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STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES

ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORT

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ON PATENT INFORMATION ACTIVITIES*

submitted by

JAPAN

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

*
– The term “patent” covers utility models and SPCs.
– Information related to design patent activities reported by industrial property offices issuing design patents is included in the series of documents SCIT/ATR/ID.

JAPAN
Annual Technical Reports on Patent Information Activities
(1999 Edition)

I. Evolution of patent activities:

-Application filings and grants (registration) last year:

In 1999, application filings, pre-grant oppositions and post-grant oppositions totaled 405,655, 1,482 and 148,577 respectively.

- Trends noted and rate of change compared to the preceding year:

In 1999 patent application filings totaled 405,655, which was about 101% of the patent application filings in 1998 (401,932). Thus a slight increase but no dramatic change is noted.

II. Matters concerning the generation, reproduction, distribution and use of primary and secondary sources of patent information:

- Publication, printing and photocopying (relating to major JPO-issued patent gazettes and documents):

Breakdown of patent gazettes/documents released by the Japanese Patent Office (JPO) in 1999:

Unexamined patent gazettes:	356,100
Unexamined utility model gazettes:	156
Publication of patent gazettes on PCT:	16,970
Publication of utility model gazettes on PCT:	0
Registered utility model gazettes:	9,100
Patent gazettes:	154,200
Utility model gazettes:	14,200
Patent opposition decision gazettes:	4,780
Utility model registration opposition decision gazettes:	620
Trial decision gazettes:	3,900
Examination requests lists:	154,031
Technical evaluation requests lists:	1,162
Registration lists:	6,900
Final disposition lists:	176,000

- Word-processing and office automation:

Nothing in particular to report.

- New technologies used to generate patent information,

e.g., printing, recording, microfilming, phototypesetting, etc.:

Current distribution of CD-ROM gazettes:

Since December 1990, the JPO was accepting patent and utility model applications filed on floppy disc (FD) or online (electronic applications and applications on FD were abolished in 1999). The JPO compiles these electronic applications or electronic applications data into CD-ROM gazettes.

1. Unexamined CD-ROM gazettes

Since January 1993, the JPO has been issuing unexamined CD-ROM gazettes, which store unexamined patent and utility model gazettes on a CD-ROM. Registered utility model gazettes published after July 1994 are stored on these unexamined CD-ROM gazettes. In addition, since January 1996 the unexamined CD-ROM gazettes have been covering publication of patent gazettes on PCT, publication of utility model gazettes on PCT, republication of patent gazettes on PCT and republication of utility models on PCT.

Each unexamined CD-ROM gazettes contains approximately 5,000 documents. In 1999, the JPO issued a total of 76 unexamined CD-ROM gazettes.

Unexamined CD-ROM gazettes can be searched by 15 search keys including document number, IPC, applicant and title of invention. The unexamined CD-ROM gazettes record data in a mixed mode of text and image data. Accordingly, full text searches are possible using parts of the text data.

2. CD-ROM patent gazettes

Since January 1994, the JPO has been publishing CD-ROM gazettes, each covering patent and utility model gazettes. Examined gazettes were cancelled in March 1996 following the introduction of the post-grant opposition system in January 1996. Since May of the same year, the JPO has been issuing CD-ROM patent gazettes covering post-grant registered gazettes (patent gazettes, utility model gazettes).

Additionally, since September 1997 patent opposition decision gazettes and utility model registration opposition decision gazettes have been recorded on the CD-ROM patent gazettes.

A single CD-ROM patent gazette is issued weekly and covers a total of 3,000 documents.

These CD-ROM patent gazettes can be searched by 20 search keys including patent number, IPC, applicant and title of invention. The CD-ROM patent gazettes store text and image data in a mixed mode. Accordingly, full text searches are possible using parts of the text data.

At present, there are 17 software suppliers offering Japanese language software on the market to use with the CD-ROM gazettes. Some of them offering Internet patent information services using CD-ROM gazette data. The JPO has been supplying the CD-ROM gazette review software (JMSCD4)

for running on Windows (English version) to foreign patent offices free of charge. The JPO issues a new CD-ROM version as soon as its entries have been updated. The new version (JMCD4.1) has been offered to foreign patent offices since August 1997.

