

# CWS.ATR.ID.2010.JP

## Annual Technical Report 2010 on Industrial Design Information Activities submitted by Japan (CWS/ATR/ID/2010/JP)

Where URLs are requested below, it is preferred that either URLs which are likely to remain stable over time (three years or more) are provided, or home (main) page URLs are provided with a short explanation of how to access the corresponding information.

The expression "industrial designs" covers industrial designs and models. Offices which issue design patents should report their design patent information activities in this series of Annual Technical Reports.

### I. Evolution of registration activities

#### Changes experienced in terms of application filings and grants (registrations) with respect to the previous year

In 2010, the number of applications was 31,756 (up 2.9% compared to the previous year) and the number of registrations was 27,438 (down 4.8% compared to the previous year).

#### Trends or areas experiencing rapid changes with respect to the previous year

The number of applications increased by 3% from the previous year.

The number of partial design applications have been generally on the increase since the commencement of reception of the application in 1999, and in 2010, it accounted for about 31% of the total number of applications, while the number of related design applications had shown a decreasing trend since 2007, and in 2010, it accounted for 15% of the total number of applications.

#### URLs of web pages of the Office's website that provide statistics related to industrial designs

[http://www.jpo.go.jp/cgi/linke.cgi?url=/shiryoku\\_e/toushin\\_e/kenkyukai\\_e/annual\\_report2010.htm](http://www.jpo.go.jp/cgi/linke.cgi?url=/shiryoku_e/toushin_e/kenkyukai_e/annual_report2010.htm)

### II. Matters concerning the generation, reproduction, and distribution of industrial design documents and of secondary sources of industrial design information, i.e., official gazettes

#### Publishing, including printing, copying techniques and electronic printing

The Japan Patent Office (hereinafter referred to as the "JPO") published the following design documents in 2010:

- Published Registered Design Applications: 27,388 issues
- Decision on Appeal/Trial in Design: 347 issues

#### Main types of announcements of the Office in the field of industrial design information

Nothing in particular

#### Mass storage media and microforms used

The JPO has started to receive online design applications (electronic applications) since January 2000. The JPO electronically edits the collected data acquired from electronic applications or the electronic conversions of paper-based applications and compiles them and publishes the Design Gazette.

##### a) Published Registered Design Applications

The JPO issued Published Registered Design Applications in the form of CD-ROMs between January 2000 and December 2006. Starting from January 2007, they have been issued weekly on the website "Official Publication via the Internet", thereby making it possible to download the publication free of charge at any time, 24 hours a day and 365 days a year. In addition, in order to meet the needs of the long-term storage of the original gazettes data published via the Internet, the JPO prepares and makes available, one week after the publication of the original gazettes, CD-ROMs titled "Information on Publication of Registered Design Applications" which contains exact reproductions of the original Published Registered Design Applications which have been published through the Official Publication via the Internet.

A single volume of Published Registered Design Applications contains about 600 issues and it was issued 50 times in 2010.

Published Registered Design Applications enables a search using 13 keys as search keys, including registration number, indication of articles (goods), Japanese Design Classification and D-term. The Design Gazette contains a mixed-mode type data, composed of text data and image data, thus text search using text data is available.

The JPO has been providing viewer software free of charge for viewing the Design Gazette. The software is also operable on Windows English version so that it can be used in overseas Patent Offices.

#### Databases and office automation

Refer to the third section of the paragraph.

#### URLs of web pages of the Office's website that provide access to online industrial design gazettes and to other sources of industrial design information, including download of bulk industrial design data

The following URLs provide public access to web pages that include information on design:

<http://www.publication.jpo.go.jp/utility/do/usr/topmenu?lang=e>(Official Publication via the internet)  
[http://www.ipdl.inpit.go.jp/homepg\\_e.ipdl](http://www.ipdl.inpit.go.jp/homepg_e.ipdl) (Industrial Property Digital Library (hereinafter referred to as the "IPDL")).  
<http://www.ipdl.inpit.go.jp/lsyou/isyu.html> IPDL Japanese service

### **III. Matters concerning classifying, reclassifying and indexing of industrial design information according to the classification systems applied**

**Classification and reclassification activities; Classification system used, e.g., International Classification for Industrial Designs (Locarno Classification), other classification (please indicate whether industrial designs are classified by your Office and, if so, which classification is used)**

In January 2005, the JPO started using the revised Japanese Design Classification in order to cope with the new conception of articles etc. such as the information and communication devices. The revised Japanese Design Classification mainly uses the concept of the usage in the same way as the former Japanese Design Classification, which is comprised of a 3-stage classification; group, main class, and minor class, and consists of about 3,200 classification branches in total.

