendai, Takamatsu, Fukuoka
January 2002	Hokkaido, Hiroshima

* In the seminar, lectures on specific fields (machinery, chemistry, electronics and software) and F-terms, in addition to general topics, were given.

b) The JPO has prepared a booklet (“IPC Illustrated”) for aiding patent information users in private sectors to easily conduct the search by using IPC. In 1998, the title of the booklet was changed to “Easy to Understand IPC (IPC Illustrated)” and the contents for technical fields which were unfit for explanation by illustration were added so that IPCs, relating the technology which constitutes a whole technology or a partial technology, can be searched easily.

In March 2001, booklets for the following 3 fields were published:

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| (1) Digital camera | Principle IPC subclasses | H04N, G03B |
| (2) Electric vehicle | Principle IPC subclasses | H01M,B60L,B60K |
| (3) Solid waste disposal equipment | Principle IPC subclasses | B29B,C08J,B09B |

Studies to identify trends in new technology, e.g., by the use of patent statistics, preparation of monographs, etc.:

The JPO conducts techno-trend surveys based on patent as well as economic information mainly in fields in which the number of applications is increasing or those in which technological advances are foreseen. The purposes of this survey are to understand the research and development trends of enterprises and research institutes, to contribute to determination of the future direction of technological development, and to enable implementation of accurate examination and establishment of a flexible examination structure.

In FY 2001, the JPO conducted the survey concerning the following 15 themes:

- Technology for delivering and distributing digital contents;
- Internet protocol infrastructure technology
- Post-genome-related technology---protein-level analysis and utilization of Information Technology---
- Technology for disposing solid waste and reclaiming contaminated soil
- Semiconductor Packaging technology for the IT age---system-in-package technology---
- Programmable logic device technology
- Robots
- Lithography for Semiconductors
- Technology for recovering urban infrastructure
- Applications of Nanotechnology
 - CarbonNanotube, Optical Semiconductor, Scanning Probe Microscopy---
- Aircrafts (for civilian demand)
- Technology for improving stability in controlling automobiles
- Technology for protecting automobile passengers and pedestrians
- Electronic lock system
- High-memory density hard disk unit

The survey results are available on the JPO website.

Assistance furnished by offices to facilitate the changing over of receiving offices to electronic data carriers for the exchange of patent documents (see also item 4 of Chapter VI, above).

IX. Other relevant matters.

N.A.

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