Easy to use gazette review software (JPO.CONV) applicable to unexamined CD-ROM gazettes has also been available since January 1996. Additionally, CD-ROM patent gazettes since May of the same year were upgraded to be able to display data even in an English language environment and have been supplied since October 1997.

III. Matters concerning abstracting, classifying, reclassifying and indexing of technical information contained in patent documents:

- Abstracting, reviewing and translation:

Generation and use of secondary documents:

1. Generation of English abstracts of unexamined patent gazettes (PAJ: Patent Abstracts of Japan)

The PAJ combines English abstracts of unexamined patent application filed by Japanese nationals with typical drawings. Since 1976, the JPO has been distributing PAJs in the form of pamphlets to foreign patent offices.

The PAJs covering unexamined patent gazettes released after October 1994 are compiled into mixed-mode CD-ROM gazettes, replacing conventional paper PAJs since April 1995. MIMOSA software jointly procured by the trilateral patent offices (JPO, USPTO, EPO) is used, and the PAJs has been supplied to patent offices and public agencies in 89 location in 75 countries to date.

In 1999, the JPO issued and delivered 345,661 PAJs on CD-ROMs.

The PAJ/CD-ROMs are issued at a rate of one disc per month in order of the date the original gazettes were laid open.

Back files of PAJs (applicable to unexamined patent gazettes issued between 1976 and 1993) are also stored on 99 CD-ROMs under 69 technical fields.

The PAJ/CD-ROM, placed on the market through the Japan Patent Information Organization (JAPIO), is useful for companies wishing to construct custom databases and provide information services to third parties.

2. Generation of PAJ/INDEX CD-ROM

The PAJ/INDEX CD-ROM stores bibliographic data and summaries of PAJs and corresponding PAJ/CD-ROM disc numbers.

Issued quarterly, the CD-ROM stores cumulative data, with a maximum storage capacity of a year's worth of data.

The CD-ROM has been issued since April 1997. The CD-ROMs are supplied to those foreign patent offices currently receiving the PAJ/CD-ROMs.

3. Generation of PAJ/CD-ROM foreign applications version

This version contains English abstracts of unexamined patent applications filed by foreign nationals that are not contained in PAJ/CD-ROMs for domestic applications.

These CD-ROMs are issued annually, and store back files of unexamined patent gazettes issued between 1989 and 1997 in the IPC section.

In March 1999, the JPO published sections A and H. Publication will continue until March 2001.

Files of PAJs corresponding to applications filed by foreigners since 1998 are supplied on the current PAJ/CD-ROMs.

4. Foreign patent documents

The JPO prepares code data of Japanese abstracts for U.S. patent specifications and stores them electrically as searchable reference data.

5. Abstracts prepared by JAPIO

JAPIO's Japanese abstracts of unexamined patent gazettes are stored as electronic data and used as search documents.

- Classification and re-classification activities:

In 1999, about 400,000 applications were classified by IPC when laid open, about 130,000 applications classified upon publication of patent and utility model gazettes, and about 10,000 applications classified upon publication of registered utility model gazettes.

The JPO played an active role in the IPC revision program, sending delegates to the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)'s conferences on IPC.

- Coordinate indexing (ICIREPAT type and/or domestic deep indexing systems and keyword indexing):

The JPO continued ICIREPAT type indexing for the field covering alloys.

1. System name and symbol	Alloy (AL)
2. Storage media	Magnetic types and variable length blocks
3. Development phase	Indexing continues

4. Indexed number of documents year and countries	About 80,000, up to 1999, in Japan
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- Hybrid system indexing;

Hybrid system indexing codes are assigned to documents and used as search keys.

- Bibliographic data and full text processing for data search;

Refer to V.5.

IV. Search file establishment and upkeep:

(Matters corresponding to databases)

- File creation and updating:

1. Updating search files

Examiner's search files are continuously updated. In applicable search files, Japanese patent documents (unexamined patent gazettes, registered utility model gazettes, etc.) are added on the JPO's internal classification (FI) based on subdivision of the IPC classification. In 1999, a total of about 400,000 documents were added to the applicable search files.

