

Annual Technical Report on Industrial Design Information Activities in 1998

? . Evolution of registration activities:

- Changes experienced in terms of application filing and grants (registration) with respect to the previous year:

Applications filed of industrial design decreased by 11.7% from 28,493 in 1997 to 25,155 in 1998.

Applications registered of industrial design increased by 1.2% from 24,633 in 1997 to 24,931 in 1998.

- Trends or areas experiencing rapid changes with respect to the previous year:
None

? . Matters concerning the generation , reproduction, and distribution of secondary sources of Industrial Designs information, i.e. Industrial Designs Gazettes:

- Publishing, printing, copying techniques;

The Issue of Official Gazettes on CD-ROM

(a) KIPO has published Official Gazettes on CD-ROM since May 1998 and has distributed them inside and outside the country.

- Official Gazettes for Industrial design are published on CD-ROM two or three times a month.

(b) Index CD-ROMs

For a more effective search of information for industrial design in each CD-ROM, KIPO has published Index CD-ROMs at the end of each year, since May 1998.

Everyone can easily access the information which he or she wants to search by using various key words. From 1999, KIPO is planning to publish them twice a year.

(c) '98 Issue results

Industrial Design gazettes for public inspection of examined application were published 66 times in which 24,082 applications were included in 1998.

Industrial Design gazettes for public inspection of unexamined application were published together with the examined application in the same CD-ROM and it covered 3,054 unexamined applications in 1998

? . Matters concerning classifying, reclassifying and indexing of Industrial Design information:

- Classification and reclassification activities:

Industrial design application and registrations are classified in accordance with the Korean industrial design classification system which is composed of 73 classes. KIPO has been applying the Korean industrial design classification system since 1990. Locarno Classification, International Classification for industrial designs, has not been applied yet in KIPO.

- Bibliographic data and processing for search purpose:

KIPO has the search file for the application drawings and the publicized data, but not the electronic form or processing for them.

? . Search file establishment and upkeep:

- File Building;

KIPO uses all the drawings of applications, official gazettes for design of major countries including WIPO, photographs and drawings of design published in major journals in Korea and overseas for industrial design search, which are classified according to the goods divisions.

- Updating; These search files are updated periodically.

- Storage, including mass storage media and microforms;

All the materials used for search of industrial design are stored in paper-form.

- Documentation from other offices maintained and/or considered part of the available search file;

The official gazettes of foreign countries and other search data for industrial design are available in the KIPO's Patent Library so that the public can easily have an access to them. Especially, the official gazettes of US, JP, DE, BE, NL, LU, WO are classified as search file and are being used frequently for an examination.

? . Activities in the field of computerized Industrial Design search system:

- KIPO has no industrial design search system but use the bibliographic data search system which enables users to search the bibliographic data of industrial design by using search keys such as application number, registration number, applicant's name, etc.

? . Administration of the industrial property office library and services available to the public (relating to facilities, e.g., for lodging applications, for assisting clients on searching procedures, for obtaining official publications and registry extract):

A. Collection of Industrial Property Information Resources in 1998
- None

B. Non-patent literature

- KIPO preserves about 17,955 volumes related to science and technology including 426 titles of periodicals, 41 journals from research institutes which may be useful to examiners and trial examiners as reference material.

C. Administration of the Industrial Property Resource Room and services available to the public

(a) Computerization of the Industrial Property Library

KIPO accomplished the computerization of the IP Library concerning information searches and the management of non-patent literature in 1998 which was started in 1997, based on the "7-year Project of Automation of Industrial Property Administration".

(b) Membership of STIMA, Union DB, etc.

Due to the membership of these two associations, which science and Technology related research institutes and universities joined, original copies of external documents are available on the Internet

(c) Internet Service of non-patent literature

KIPO has started to provide the general public as well as KIPO's staff with non-patent literature including general books and periodicals through the Internet.

(d) KIPRIS search free of charge

It is possible to search for design-related information inside and outside the country through the network of KIPO's IP Library and local service centers free of charge.

