

Patent News of Japan

April, 2017

1. JPO published JPO Status Report 2017.

Japan Patent Office (JPO) published "JPO Status Report 2017" which posted the latest statistical information and policy achievements.

Corporations are promoting selection and concentration of business and overseas deployment in order to enhance competitiveness in rapidly changing industry, and this has made IP strategy advanced and globalized. Reflecting this situation, the number of patent applications in Japan has been gradually decreased with 318,381 applications while ratio of patent grant has been increased. This can be said that the change from quantity to quality in IP strategy is the trend. Both of design with 30,879 applications and trademarks with 161,859 applications have been increased from last year. Also, PCT international applications that JPO received was 44,495 which recorded the highest number of applications.

The status report was written in both of Japanese and English. The report is available at http://www.jpo.go.jp/english/reference_room/statusreport/status2017_e.htm

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2. JPO has revised the examination guidelines for trademarks.

In response to changes of social situations, JPO has reviewed the contents of "examination guidelines for trademarks" in order to improve the predictability of trademark examination.

Examination guidelines for trademarks summarize the basic concepts (interpretations, operations etc.) of trademarks practices. The guidelines are widely used by applicants and attorneys to understand the examination practices at JPO. The guidelines have been partially revised for several times from the first edition published in 1971. It has been requested, however, to review the whole contents in order to catch up the latest trends of business transaction. JPO worked on the revision of the guidelines in the 2-year plan.

The key points of revision are contents and structures. For the contents, addition of definitions of terms and comments with examples in each clause was made, and for the structures, addition of headlines and standardization of terms etc. The details can be found at http://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2017/0328_001.html