2. F-term analysis

The search file is classified into about 2,600 themes (technical fields), and about 1,800 of these themes were analyzed in 1999. Currently, about 2,520 themes are available for use, consisting of about 820 themes for which F-terms are not required (as FI is enough), and about 1,700 themes for which analysis has been completed. Documents for which F-term analysis has been completed total about 19,060,000.

3. Public disclosure of F-terms

The JPO discloses F-terms to the public in order for those themes that are ready for use. These F-terms are disclosed through JAPIO and users can make F-term searches using PATOLIS, a commercial online service offered by the JAPIO.

In May 1999, a total of 2,176 themes were disclosed and ready for use, except those themes which were under maintenance.

- File custody;

Examiner's search files are stored in RAID devices as electronic data, with some of the search files kept in paper form.

- JPO's internal documents and foreign documents useful as search files:

The JPO stores patent documents from USPTO, EPO and major European countries including Britain, Germany, France and Switzerland as image data available for ECLA searches.

V. Activities in the field of computerized and mechanized search systems:

- JPO's internal system (online/offline);

1. F-term search system

The search system started changing from a system using host computers, to a distributed processing system using downsizing technology of servers and workstations in the 1997 fiscal year, with plans to complete the development within the 1999 fiscal year.

The patent and utility model search system, which is the distributed processing system, makes clusters of an F-term search system. (The F-term search system allows electronic examination document of gazettes, etc. and makes search and screening by search keys called F-term attached to the examination documents). The patent and utility model search system makes a search of non-patent document related to computer software, along with a foreign patent document search system which uses the European Patent Office's internal classification (ECLA) and U.S. Patent Classification (USC). This system makes it possible to input search keys as F-term, FI, free word, CS-term, ECLA and USC simultaneously, and realizes an examination environment which seamlessly searches various documents such as domestic patents, foreign patents, non-patent documents, etc. The system can refer patent families and reference documents linking them, and can also store text data of specifications before laying open, and makes pre-laying-open search possible.

Furthermore, this system makes a full text search possible, using text data of patent gazettes stored by the paperless system and text data of foreign patent gazettes. Synonymous searching is possible using the thesaurus and users can customize the system by compiling a synonymy dictionary.

2. J-term search system

This system converts trial decisions and court decisions gazettes to electronic form and makes searches and screening through search keys called J-term, which is attached to these documents. Full text searches are possible for trial and judgement after January, 2000.

- External database;

The JPO's examiners use the following external databases for searches. These databases are accessible online from terminals installed in the JPO.

1. PATOLIS

Japanese patent document search system offered by the JAPIO.

2. JOIS

Science and technical document search system offered by the Japan Information Center of Science and Technology (JICST).

3. CAS Online

4. Derwent WPI/WPIL

- Clerical management system (i.e., registration, legal status, statistical compilation, administrative support, etc.);

1. Electronic filing and file wrapper processing system

The JPO commissioned the electronic filing and file-wrapper processing system in December 1990. This system is designed to raise operational efficiency by computerizing paperwork related to acceptance of applications, formality checks, etc. Introduction of this system makes it possible to file patent and utility model applications online. All entries in applications are converted electronically, stored in database files, processed and administrated. Applications by floppy disc were stopped in January 1999.

Furthermore, a paperless system will start from January 2000, which deals with trial of patent, utility model, design and trademark (including pre-trial), and procedures of PCT international applications noting Japan as the specified country.

Percentage of online electronic applications out of total applications is 96% in 1999 (average from January to December)

2. Other clerical processing systems (i.e., registration, legal status, statistics, administrative support, etc.):

A document transmission system, registration processing system and the National Center for Industrial Property Information (NCIPI) file-wrapper processing system are continuing to operate successfully..

