

Enhancing Global IP Cooperation



Banpo Bridge Rainbow Fountain

The Rainbow Fountain plunges 20 meters into the Han River water on both side of Banpo Bridge in Seoul.

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Discussions on IP5 Cooperation to Combat Climate Change

International Cooperation Division

KIPO is a member of a cooperative framework of the world's five largest patent offices, also known as the IP5 along with CNIPA (China), EPO (Europe), JPO (Japan), and USPTO (the United States). The IP5 collectively accounts for approximately 85% of the world's patent applications and KIPO is a leading IP institution responsible for the fourth largest volume of patent applications. In June 2023, the heads of patent offices of the IP5 convened in Honolulu, USA. Through a joint meeting with industry representatives, participants engaged in discussions on the role of IP in effectively responding to climate change and the direction of future cooperation.

Since the establishment of the IP5 in 2007, KIPO has been at the forefront alongside the other patent offices to create a "user-friendly global IP ecosystem". The IP5 has since collaborated on various initiatives, such as sharing best practices, exchanging information and data, and harmonizing patent procedures and practices to streamline the patent system globally.

The 2023 Heads Meeting is the first time the IP5 has discussed the role of IP in achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs). The strategic theme of the IP5 was "The Role of IP in Combating Climate Change" in order to start substantial discussions on specific measures for achieving the SDGs. During the meeting, KIPO presented the ROK's efforts toward carbon neutrality and explained related IP policies including the selection of "100 Core Technologies for Korean Carbon Neutrality" as well as KIPO's priority examination system for green technologies and IP financing projects to support their commercialization.

KIPO also announced their plans to establish a Korean Patent Classification (KPC) system for green technologies to systematically organize and accumulate patent data in the area of green technology. Doing so will help increase the accuracy and efficiency of prior art searches and effectively understand patent application trends.

Additionally, the IP5 agreed to include "Achieving Sustainable Development" in the Vision Statement, which had previously focused on examination cooperation and system harmonization. This agreement lays the groundwork for the IP5 to collaborate in various ways within the IP field to address common challenges, such as climate change. Further discussions were made on systematic communication strategies with the industrial sector, the primary users of IP services, which is expected to foster public-private cooperation for the development of the global IP system.

Moreover, the IP5 has been conducting projects related to advanced technology and AI in line with the "NET/AI Roadmap" which was proposed by KIPO in 2019. With global interest rising about AI-generated inventions, it is necessary to have international discussions on recognizing AI as an inventor. KIPO will continue to lead discussions on advanced technology as KIPO's new proposed project "Study on the Inventorship of AI-Generated Inventions" was approved by IP5. The project entails compiling and reviewing legal frameworks and case law related to AI inventors from IP5 countries. The compiled results will be jointly announced at 2024 IP5 Heads meeting.

Hosting of the TM5/ID5 as Chair

As the five leading IP offices in trademark and industrial design, KIPO, CNIPA, JPO, EUIPO and USPTO, have joined together in a cooperative framework called the TM5 (Trademark 5) and ID5 (Industrial Design 5). Collectively, the five offices account for over 60% of the world's trademark applications and over 70% of the world's

design applications. Every year, the TM5 and ID5 work together to discuss policy directions and check cooperation matters for the formation and harmonization of international norms. KIPO was selected as the chair to host the 2023 meetings and lead meaningful discussions of the TM5 and ID5.

Trademark Examination Policy Division

Organization of the TM5 meeting by KIPO

Appointed as chair of the TM5 meeting, KIPO organized the "TM5 Midterm Meeting" in May 2023 at the Sands Expo and Convention Center in Singapore to discuss major trademark issues. With the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) also in attendance, the five offices reviewed the progress of 15 cooperative projects, including measures to raise awareness of trademark infringement and prevent bad-faith applications, and shared their views on new project proposals.

Notably, in accordance to the increase in trademark applications related to virtual spaces, KIPO proposed a new project to research trademarks in virtual space.

Furthermore, during the annual meeting of the International Trademark Association (INTA), KIPO hosted the TM5 Trademark User Session (May 17) in Singapore and operated a booth to promote the Korean trademark system. Additional meetings throughout the year included the TM5 Midterm Meeting, TM5 Working-Level Meeting (June 15-16), and TM5 Annual Meeting (September 11-12).

