

## Patent News of Japan

May, 2017

### **1. Revision information of Japanese FI classification.**

FI scheme is revised twice an year in order to catch up the technology development. When revising, documents which were already classified with old FI entries are reclassified accordingly. There may be some delays to reclassify the records. Therefore it is recommended to use both new and old FI when searching patent documents for a while.

For more detailed information, please go to JPO website at [http://www.jpo.go.jp/torikumi\\_e/searchportal\\_e/fi\\_revision.htm](http://www.jpo.go.jp/torikumi_e/searchportal_e/fi_revision.htm).

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### **2. Japan and the U.S. – Discussion to shorten the time for examination.**

JPO and USPTO will start discussion to aim for equalizing the time for examination. JPO will make a proposal to take the procedure about 5 months on average. Currently, it takes different times to complete the examination in Japan and the U.S. The proposal will make applicants to acquire patents at almost same time so that they will be able to utilize their IP in both Japan and the U.S. market smoothly.

JPO and USPTO have examined based on Collaborative Search program while sharing examination information and it takes 7 months on average for the first office action in Japan. They will shorten this time by 2 months.

So far, there has been no standard time and there were some cases that the office action in the U.S. was issued 1 month later. This has caused the delay for corporations that are going to sell new products to star the project. If the notice would be issued at the same time, this will have corporations make their business plan easier.

According to the survey conducted by WIPO, in 2015, Japanese companies filed about 200,000 patents overseas, of which the U.S. accounted for the largest number of about 86,000 applications. US companies filed approximately 26,000 applications in Japan.

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### 3. April 18th is the “Invention Day” in Japan.

“Invention Day” is a day that Patent Monopoly Act which is the predecessor of the current Patent Law was promulgated on April 18 in Japan, 1885 by the first Commissioner of JPO, Mr. TAKAHASHI Korekiyo.

The day is an anniversary enacted for the purpose of enlightening the industrial property rights in Japan. Various events were held by JPO and the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), and regional offices of METI during the week including the day.

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### 4. Presentation seminar of JPDS Users’ IP Group (JIUG).

JIUG is the group consists of users of JPDS products and services. Regular meetings are held once in two months for researching the effective use of patent information. More than 60 participants gathered at JPDS Tokyo head office, and branch offices at Nagoya, Osaka and Kyushu. The members are divided into some groups and working on various topics. The major themes in this year are “Functional improvements of JPDS database from the viewpoints of researchers”, “Technology trend analysis without reading patent documents”, “Method for shaping IP mind for utilizing IP in business activities” and “Recent hot topics and law amendments such as ”invention award” and “product-by-process claims” and so on”.

In April, annual presentation seminar was held in above 4 cities to show the results of 1-year group works. The seminar attracted more than 100 audiences. This was 4th times that JIUG hold the seminar. Year by year, the participants and audience have been increased. This seminar is valuable for both JPDS and JPDS customers because for JPDS this would be big chances to hear users voices directly and reflect their



demand and complaints and for customers to share their insights of the usage of JPDS products and services. At the seminar, invited speaker from JPO also made a presentation and talked about recent achievements at JPO.

If you have any questions and enquiries, please contact [international-dept@jpds.co.jp](mailto:international-dept@jpds.co.jp)