- Hardware (including terminals and network) and circuits used:

1. Hardware

- CPUs:

MP5800/210	1 set
M-880/180	1 set
M-680D	2 sets
ACOS1510	1 set
MP5600/180	1 set

- Terminals:	4,296 units
- Electronic disc devices:	1 set
- Semiconductor memory devices	9 sets
- Magnetic tape units:	33 sets
- Magnetic disc units:	89 sets
- Optical disc units:	12 sets
- Optical disc libraries:	49 sets
- Servers:	81 sets
- Disc array units:	231 sets
- CD-ROM units:	12 sets
2. Circuits used	
- Leased circuits:	16 lines
- ISDN:	17 lines
- DDX-P:	0 lines
- Frame relay:	4 lines

VI. Administration of the National Center for Industrial Property Information (NCICI) and services available to the public:

(Matters relating to inspection service in the NCICI)

- Collection, acquisition and preparation:

The NCICI offers gazettes acquired through exchange from patent offices in 80 countries (including 5 international organizations), as well as JPO-published gazettes for public inspection.

1. As to paper gazettes, NCICI arranges the following items by class: Japanese gazettes (published up until 1996), U.S. patent specifications (published up until 1996), unexamined specifications from Britain, EPO, and PCT (published up until 1992) and specifications laid open from Germany (published up until 1991). Other gazettes are also classified by issue date and patent number, and these are all available for public inspection.

2. Regarding CD-ROM gazettes, NCIPI collects and offers the following: Japanese gazettes (unexamined gazettes, patent gazettes and English abstracts of unexamined patents), along with foreign counterparts from Germany, Austria, EPO, PCT, Britain, U.S.A., France, Spain, Denmark, Switzerland, China, Italy, East European countries, 3 Benelux nations, OAPI, Slovenia, Russia, Australia, and Korea. These are all available for public inspection on the electronic gazette inspection equipment (2 workstation type and 26 personal computers).

3. As to microfilms, NCIPI processes those mainly from France, former East Germany, Sweden, etc. by issued date and document number, and offers them for public inspection.

- Collection and maintenance;

Gazettes collected are carefully preserved to withstand long-term use.

1. Paper gazettes are compiled by class, published date or document number and bound into book form. These gazettes are routinely checked for breakage, spoilage, missing pages, etc.

2. CD-ROM gazettes are preserved, mounted in the search CD caddy case.

3. Microfilms are stored in a special cabinet.

- Inter-library lending, common preservation of documents, network of domestic patent libraries:

The JPO has established 55 intellectual property centers in each regional bureau (8 sites) of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) and in each prefecture. The JPO provides gazettes free of charge continuously, and guides and supervises administration, preservation and utilization of these gazettes at these inspection facilities.

- Public information services (including computer services):

Public gazette review services are offered free of charge by NCIPI and 55 local patent libraries, including 8 regional bureaus of MITI and in every prefecture. In addition to paper gazettes services, electronic public inspection is available as follows:

1. CD-ROM gazette public inspection service

For the mixed-mode CD-ROM gazette published by the JPO, unexamined gazettes can be searched by 15 different keys including unexamined publication number, IPC, applicant, title of invention, and patent gazettes by 20 different keys, including document number and other bibliographic data. Full text searches are also possible.

Collected foreign CD-ROM gazettes can be searched by 10 and several keys including document number, IPC, applicant, title of invention, etc.

The Osaka Prefectural Patent Information Center also offers public access to gazettes published by Germany, USPTO, EPO, PCT, Britain, France, Spain, Denmark, Switzerland, China, Italy and OAPI. The Aichi Art and Culture Center (Aichi Prefectural Library) provides access to gazettes published by Germany, PCT, France, Italy, and Slovenia.

From April 1999, foreign gazettes can be accessed at the Aichi Prefecture Industrial Technical Center.

2. Public inspection of comprehensive document database

Online access to comprehensive document database is available at NCICI (33 terminals), Kinki Regional Bureau (6 terminals), Chubu Regional Bureau (2 terminals), Hokkaido

Regional Bureau (1 terminal), Tohoku Regional Bureau (1 terminal), Chugoku Regional Bureau (1 terminal) and Shikoku Regional Bureau (1 terminal), Kyushu Regional Bureau (1 terminal) of MITI, and Okinawa General Office (1 terminal). The inquiry service includes: reference document numbers, IPC references, references by numbers and final treatment for Japanese gazettes and reference to document numbers for foreign countries' gazettes (U.S.A., EPO, former West Germany, Britain, France, Switzerland, PCT), and USC inquiries, etc.

