WIPO

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ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORT

2001

ON TRADEMARK INFORMATION ACTIVITIES

submitted by the

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

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

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TRADEMARK INFORMATION ACTIVITIES**

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I. Evolution of registration activities:

- **Changes experienced in terms of application filings and registrations with respect to the previous year;**

Trademark applications decreased by 2.7%, from 110,057 in 2000 to 107,137 in 2001, and the number of registered trademarks increased by 9%, from 30,806 in 2000 to 33,683 in 2001.
    There might be a marginal error due to unprocessed written applications.

- **Trends or areas experienced rapid changes with respect to the previous year;**

The decrease of trademark applications in 2001 was mainly due to the decrease of service mark applications: the total trademark applications decreased by 5.7%, but service marks decreased by 24.6%.

II. Matters concerning the generation, reproduction, and distribution of secondary sources of trademark information, i.e., trademark gazettes:

- **Publishing, printing, copying techniques;**

Gazette publication
    Hard copy: Until April 1998 hard copies of the Trademark Gazettes were published two or three times a month, two or three months after the publication date, and were disseminated to the general public by mail.

    CD-ROM: From May 1998 to June 2001, the Trademark Gazettes were published on CD-ROM with a mixed-mode data format and a comfortable, user-friendly interface utilizing Mimosa from the EPO. They were also distributed inside and outside the country. The new CD-ROM gazette has also been issued with SGML data PDF documents, including the additional Korean language font for foreign users; it also supports English installation for users with an English OS. The Korean language version

of Adobe Acrobat Reader should be installed for the gazette inquiry.

Internet: In July 2001, KIPO began posting PDF-formatted gazettes daily on its website. This has replaced the CD-ROM version, although a master CD-ROM of each publication archived for permanent preservation. With this IT breakthrough, KIPO can expeditiously and inexpensively provide information for its customers while cutting down publication expenses and allowing users to gain easily access to information via the Internet.

- **Main types of announcements of the Office in the field of trademark information**

KIPO's website

On KIPO's website, applicants can find the following notices:

Subsequent notices of applications filed with KIPO, when not delivered to an applicant due to a change of address

Pre-notice of extinction of an IPR, due to non-payment of official fees

Other notices such as changes in laws or fees

Korean gazette search service

In 2001 KIPO launched an Internet gazette search service at http://www.kipo.go.kr. Applicants can freely refer to PDF-formatted trademark data via the Internet, at any time during the opposition request period from the publication date. After the opposition request period they can find the information at http://www.kipris.or.kr, the website of the Korea Institute of Patent Information (KIPI), which is a specialized IPR information service founded by KIPO in 1995. The search service allows applicants to be notified about their interests through a push-mail service.

- **Mass storage media and microforms used;**

- **Word processing and office automation;**

The KIPOnet system

To establish a paperless and fully computerized IPR-administration system, KIPO established the KIPOnet system, which realizes the vision of e-government services for handling all IPR-related administrative procedures.

Due to this system, all kinds of intellectual property can be filed online. Internal administrative processes were computerized within KIPO, enabling computerized searching and examining. In addition, filed applications were approved electronically in a more transparent manner. KIPO was also able to communicate examination results with applicants via the Internet or mobile service, to publish official gazettes via the Internet and to handle all registration procedures online.

Since its launch, the KIPOnet system has been continuously improved, and its subordinate systems have been developed. The subordinate systems, which have more than two or three sub-systems, provide better access. They also prepare electronic documents such as reports and notifications for examiners, as well as managing information and data produced during all these processes. In particular, the KIPOnet

system was enhanced in 2001 by the development of the supplementary systems below.

Online Trial System
Through the development in 2001 of the Online Trial System, which is linked to the KIPOnet system, some parts of trial administration are now conducted online. The system allows the electronic preparation and receipt of trial-related documents. It also enables electronic distribution and online routing of relevant documents for the convenience of applicants and for the purpose of improving efficiency in trials.

General Administration System
The General Administration System provides electronic approval for each form-based work process and necessary item of information. It also helps in laying a foundation to stably operate the existing systems through solving problems that arise during the operation of the system, and by introducing the Intergovernmental Department Electronic Document Distribution System. The General Administration System handles all matters in relation to the establishment of a link to the Electronic Approval System of KIPOnet.

Trademark Objection Decision Processing System
In relation to trademark, examination of objection requests and their approval and transmission via computer are processed through the Trademark Objection Decision Processing System.