In addition, JPO provides about 1,800 branches of D-terms, which are mechanical search keys to further subdivide the Japanese Design Classification mainly based on the forms of articles.

In 2010, the JPO assigned the Japanese Design Classification and D-terms to 31,756 filed applications and about 220,000 cases of examination materials collected from foreign design gazettes, magazines, catalogues, Internet, etc.

#### **Bibliographic data and processing**

As bibliographic data of filed applications for searches, application numbers, filing date, registration numbers, registration date, indication of articles (goods), Japanese Design Classification, D-terms (classification branches for search made by further subdividing the Japanese Design Classification) and others are used. As bibliographic data of other documents for searches, disclosure dates, acceptance dates, publishing date, indication of articles (goods), Japanese design classifications, D-terms and others are used. The data is stored in a database according to the type of materials.

### **IV. Search file establishment and upkeep**

#### **File building**

The JPO has stored in search files the following: designs presented in magazines published in Japan and abroad, in catalogs, on home pages on the internet and elsewhere; image data (including color image data) and bibliographic data (including the Japanese Design Classification and D-term) of foreign design gazettes. These are used as the base data for the JPO's design examination.

On January 1, 2000, the JPO started accepting design registration applications on-line. Accordingly, information on designs of which the registration has been applied for is automatically put into the search files. By the end of 2010, the search files accumulated the image and bibliographic data of about 2.33 million applications and about 5.01 million publicly-known designs.

#### **Updating**

The image data and bibliographic data on 31,756 applications and approximately 220,000 examination materials of the publicly known design were added.

#### **Storage, including mass storage media**

The image data is stored on RAID and the bibliographic data on a database.

#### **Documentation from other offices maintained and/or considered part of the available search file**

The bibliographic data and image data of design gazettes published by the KIPO, OHIM, the SIPO, the USPTO, and WIPO are stored and those data can be searched by using the Japanese Design Classification and D-Terms.

### **V. Activities in the field of computerized search systems for industrial designs**

#### **In-house systems (online/offline)**

##### **a) Design Search System**

This is a client server-type online system for retrieving application documentary materials and publicly known documentary materials (including foreign design gazettes) by using the Japanese Design Classification and D-terms (search keys that subdivide the Japanese Design Classification), indication of articles (goods), applicant identifying numbers, etc. as search keys. The image data of the document retrieved is sent from the image file server and displayed (color image data is displayed in color) onto the screen of a terminal, for enabling high-speed screening. For an efficient document search, a function is provided to display the design classifications and applicant identifying numbers etc. by the frequency of them coming up as cited references based on past examination results.

In March 2007, search functions were strengthened and reference functions were improved along with the renewal of the search server. In addition, the screen design was made more convenient through a thorough review of the user interface.

##### **b) Search System for Appeal/Trial and Court Decisions (J-term search system)**

Appeal/trial and court decisions are accumulated in the form of electronic data with a search index, called "J-term" and searching and screening for the appropriate appeal/trial and court decisions are conducted by using "J-term".

In addition, a full-text search service is available for appeal/trial and court decisions issued after January 2000.

## **External databases**

Nothing in particular

## **Administrative management systems (e.g., register, legal status, statistics and administrative support)**

In January 2000, a paperless system for design was launched and the administrative and examination procedures were completely moved to a system based on electronic data. Therefore, a total system, covering every procedure from design application filing, formality check and substantive examination, dispatching, registration, publishing the gazette, requesting inspection of files, to requesting certification, was realized. The effect of this system is far reaching, such as more efficient drafting based on the close link between the administrative system and the design search system, more efficient examination by implementation of electronic approval, faster design gazette publication and the separate management of each application.