3. Public inspection of new comprehensive document database

The new comprehensive document database online service is offered at the NCIVI (27 terminals), Kinki Regional Bureau (9 terminals), Chubu Regional Bureau (2 terminals), Kyushu Regional Bureau (3 terminals), Hokkaido Regional Bureau (2 terminals), Tohoku Regional Bureau (2 terminals), Chugoku Regional Bureau (2 terminals) and Shikoku Regional Bureau (1 terminal) of MITI, and Okinawa General Office (1 terminal). Inquiry service covers search of unexamined patent gazettes released by the JPO since 1993 using bibliographic data, i.e., document number, etc. as search keys, and full text search of their abstracts and claims is possible.

4. The JPO also offers a document photocopying service at cost.

5. Distribution of industrial property information via the Internet

The JPO has been offering electronic patent library service via the Internet since March 1999, through which it is possible to search industrial property information of about 40 million by document number and various classification etc. Principal services concerning patent information are as follows:

(1) Database search of patent and utility model gazettes
Various gazettes (unexamined, published, registered) of patent and utility models issued from 1885 can be referenced by document number.

(2) Front page search of unexamined patent gazettes
Front pages of unexamined patent gazettes issued from January 1993 can be referenced by free word search and document number.

(3) English abstracts of unexamined patent gazettes (PAJ) search

PAJs issued from January 1993 can be referenced by free word search and document number.

(4) Gazettes text search

Unexamined gazettes of patent and utility model

from January 1993 and publication gazettes and registered gazettes from January 1994 can be referenced by free word search and document number.

(5) FI and F-term search

Reference of various documents is possible by FI and F-term search of patent and utility model gazettes.

(6) Patent map guidance

It is possible to reference IPC list, FI list, F-term description and F-term list.

It is also possible to reference trial decision gazettes dating from 1940 on and the JPO offers trial decision information, progress information, application, registration and trial, court decision gazettes of trial cancellation, examiner's list in charge of each classification and laws reference information, etc. as related information.

6. Offering of JPO data

In March 1993, the JPO launched a service to compile bibliographic and processing information of the JPO, standardizing and simplifying the format type and offering the service to external users. This service is offered about twice a month.

VII. Matters concerning exchange of patent documents and information:

(Matters concerning mutual exchange of patent documents)

- International and/or regional cooperation through mutual exchange of machine-readable information, e.g., bibliographic data, abstracts and/or full text information:

1. Trilateral exchange of patent gazette image data and bibliographic items, etc.

The JPO periodically sends the EPO (European Patent Office) bibliographic data on unexamined patent application on magnetic tapes (MT), and then receives the same data from European countries unified and processed by the EPO on MT.

Under the trilateral mutual cooperation program with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) and the EPO, the JPO receives the image data of full texts of patent specifications and relevant data of classification, etc. from USPTO on MT, along with the image data of full texts of the unexamined patent application specifications and classification, patent inventory, patent family, etc. from EPO on MT. In return, the JPO sends the image data of the full text of unexamined patent gazettes, etc. on CD-ROM, and concordance data of patent document number, PAJ data of unexamined patent applications, IPC files, and Chinese character bibliographic data on MT to the USPTO and EPO.

2. Trilateral exchange of DNA sequence data
In July 1999, the JPO forwarded 3,389 pieces of data on DNA sequences and 1,700 pieces of data on amino acid sequences to the National Genetics Research Institute, which is one of the mediators of the trilateral data exchange.

This data is laid open in the unexamined patent gazettes issued from October 1997 to December 1998.

3. Translation of F-term data

The USPTO checked the F-term translation that has been made in cooperation with the EPO, USPTO and JPO. The JPO received F-term translation of 1,843 themes checked.