- **Techniques used for the generation of trademark information (printing, recording, photocomposing, etc.).**

III. Matters concerning classifying, reclassifying and indexing of trademark information:

- **Classification and reclassification activities; Classification systems used, e.g., International Classification of Goods and Services for the Purposes of the Registration of Marks (Nice Classification), International Classification of the Figurative Elements of Marks (Vienna Classification), other classification (please state whether goods and services for the registration of marks and whether the figurative elements of marks are classified by your Office and, if so, which classification(s) is (are) used);**

Classification of goods and services
For the classification of goods and services, KIPO started to use the Nice Classification System in March 1998, and it officially became a party to the Nice Agreement in January 1999. In 2001 it completed its translation of the 8th Nice publication into Korean. This will be applied to KIPO's internal classification system in 2002.

Classification of figurative elements of marks
KIPO had been using its own unique standard for classification, but it started to use the Vienna Classification in October 1999. KIPO began to organize its database following this new classification, and it has begun to apply the 4th Vienna classification.

- **Use of electronic classification systems to check the classification symbols furnished by an applicant and which are contained in the lists of goods and/or services;**

- **Obligation for applicants to use pre-defined terms of the classification applied;**

- **Bibliographic data and processing for search purposes**

IV. Trademark manual search file establishment and upkeep:

- **File building and Updating;**

KIPO constructed the Trademark Search System, which has a database of bibliographical data and examined trademark images, registered applications and rejected applications. In addition, it has referral information such as international pharmaceuticals, international place of origin, foreign trademarks, public marks and geographical indications. All this data is classified according to the Nice Classification, the Vienna Classification and the Similar Group Code depending on the type of trademark, letters, figures and designated products. This data is updated in a batch file periodically for easier text and image searches. In 2001, the rejected data from 1995 to 1999, approximately 150,000 pieces of data, was loaded into the system in full image format.

- **Storage, including mass storage media;**

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

V. Activities in the field of computerized trademark search systems:

- **In-house systems (online/offline);**

New Trademark Search System
Since its construction in September 1998, the New Trademark Search System has been continuously developed. Separated from the Trademark Administrative System, it is intended to be user-friendly. Its new search engine helps usersSearch file access the system efficiently. KIPO's internal users can do image searches based on the Vienna code, using an assistant image pattern matching engine.

- **External databases;**

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

With the establishment of the KIPOnet system, all IPR administrative procedures have been automated. To manage the data produced in each phase of the procedure, to deal with matters that originate in the transfer of data to the next phase, and to speed up the administration of searches, KIPO uses the following subsidiary systems of KIPOnet:

General Information Management System
The General Information Management System outputs a variety of statistical and policy data relating to industrial properties such as patents, utility models, trademarks and industrial designs through using a variety of information retained by KIPO in database form. The system operates tools to efficiently manage large-volume data, and it provides various features for end-users.

Data Management System
The Data Management System simplifies the procedure to correct input errors by users and to change data in the old systems. It maintains a history of data changes, and guarantees correct data change to promptly meet requests of applicants and organizations.

Applied Process Monitoring System
The Applied Process Monitoring System aims to prevent the occurrence of problems caused by delays in work processing, and to provide information on the problem-managing status, by application type and by application form. If a problem occurs, this system analyzes the cause of the problem and establishes measures to handle it.

Quality Management System
Strengthening the function of the KIPOnet Quality Management System, which was introduced in December 2000, has provided a basis for: enhancing work productivity, through the establishment of standardized processes; it has made it possible to efficiently operate resources, through systematic process management; it has also made it possible to maintain the balance between an individual's workload and the developer's workload, through a coordinated distribution of the workloads among departments. The system allows for efficient quality management, as well as process improvement, through continual inspection of the system and improvements in customer satisfaction.

In November 2001, KIPO was granted an ISO9001 Certificate by the Korean Foundation for Quality for its development, management and servicing of the KIPOnet system. This certification assures that KIPO will maintain the excellent reliability and credibility of the system.

Knowledge Management System
The Knowledge Management System facilitates the sharing of information among staff members through integrated management of a variety of information and intellectual properties held by KIPO. It also provides this information optionally through personalized portals. The system is dedicated to the efficient management of knowledge and information retained by KIPO. It helps to activate knowledge management by improving the productivity of IP administrative processes through the already-established evaluation and reward system for knowledge activities. In September 2001, 5,448 individual items of information were posted on the relevant website, which showed the possibility of constructing an infrastructure for knowledge management.

