

Message from the Commissioner



KIPO has been continuously working to establish an innovation-friendly IP ecosystem in accordance with emerging technologies and digital transformations.

The prolonged crisis of COVID-19 has finally begun a gradual downward and stabilizing trend. However, in its aftermath, the world faces unprecedented challenges brought on by slow economic recovery and intensifying trade protectionism. Amidst these circumstances, intellectual property (IP) is a powerful tool that drives sustainable economic growth and industrial competitiveness through scientific and technological innovation. In that regard, the Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO) has been continuously working to establish an innovation-friendly IP ecosystem in accordance with emerging technologies and digital transformations.



For better quality IP examination and trial services, KIPO has further expanded its use of artificial intelligence (AI) technologies for an AI-based patent search system. New examination guidelines have also been established due to the exponential increase in the number of applications of virtual goods in virtual spaces (i.e., metaverse). Furthermore, accelerated examination has been expanded to the semiconductor field to help technological competitiveness, and a new Prioritized Service Mark Examination Division has been created so that it can reduce examination pendency. Additionally, for the sake of convenient application filing services, we published a booklet of standard IP forms and developed an electronic application software (KIPO-Editor).

To promote IP creation and utilization, KIPO has supported the provision of customized IP-based research and development (R&D) strategies to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) that lack IP capabilities. This gives SMEs opportunities to set R&D direction, prevent conflict, and secure excellent patents. Strategic utilization of IP information such as patent big data analysis is also important to help identify emerging technologies and provide R&D innovation strategies, thereby enhancing the efficiency of investment into R&D in key industrial and technological areas. In the financial sector, we have been working to provide suitable and accessible financing opportunities based on the IP assets of innovative SMEs by expanding designated institutes for IP valuation and providing IP mutual aid services.

For appropriate protection of the results of innovation, KIPO has endeavored to construct an environment which can sufficiently protect IPRs. Amendments have been made to eliminate unfair practices during trial proceedings and provide reliable and fair court judgments. The Integrated Reporting and Consultation Center began operation as a one-stop platform to handle IP infringement complaints and issues. Moreover, Korean businesses are being further affected by the recent rise in counterfeit products as Korean brands and cultural content gain global popularity. Through collaboration between the government and private sectors, KIPO has been strengthening support for the affected entities and is actively pursuing organized enforcement activities both domestically and abroad.

For the advancement of the IP system on a global stage, the Republic of Korea (ROK) has made efforts to enhance international cooperation. In 2022, we hosted an in-person Korea-ASEAN IP Heads Meeting in Seoul which allowed members to discuss collaborative efforts. As one of the top five largest office on trademarks (TM5) and industrial design (ID5), KIPO also participated in the 10th annual TM5/ID5 meeting where a joint statement was adopted to enhance global networks and form reliable partnerships. Collaborative efforts with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in the education field have led to launching the first IP-R&D training course for developing countries and IP Panorama 2.0, which is a modern e-learning course on IP.

Through consistent and dedicated pursuits, the ROK's innovative performance has been recognized as No.1 in Asia and No.6 in the world by the WIPO Global Innovation Index in 2022. KIPO will continue to take an active role in establishing a virtuous cycle for economic development and innovative growth and to step forward as a nation leading in IP.

It is my great pleasure to present to you the 2022 Annual Report. I hope this publication gives you a better understanding of the recent activities and future vision of KIPO.

LEE Insil | Commissioner