With the realization of the above system, the JPO started receiving online applications for designs. Since the introduction of the system, the online filing rate has been consistently high reaching 91.9% in 2010. The JPO's system is a comprehensive system and the data processing and search system of designs are a part of this comprehensive system. Therefore for more information on the overall system please refer to the "Annual Technical Report on Patent Information Activities".

## **Equipment used (hardware, including the types of terminal and network used, and software), data carriers used**

Please refer to the "Annual Technical Report on Patent Information Activities".

## **VI. Administration of industrial design information products and services available to the public (relating to facilities, e.g., for lodging applications, registering designs, assisting clients with search procedures, obtaining official publications and registry extracts)**

### **Planning, administration, automation, security**

The JPO Library, as a branch library of the National Diet Library, is located on the first basement of the JPO office building, and is operated in the following manner:

1. Users
  - JPO staff and general users
- 2 Open
  - 9:30 to 18:00

### **Collection management, preservation**

The books are labeled and stored with a storage number and classification data, and the bibliographic information is inputted in the library system constructing a database for the books.

### **Information services available to the public (including computerized services and search files contained in libraries remote from your Office and industrial design information posted by your Office on the World Wide Web)**

a) Providing industrial property (IP) rights information via the Internet

The JPO has been providing the IPDL service since March 1999. This service is accessible through the Internet and covers 80.4 million documents of IP information by using document numbers and/or classifications as search keys. This service was transferred in October 2004 to the National Center for Industrial Property Information and Training (hereinafter referred to as the "INPIT"), and has been operated there since.

Main services relating to design information that the JPO provides are as follows:

(1) Design Gazette database search

Design Gazette published in and after 1889 can be searched by using document number. The English version has also been provided since March 2004. The downloading and printing of each document from the publications was made possible in May 2011.

(2) Search for design documents by reference numbers

Various kinds of Design Gazettes and the Decision on Appeal/Trial Gazette in design published since 1964 can be searched by using reference numbers. The downloading and printing of each document from the publications was made possible in May 2011.

(3) Searching of Design Gazettes by text search

A general search, entering classifications under the International Classification for Industrial Designs, or entering document numbers, enables access to design gazettes and publications of disagreed consultation on design applications published in 2000 and thereafter. Search-result thumbnails as well as the downloading and printing of each document from the publications were made possible in May 2011.

(4) Japanese Design Classification and D-term Search

Applying set operations using the Japanese Design Classification and D-terms enables searches for design gazettes and access to these documents. Search-result thumbnails as well as the downloading and printing of each document from the publications were made possible in May 2011.

(5) Publicly known data on design inquiry

Entering publicly known reference numbers enables access to the bibliographic data of public known designs and foreign design gazettes. Image data of public known designs whose image data is allowed to disclose has been provided. It has been made possible to inquire U.S. design gazettes and Korean design gazettes since March 2010.

(6) Publicly known data on design text retrieval

It has been made possible to inquire bibliographic data of public known designs and foreign design gazettes by key word and Japanese design classification. The scope of searchable documents is same as (5) above. Search-result thumbnails were made available in May 2011.

(7) Classification lists

The Japanese Design Classification, the Locarno-Japan Design Classification Cross-Reference Table, and D-term lists are available as references.

In January 2005, the revised Japanese Design Classification and D-term list became available. The Locarno and the Japanese Design Classification Cross-Reference Table and the Korean and the Japanese Design Classification Cross-Reference Table became available in September 2005. The U.S. Design Classification and the Japanese Design Classification Cross-Reference Table became available in December 2006. In addition, information on "screen designs" that corresponds with the Japanese Design Classification (put into force on April 1, 2007) was added to the "(current) Japanese Design Classification/D terms" in October 2007.

In addition, the published appeal and trial decisions from 1940 onwards, and as related information, the legal status information (for applications filed from 1990 onwards) on applications, registrations and appeal and trial decisions can be referenced.

b) Providing JPO data

In March 1999, the JPO began providing the JPO's bibliographical and status information to external users by organizing and converting it in the standard format with better usability. Furthermore, the service was transferred to the INPIT in October 2004, has been provided at a pace of once every two weeks to external users. Bibliographic data of publicly known design materials and foreign design gazettes has been provided since April 2005.

c) Reference to design gazettes, etc

INPIT has 56 access devices, including the retrieval system designed for patent examiners, which is available in the patent gazette access room on the second floor of the JPO office building. This allows free public access to the IPDL Service, gazettes on CD-ROM/DVD-ROM, etc.