The Applicant/Agent Information Management System
The Applicant/Agent Information Management System manages information relating to the registration and management of applicants and agents. It helps applicants or agents identify themselves by using a registration number and code given on the date of completing registration with KIPO. This enables applicants to overcome the physical impossibility of identifying themselves at the time of e-filing.

The Immediate Notification System
The Immediate Notification System notifies applicants of the KIPO's decision to accept or reject their applications on the same date the applications are received online by KIPO.

The Online Payment System
The Online Payment System reduces the overall time taken for KIPO to process fee payments by applicants using Internet banking, and it allows applicants to have access to information relating to fee payment.

- **Equipment used (hardware, including the types of terminal and network used, and software), carriers used;**

By improving the IT infrastructure of the KIPOnet system, such as the server, discs and common software, KIPO's business processing has been accelerated.

Hardware
Together with the development of the e-Patent Portal System, it was necessary to increase the processing capability of reception and dissemination servers. To ensure a reasonable response, these servers were upgraded to the Enterprise Server (HP V2600). Additionally, Online Proxy Servers (HP A500) were configured to provide prompt reaction.

Network
To prevent e-filing service disruption, critical network devices were redundantly installed, and redundant Internet service providers (ISPs) such as Korea Telecom and Dacom were implemented. Duplicate network connecting devices (e.g. routers, switches and firewalls) and duplicate ISPs could create high availability and provide redundancy if one device were to fail. This duplication also provides load balancing in routing traffic.

For storage sharing among servers, a storage area network (SAN) was introduced to the KIPOnet system. The SAN improved the efficiency of the data storage and reduced the workload related to disk management.

Software
In 2001 KIPO also set up Customer Request Management software for the e-Patent Portal System and Gdomino for handling the connection with other governmental offices related to the electronic approval system.

VI. Administration of trademark services available to the public (relating to facilities, e.g., for lodging applications, registering trademarks, assisting clients with searching procedures, obtaining official publications and registry extracts):

- **Planning, administration, automation, security;**

- **Collection management, preservation;**

IP Library
The IP Library contains patent documents, such as bibliographic data, abstracts and full texts, in paper, microform or on CD-ROM, on the basis of mutual exchange from 21 countries and four international organizations. The total amount of patent documents preserved includes 16,112 CDs, 19,833 films, 261,613 microfiches, and 3,201 cartridge tapes. The library also possesses non-patent documents that have been donated or purchased from other sources, including approximately 22,787 volumes and 507 periodicals related to science and technology, and CD-ROMs of annual reports and statistics.

The above-mentioned materials are arranged by class or numerical order. All of these materials can be searched by KIPO's examiners or by the public. An electronic database is also provided at the Internet corner of the IP Library.

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

e-Patent Portal System
KIPO established the e-Patent Portal System, which was designed for reforming KIPO's website into an online service site for the cyber community. The system provides, through a unified portal, diverse IP services including web-based online applications, specification preparation using a commercial word processor, simplification of preliminary procedures, Internet gazettes and customer relationship management. This has enabled more forms to be submitted online, as well as mutual online communication

between KIPO and its customers by e-mail or mobile phone. By securing this channel for a variety of users, the limitation of one-sided notification has been overcome. As a result, KIPO can accumulate the applicants' feedback for making better policies and establishing IT strategy in the future.

VII. Matters concerning mutual exchange of trademark documentation and information:

- **International or regional cooperation in the exchange of trademark information, e.g., in the form of official gazettes;**

In the interest of mutual exchange, KIPO provides the *Official Gazette of Designs and Trademarks* on CD-ROM for 23 other countries and two international organizations, including AU, CA, DE, ES, FR, GR, IR, IT, JP, PH, RU, SE, SG, TR, US and EP. KIPO has received official gazettes in paper or on CD-ROM from US, BE, JP.

- **Exchange of machine-readable information**

VIII. Matters concerning education and training including technical assistance to developing countries:

- **Promotional activities (seminars, exhibitions, visits, advertising, etc.);**

Guide to the KIPOnet system
To help foreigners understand the KIPOnet system, we published a guidebook in English, entitled "Introduction of the KIPOnet system". Hard copies and CD-ROM versions have been disseminated to visitors at KIPO and to staff going abroad on business trips.