4. Overseas distribution of CD-ROM gazettes

As of April 1999, the JPO forwarded a total of 93 CD-ROM patent gazettes to international organizations and patent offices, etc. in 33 countries, and 96 unexamined CD-ROM gazettes to international organizations and patent offices, etc. in 27 countries.

5. Overseas distribution of PAJ CD-ROMs

Refer to III.1.

VIII. Other relevant matters concerning education and training in, and promotion of, the use of patent information, including technical assistance to developing countries:

1. Cooperation to Developing Countries through WIPO

JPO cooperates in WIPO state-of-art searches for Developing Countries and provides search reports free of charge to the countries that requested state-of-the-art searches. In 1999, 94 search reports were provided. In addition, under the framework of the free-of-charge WIPO Patent Information Service program, copy services for Japanese patent documents were also provided and 104 documents were submitted to the countries that requested them through WIPO.

2. Activities and cooperation through Japanese voluntary contribution to WIPO: WIPO Funds-in-Trust/Japan

a) The "WIPO Asian Regional Forum on the Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights, with Particular Reference to the TRIPS Agreement " was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in January 1999. The Forum was attended by around 150 participants including senior officials of intellectual property and other related authorities who represented 23 countries in Asia and the Pacific region. It took up the TRIPS Agreement, implemented on January 1st, 2000 by all participating countries except least developed ones,

discussed various IPR Enforcement related themes and provided a good opportunity for participants to exchange information, experience and ideas on those themes.

b) The WIPO Asian Regional Symposium was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh in November 1999 with the theme "the Role of the Intellectual Property System in Augmenting Enterprises Competitiveness." The Symposium was attended by about 50 participants who represented 16 countries in Asia and the Pacific region.

c) The "WIPO Asian Regional Workshop on the Benefits of Global Industrial Property Protection Systems for Developing Countries" was held in February 2000 in Singapore. The Workshop was attended by approximately 80 participants who represented 23 countries in Asia and the Pacific region.

d) One JPO official was dispatched respectively to the National Office of Industrial Property of Viet Nam and the Directorate General of Intellectual Property Rights, Ministry of Law and Legal Affairs of Indonesia as WIPO experts to provide advice and training related to patent examination procedure for instance search methods, and the PCT.

e) One JPO official was dispatched respectively to the Department of Intellectual Property of Thailand, the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines and the State Intellectual Property Office of China and two to the Intellectual Property Office of Mongolia as WIPO experts to study the current status of the computerization of office administration and provide guidance and advice relating to the automation of industrial property administration systems.

f) The JPO accepted a total of 60 trainees from Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka, Thailand, the Philippines and Viet Nam to provide education and training on administration, enforcement and examination of industrial property right as well as IP information and office automation in IP Office with the cooperation of the Japan Institute of Invention and Innovation (JIII)

3. Cooperation to developing countries utilizing other schemes

a) Dispatch of experts

Under a Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) scheme, three JPO officials were dispatched as JICA experts to the Department of Intellectual Property of Thailand and

offered guidance and advice mainly on patent examination procedure. Utilizing the same scheme, JPO dispatched an official to the Directorate General of Intellectual Property Rights, Ministry of Law and Legal Affairs of Indonesia to advise on the PCT.

b) The Philippines: Modernization of Industrial Property Administration Project

JICA project-type technical cooperation for the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines' modernization was launched in May 1999. This project is aimed at constructing administrative processing systems for patents, utility models and designs. It will be designed to store application, registration and gazette information on the aforementioned three laws.

c) Training for government officials

With the cooperation of JICA, JPO provided JICA training courses on intellectual property administration for administrative work related to industrial property in non-APEC developing countries. The 10 participants were officials from Brazil, Columbia, Cuba, Egypt, India, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Paraguay, Slovakia and Turkey. The APEC industrial property course was provided for government officials working in industrial property administration and examination in the APEC region.

The 21 participants were officials from China, Indonesia, Korea, Mexico, Peru, Thailand, the Philippines and Viet Nam. As part of the training courses, the JPO provided lectures and patent information search training.

