

# Patent News of Japan

## July, 2017

### 1. JPO introduces 12 new classifications for IoT patent.

Japan Patent Office (JPO) set up 12 new classifications to search IoT related patent such as “ZJC”(manufacturing), “ZJI”(construction), “ZJM”(service business) etc. Prior to this introduction, JPO has introduced “ZIT” facet classification for all the IoT related technologies last year, and it has been sub-divided according to its application.

Searching by ZIT, 480 IoT related patent documents are hit (as of June 12th). Of these, 240 documents are sub-divided into 12 classifications. ZIG (home and building) is the most frequently classified item with 52 documents followed by ZJF (health care) with 45 documents.

According to the applicants, Hitachi Ltd. and its subsidiaries filed 30 applications, Panasonic Corp. and its subsidiaries filed 19 applications, and Mitsubishi Electric Corp. filed 18 applications. Foreign capital and individuals filed 30% of all IoT related patents.

JPO aims to add ZIT and its sub-classification to IPC. JPO has already started discussion with other patent offices and hearings from examiners. It is expected that unified patent classification will enable companies to search global patent trend easily and to construct IoT related strategy.

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### 2. WIPO Global Innovation Index: Tokyo-Yokohama ranked No.1 in patent applications.

World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) published Global Innovation Index 2017 including patent application rankings according to the regions. From Japan region, Tokyo-Yokohama cluster is ranked first followed by Shenzhen-Hong Kong cluster (China) and San Jose-San Francisco cluster (California, US).

Patent application from 2011 to 2015, Tokyo-Yokohama filed 94,079 applications, which is twice time of 41,218 applications of 2nd Shenzhen-Hong Kong cluster. Osaka-Kobe-Kyoto cluster ranked 5th and Nagoya ranked 9th from Japan. One of the characteristics of Japan is that the number of patent applications are concentrated extremely in these 3 regions.

WIPO also published national rankings of technological innovation every year. In 2017, Japan ranked 14 raising 2 ranks from previous year. While the amount of R&D expenditures is evaluated, less numbers of foreign research institutions is pointed out. According to the report, Switzerland ranked first and Sweden ranked second.

For more details please visit WIPO website at

<http://www.wipo.int/publications/en/details.jsp?id=4193>



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### **3. New Osaka office for SMEs' IP protection.**

National Center for Industrial Property Information and Training (INPIT), JPO's extra governmental organization, announced on 16th that it would establish controlling office of Kinki (Osaka metropolitan) district in Japan. Prior to the establishment, INPIT accepts appointment for TV interview and on-site interview examination.

INPIT is an organization to support IP protection and utilization for SMEs. As a relocation of central government offices to local communities, Osaka prefecture requested the transfer of examination department and INPIT decided to establish the local offices. This will be the first time for INPIT to have the offices in Kinki district.

The Kinki office will have about 10 staffs and 4 of them will be IP experts. The on-site interview examination will be held first and third Friday every month.

For more information, please visit INPIT website at

[http://www.inpit.go.jp/about/topic/170616\\_inpit-kansai.html](http://www.inpit.go.jp/about/topic/170616_inpit-kansai.html)

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