Seminar on intellectual property rights for IP-enforcement staff members
1) Objective: To promote IPR protection measures such as preventing the counterfeiting of products, reviewing the current situation and establishing the enforcement system on intellectual property rights in the Asian region.
2) Dates: June 26, 2001 - June 29, 2001.
3) Participants: 20 participants from China and Vietnam, respectively, and twenty participants from Korea and Japan, mostly government officials engaged in IP enforcement.
4) Organizers: KIPO/the IIPTI and the JPO.

The APEC International Symposium on IP & IT

The APEC International Symposium on IP & IT was held under the co-sponsorship of WIPO and KIPO from 19 to 23 November 2001, with the participation of 33 governmental officials from 14 APEC member economies. Dr. Kamil Idris, Director General of WIPO, delivered a keynote speech under the title "Closing the Digital Gap in the Global Knowledge-Based Economic Era." The symposium provided a forum for IT experts from the USPTO, the JPO and APEC's IP-related public officials to discuss possible cooperation for IPR administration and information technology. The discussion also covered the expansion of technology transfer to developing countries and the formation of a strategic partnership in the international community.

WIPO Asian Regional Seminar on IPRs

1) Objective: To examine the respective role of the governments and the user sector as well as the links and interaction between them and to explore effective means to increase and facilitate the use of the IP system by users and user organization.
2) Date: October 17-19, 2001. The duration for the seminar at the IIPTI, Daejeon, was three nights and four days.
3) Participants: Approximately a hundred participants, including speakers and IPR decision makers or experts from 22 countries including China, Indonesia, Brunei, Bhutan and the USA.
4) Organizers: Co-sponsored by WIPO and the IIPTI.

- Training courses for national and foreign participants;

Cyber International Patent Academy

The Cyber International Patent Academy is an online training course. Its contents and database were completed by the end of 2001, and the online service will be possible in 2002. Its trainees are very diverse, from elementary school students to senior citizens who are interested in IPRs and inventions. The course will be available via the Internet. Trainees can share relevant information, including basic knowledge of IPRs from experts in area such as industry, law, administration and education.

Remote training program between Daejeon and Seoul

Through the Multimedia Training Center established in September 2000, remote training is possible for our customers between Daejeon and Seoul. KIPO's headquarters moved to Daejeon from Seoul. However, with more than 25% of Korea's population living in Seoul, it has more IPR applicants than any other city in Korea, and it is still very important to promote invention and to disseminate IPR-related information to its residents. At the Multimedia Training Center, KIPO can meet these needs by offering online training through means of remote lectures on diverse training programs, including a beginner's program on IPR, information searches and a user's guide for e-filing. This program can be extended to local users within a few years.

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

Technical assistance for developing countries

With the experience and know-how learned from the development of the KIPOnet system, KIPO has endeavored to provide technical assistance to developing countries that have started to develop their internal automation for IPR administration, or have faced some difficulties in conducting relevant business. In particular, in 2000 we provided a consultation service to the National Institute of Industrial Property (INPI) in Brazil through dispatching an engineering consulting team to their office in accordance with a formal request from their commissioner. As a result, both offices agreed in March 2001, in the Record of Discussion, that KIPO would provide the INPI with further technical cooperation for its internal automation system related to IPR administration. In addition, KIPO had a promotion tour to neighboring states Singapore, Hong Kong, and Malaysia. KIPO is planning to expand its capacity to assist IPOs in developing countries that would like to initiate an automation plan.

On-the-job training for trainers and instructors of intellectual property
1) Objective: To provide trainers/instructors with an opportunity for exchanging information on topical and emerging issues in the field of intellectual property; to provide an opportunity for exchanging information on policies, strategies, approaches and experiences in the fields of teaching and training in intellectual property.
2) Dates: Five working days from March 19 to 23, 2001.
3) Participants: Approximately 30 participants from 12 countries including Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam and Korea
4) Organizers (training institute): WIPO and the International Intellectual Property Training Institute (IIPTI)/KIPO.

Training course on the intellectual property system
1) Objective: To provide experience and knowledge on the intellectual property systems and industrial development strategies in both Korea and in other advanced countries; to help participants develop expertise that could maximize the efforts of their respective countries to improve their national IP system for economic and technological development; to assist participants in developing the IP system in their respective countries.
2) Date: March 29 - April 11, 2001; September 13- 26, 2001 (14 days).
3) Participants: Thirty-three participants from 14 developing countries including Bangladesh, Bulgaria and Uzbekistan.
4) Organizers: KIPO/the IIPTI, in cooperation with the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA).

IX. Other relevant matters.

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