

Patent News of Japan

February, 2017

1. Canon ranked top for US patent registration among Japanese companies for the second consecutive year.

Canon Inc. announced on January 12 that Canon ranked first among Japanese companies again following last year, for the number of patents granted at USPTO in 2016 according to the survey conducted by IFI CLAIMS Patent Services.

They place value on obtaining patents both of domestic and overseas and promote its business strategies unique to each region. Especially the US is a high priority for Canon because there are many corporations with advanced technologies and the market scale is large.

With regard to R & D achievements, judging the management direction and technology trends, they actively promote patenting. Also they are working on increasing the quality of patents by conducting thorough prior art searches. Closely cooperating with technology and intellectual property divisions, they would improve its technological capabilities and provide better products.

For more information, please visit Canon's news release on its global website at <http://global.canon/en/news/2017/20170112-2.html>



2. “PPAP”, trademark applied by company in Osaka, not related to Piko-Taro.

The popular music which is known by its comic song and dance “PPAP” and the phrase in the music “Pen-Pineapple-Apple-Pen (Japanese: ペンパイナップルアップーペン” has been applied as trademark by a company in Osaka which has no relationship with the original creator Piko-Taro.

According to Japan Patent Office, this company and the representative of the company files more than 10,000 trademarks which is about 10% of total trademark filings in Japan each year. In May 2016, JPO cautioned on its homepage that a large number of misappropriated applications are filed from some applicants".

According to JPO, applications from this company became outstanding from 2013. It accounted for about 15,000 out of about 147,000 applications in 2015.

A person in charge of the Trademark division at JPO is puzzled saying that they can do nothing but accepting if they apply trademarks. Because he has not paid the application fee, most of them would be dismissed after a while. JPO announces that even if the trademark is applied by others, the applicant should not give up obtaining trademark right.

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3. To introduce Japanese style of patent examination system in South Africa, - JPO transfers its know-how.

The Patent Office at Republic of South Africa is expected to introduce a Japanese style "substantive examination" system. Japan Patent Office will teach technical expertise and know-how necessary for substantive examination. In South Africa, there are more than 270 Japanese companies and they have requested to introduce a substantive examination system. Although it is not sure when this will be achieved, it is likely to boost technological innovation and business expansion of companies in the region.

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