The JPO invited one to three trainees each from Indonesia, Thailand, the Philippines and Viet Nam as counterparts of the experts dispatched to those countries to provide training in specialized fields which included lectures and training on computer technology.

The JPO also held the fourth APEC/PFP training course on management of industrial property rights in Thailand. The 47 participants came from 10 APEC member countries and 2 regions, and there were 22 lectures from 7 countries and one international organization.

In Singapore, JPO held a Seminar on Intellectual Property Rights for IP Enforcement Staff Members which was attended by 43 officials from 8 Asian countries including the host nation.

d) Training for the private sector

With the cooperation of the Association for Overseas Technical Scholarship (AOTS) and JIII, the JPO lectured on the subject of industrial property as a whole including industrial property information searches in the Industrial Property Training Course which was held a total of eight

times. The courses were attended by 135 trainees from Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Thailand, the Philippines and Viet Nam.

e) Industrial Property Information Center (Thailand)

?The JPO cooperated in setting up the Industrial Property Information Center (IPIC) in the Department of Intellectual Property of Thailand. The IPIC has established a patent information retrieval system, which provides patent information, such as the image of patent gazette, to the general public through the Internet, as well as to users in the DIP. The IPIC project is to be completed at the end of June 2000.

f) Modernization of Industrial Property Administration Project in the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

?The JPO is planning to cooperate with the National Office of Industrial Property of Vietnam in establishing a computerized system to manage industrial property applications through a four-year project "Modernization of Industrial Property Administration in the framework of the project-type technical cooperation of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). With a view to launching the project in the spring of the year 2000, the JPO has sent its experts for implementation study.

g) Joint Seminar on Industrial Property (Thailand)

?The JPO assisted in organizing a joint seminar on industrial property in Thailand in January 1999 concerning "Dissemination of Industrial Property Rights Information using the Internet" with a view to enhancing the industrial property system under the ASEAN framework and sharing knowledge and exchanging views among experts in industrial property offices.

4. Publication of intellectual property laws on CD-ROM

The Japan Patent Agency translated the intellectual property laws of major industrial nations and developing countries into English to assist the intellectual property offices of developing countries who were revising their domestic intellectual property laws for the WTO/TRIPS Agreement by January 1st, 2000, and required the "Cooperative Work of Information Arrangement of Foreign Industrial Property Systems" in CD-ROM form. The 1999 version of the CD-ROM includes industrial property right laws and ordinances of 22 countries, one region and one organization including: Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Britain, Canada, China, EU, France, Germany, Holland, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Spain, Singapore, Switzerland, Taiwan,

Thailand, the Philippines, the United States and Viet Nam. The JPO then distributed the CD-ROMS to developing APEC economies in free of charge. In the future, the Agency is planning to summarize IP laws of certain nations.

- Promotion activities (seminars, exhibitions, field visits, public relations campaigns, etc.)

1. The JPO hosted IPC seminars to promote public awareness of the international patent classification as follows:

October 1999: Tokyo, Osaka

November 1999: Hokkaido

December 1999: Hokkaido, Osaka

?: The seminars presented an introductory course and special courses by technical field (mechanical, chemical, electric, and software industries), accompanied with presentation of F-terms.

2. To help civil patent information users search easily using IPC, the JPO has been compiling the "IPC Illustrations" and changed the name to "Easy IPC Guide" in 1998. This allows users to quickly index the desired IPC applicable to the overall architecture and component parts of technologies, even for technical fields that are normally difficult to explain by illustrations.

In March 1999, the JPO compiled a new version for the following 3 technical fields:

a) Power machine (engine, turbine) :F01, F02, a part of F16M, B60K, F03G (major IPC subclass)

b) Water treatment :C02F (major IPC subclass)

c) Portable telephone set :H04B, H04M (major IPC subclass)

The JPO distributed "Report on Investigation of Application Trends in Each Technical Field" covering investigation and research, change in application trends for each technical field, application number of IPC subclass level, etc. to public patent libraries including the Intellectual Property Center. The report was published by the Japan Institute of Invention and Innovation (JIII) as "Application Trends for Each Technical Field".

IX. Other relevant matters:

Nothing particular to report.