? . Matters concerning mutual exchange of Industrial Design documentation and information:

B. On the basis of mutual exchange, KIPO provides official gazettes with 20 other countries as follows:

- AT, AU, BE, BY, CA, DE, ES, FR, GR, IR, IT, JP, MX, NL, PA, PH, RU, SE, US, EP

- type of material: CD-ROM

C. On the basis of mutual exchange, KIPO is provided annual reports from 28 other countries and 3 international organization as follows:

- AT, AU, BG, BY, CA, CN, CZ, DE, ES, FR, GB, GR, HU, IL, JP, KZ, MK, MX, NL, NO, NZ, PH, PL, RO, RU, SE, SI, US, AP, EP, WO

- type of material: paper-form

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

A. Training Courses for National Participants.

List of courses		Frequency	Numbers of participants
Total(23 courses)		48	3,051
Courses for Government Sector	- Course for beginning officer	2	37
	- Course for leading officer	1	47
	- Course for working-level staff	2	45
	- Introductory course for examiners	2	145
	- Advanced course for examiners	2	45
	- Course for trial examiners	1	52
	- Course for examiners in charge of IPR litigation	1	21
	- Course for staff in charge of IPR supervision	2	174
	- Course for school principals and education supervisors	4	516
	- Course for school invention club instructors	4	594
	- Course for teachers in charge of invention classroom	1	62
	Sub-total (11 courses)		22
Courses for Private Sector	- Course for patent attorneys-in apprenticeship	1	69
	- Course for chief executive officials	1	21
	- Introductory course on IPR	4	201
	- Advanced course on patent & utility model system	5	163
	- Advanced course on trademark system	1	26
	- Advanced course on industrial design system	1	17
	- Course for electronic application exercise	5	305
	- Course for independent inventors	1	13
	- Course for individual corporations	4	153
	- Course on foreign IPR systems	1	36
	- Course for university or college students	1	166
	- Course for professors in science and engineering departments	1	143
Sub-total (12 courses)		26	1,313

B. Training Courses for Foreign Participants.

Title	Duration	Number of participating countries	Number of participants	Funding by organizations
Total		29	90	
- Training course on industrial property system	14 days (Sep. 10- Sep. 23, 1998)	8	17	Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA)
- WIPO Asian Regional Seminar on the Promotion of the Use of the Intellectual Property System by the Private Sector	3 days (Nov.17- Nov.19,1998)	21	73	WIPO (60%) and Korean Industrial Property Office(KIPO) (40%)

C. International Cooperation and Perspectives

The IIPTI(International Intellectual Property Training Institute) has been undertaking every effort for consolidating cooperative activities with domestic and international training and research institutes, patent offices or professional societies like Max Planck Institute in Germany, the Franklin Pierce Law Center of the United States and the International Association for the Advancement of Teaching and Research in Intellectual Property (ATRIP).

In addition, while IIPTI is vigorously seeking ways to serve as a center for consolidating a network for information exchange on education and training programs on IPRs, it is also planning to offer medium and long-term specialized training courses catering to the demand of the post-graduates not only from Korea but also from the Asia-Pacific region.

? . Other relevant matters

A. The revised Korean Design Law (KDL) takes effect on March 1, 1998.
The main revisions are as follows:

1. Non-substantial examination of design applications for textile patterns and other similar items

- Under the current KDL, all design applications undergo substantive examination to be registered. However, under the revised law, certain items including textile patterns, which has relatively short life cycle, will be registered simply by formality examination without examining substantive matters. By introducing the system, it will take only 2 to 3 months for design applications for the items to be registered.

2. Multiple application and registration system

- Up to 20 designs falling under the same Korean Industrial Design Classification can be filed in one design application under non-substantial examination system.

3. Opposition procedure against design registrations which is registered through the non-substantial examination system.

- The current design law does not have an opposition procedure, but allows for the filing of a cancellation trial against those registered designs that are deemed to be flawed. However, under the revised law, where a design registered through the non-substantial examination system, an opposition before the cancellation trial procedure may be lodged against the design registration within 3 months after the publication of registration.

4. Expansion of the term of a design right

- The term of a design right will be extended to 15 years from current 10 years from the registration date.

5. Reinforcement of Penalty for infringement

- The maximum fine for design right infringement will be increased from 20 million Won to 50 million Won.

D. Reduction of an average period of examination for Industrial design applications

- From 11 months in 1997 to 8 months in 1998

E. Planning to revise the industrial design examination standards to supplement some of the rules in the early half of 1999