Reading devices for these purposes are provided at seven other places in Japan (Sapporo, Sendai, Nagoya, Osaka, Takamatsu, Fukuoka and Naha) where similar reference services and so forth are provided. A total of approximately 27,000 persons used the services at the above facilities in 2009. The seven local access centers throughout the country ended their services at the end of FY2010.

d) Reference to examination and trial documents

The INPIT is collecting various technical documents (books, etc.), which are used in the examinations and trials by the JPO, widely from inside and outside of Japan and making them available to the public.

e) Intellectual Property Center

59 Intellectual Property Centers nationwide are widely implementing support operations for users including regional companies and applicants etc. They are giving advice to the users, providing them with guidance in regards to the retrieval methods of patent information, etc. in accordance to their purposes, regularly conducting workshops and preparing booklets relating to the retrieval methods of patent information etc

## **URLs of web pages of the Office's website for electronic filing of industrial design applications**

The INPIT has developed software for electronic application, enabling administrative procedures such as the filing of applications for patent, utility model, trademark and industrial design, appealing for trial and payment of the annual fees, to be conducted online. The software can be downloaded for free at: <http://www.inpit.go.jp/pcinfo/index.html>

## **URLs of web pages of the Office's website that provide information on business procedures such as: filing, publication, examination and registration procedures related to industrial designs; opposition and appeal procedures related to industrial designs; etc.**

[http://www.jpo.go.jp/tetuzuki\\_e/t\\_gaiyo\\_e/de\\_right.htm](http://www.jpo.go.jp/tetuzuki_e/t_gaiyo_e/de_right.htm)

**URLs of web pages of the Office's website that provide a description of information products and services offered by the Office (e.g., industrial design search service(s) and industrial design databases), as well as information on how to access and utilize them**

Same as II. 5. above.

## **VII. Matters concerning mutual exchange of industrial design documentation and information**

### **International or regional cooperation in the exchange of industrial design information, e.g., in the form of official gazettes**

The JPO mutually exchanges official gazettes, etc. with 66 organizations (including international organizations) in 55 nations, out of which it sends CD-ROM Design Gazette ("Published Registered Design Applications") to 25 organizations.

As part of the exchange of data between two countries, the JPO has sent to China and the Republic of Korea Design Gazette image data and analyzed D-term data prior to the first publishing of CD-ROM Design Gazette, recorded on an electronic medium (DVD-R etc.).

### **Exchange of machine-readable information, e.g., data contained on CD-ROM or magnetic tape**

The JPO has been sending CD-ROM "Published Registered Design Applications" since January 2000.

## **VIII. Matters concerning education and training, including technical assistance to developing countries (please indicate URLs of web pages of the Office's website wherever appropriate)**

### **Promotional activities (seminars, exhibitions, visits, advertising, etc.)**

#### **a) IPDL training seminars for beginners**

Training seminars of design search using Industrial Property Digital Library (IPDL) were held on public holidays for beginners of industrial property right search from individuals and SMEs (10 times in 7 major cities nationwide in FY2010). The first session of the seminar was held on weekdays in Tokyo and Osaka, and on weekends in other cities. IPDL has been managed at the National Center for Industrial Property Information and Training (INPIT) since October 2004 (Trainings have been held since FY2006).

#### **b) Patent Information Advisors**

In order to realize the effective use of IP information amongst SMEs and universities/research institutions, the INPIT dispatched Patent Information Advisors to domestic local government units to provide instructions on how to search for IP information, and consultation services on how to utilize such information, as well as to hold workshops in response to various requests regarding IP information.

### **Training courses for national and foreign participants**

See previous/next items

### **Assistance to developing countries (sending consultants and experts, receiving trainees from developing countries, etc.)**

a) Activities/cooperation utilizing voluntary contributions (Japan Funds-in-Trust) for WIPO

(1) Seminars and workshops

- Regional Workshop on Digitization and Dissemination of IP Information and Utilization of Effective Search Tools

In December 2010, as part of programs financed by the Japan Funds-in-Trust, a workshop was held in Manila, the Philippines that covered computerization, information dissemination, and effective search tools. About 50 IT officials and examiners from 11 Asia-Pacific countries participated in the workshop. The participants exchanged views on the importance of IT-based access to IP information and discussed how to make effective use of IP information. Japanese IT experts joined the workshop, where they introduced Japan's experiences and offered their expertise to the participants.

- Regional Seminar on Realizing the Development Potential of ICT-Based Business Services

In May 2011, as part of programs financed by the Japan Funds-in-Trust for Africa and LDCs, a seminar was held in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe to discuss the growth potential of ICT and IP technology-based business services. The seminar brought together 32 IP officials from 15 countries in the African region. The participants exchanged views on the importance of developing ICT infrastructures and how to improve the efficiency and quality of ICT-based businesses. A JPO official participated in the seminar and introduced its IP information services and how to make use of such information.

(2) Dispatch of Experts

- Intellectual Property Office of Mongolia (IPOM)

The JPO sent experts to IPOM in July 2010 to analyze the current situation regarding digitization of IP documentation in IPOM, and provided advice.

- Intellectual Property Corporation of Malaysia (MyIPO)

The JPO sent experts to MyIPO in March 2011 for needs assessment and development of ICT strategic planning and to analyze the current situation regarding digitization of IP documentation in MyIPO. The JPO experts gave MyIPO advice on its strategic planning including digitization of documentation.

(3) Training for government officials

Training related to informatization was provided for two weeks in Japan under the cooperation with WIPO.

<http://www.training-jpo.go.jp/en/>

(4) Project for Digitization of IP documentation

The JPO has launched the Project for Digitization of IP Documentation financed by Japan Funds-in-Trust to support digitization of patent documents for countries in the Asia-Pacific region. The project for Indonesia is currently under way.

b) Cooperation using other organizations for developing countries

(1) Dispatch of experts

One JPO official is dispatched to the Directorate General of Intellectual Property Rights (DGIPR) as of July 2011 as a long-term expert under the scheme of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

(2) Modernization of Intellectual Property Right Administration

The JPO carried out the following projects in Vietnam and Indonesia through JICA project-scheme technical cooperations.

"The modernization project of Vietnamese industrial property right operations" was implemented from April 2000 to June 2004 for the National Office of Intellectual Property of Vietnam to develop human resource through the construction of business processing system related to industrial property rights. "The utilization project of information on Vietnamese intellectual property right" was implemented from January 2005 to March 2009 to construct the search system and the information provision system in order to realize the modernization of industrial property right operations and to develop human resource through the construction of those systems. In June 2008, one JPO official was dispatched for each project for providing instruction/advice with the IP information system update plan. In addition, the seminar was held in Vietnam to broadly appeal the utilization of each system as an achievement of the projects in March 2009.

The JPO supported the construction of Industrial Property Digital Library (IPDL) for promoting informatization of intellectual property administration in the Directorate General of Intellectual Property Rights (DGIPR) under the JICA development investigation scheme from June 2005 to March 2007. The Phase II of the "Project on Industrial Property right Administration in the Republic of Indonesia" was implemented from June 2007 to June 2010. Under the project, the JPO sent two experts to the DGIPR in October 2009 to study DGIPR's progress in the introduction of IT and the feasibility of application e-filing/e-inspection and to give technical instructions and advice.

(3) Training for government officials

The JPO offered a training program targeting patent examiners from developing nations, mainly those in the Asia-Pacific region, to improve their examination skills. The program covered examination practices and focused on how to make use of patent information.

## **IX. Other general information related to the Office that is available on the Internet -- URLs of web pages of the Office's website that:**

### **provide information on legislation related to industrial designs**

<http://www.japaneselawtranslation.go.jp/law/detail/?ft=1&co=01&ky=%E5%95%86%E6%A8%99&page=10&re=02>

### **contain the Annual Report of the Office**

[http://www.jpo.go.jp/index\\_e/reference\\_room.html](http://www.jpo.go.jp/index_e/reference_room.html)

### **if necessary, provide further information related to the topics referred to in the current ATR**

Nothing in particular

### **provide open source codes related to industrial design information systems**

Nothing in particular

**contain industrial design-related news regarding the Office**

<http://www.jpo.go.jp/index.htm>

## **X. Other relevant matters**