**Design Examination
Policy Division**

Hosting the ID5 meeting in the ROK

Since the inception of the ID5 in 2015, KIPO has played a leading role in the discussion of international design norms as a pioneering country in the field of design. As chair of the ID5 meeting, KIPO hosted the ID5 Midterm Meeting in June 2023 in Jeju, Korea, to discuss key design issues.

The five offices reviewed the progress of 12 cooperative projects, including

“sharing the status of utilization of new technologies related to design, such as artificial intelligence and 3D file applications” and “protecting designs in virtual spaces (metaverse).” Additionally, following China’s accession to the Hague Agreement for International Design Applications in May 2022, proposals were made to explore ways to improve consistency in the examination of international designs among the ID5 member countries.

ID5 Cooperative Projects

Leading Office	Project Title (2023)
CNIPA	User Guide on Design Drawing Requirements
	Joint Promotion for Activating Cooperative Communication
EUIPO	Comparison of Design Novelty Examination
	E-Learning Platform for Small and Medium Enterprises
	Sharing the Status of Utilization of New Technologies Related to Design
	ID5 Statistics Operation
JPO	Design Practice Recommendations
	Registration Design Indication System
	Cooperation Project Reform Plan
USPTO	Electronic Exchange of Priority Documents
	Operation of the ID5 Website
KIPO	Protection of Designs in the Metaverse

Improvement of the Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH)

Patent Legal Administration Division

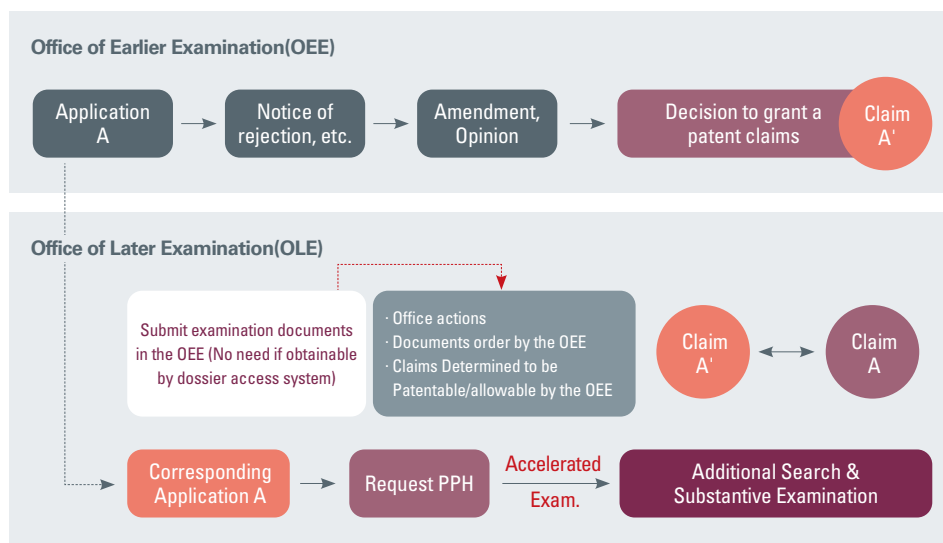
The Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) is an international cooperation program that leverages the fast-track examination procedures already in place among participating patent offices of different countries. This allows applicants to receive final disposition of a patent application more quickly and efficiently than standard examination processing.

In detail, using the examination results from an office where a patent application is initially filed (referred to as the office earlier examination or OEE), an applicant can submit a request for fast-track examination for the same patent to another office (referred to as the office of later examination or OLE). The examination finding from the OEE are used to expedite the application process in the OLE, thereby reducing workload and improving examination quality by reducing duplication of effort and leveraging the expertise of multiple patent offices.

1) PPH Cooperation with the US and Japan

Especially among the IP5 members, discussions had been ongoing to enhance the predictability of each stage of examination for PPH applications. The USPTO and JPO first launched an improvement initiative in 2022. Beginning in August 2023, KIPO joined the USPTO and JPO in implementing an “improvement initiative” in order to support applicants to establish effective IP strategies and enter overseas markets through fast acquisition of rights.

Under this initiative, the time to receive the first examination notice for accelerated examination under the PPH framework would be reduced from four to three months and the period between an applicant's response and the next examination notice to be managed within three months. KIPO's participation in this



was decided following the Memorandum of Understanding on Bilateral Cooperation between USPTO and KIPO signed in June 2023.

Now applicants who have applied for the PPH at KIPO, the USPTO and JPO may obtain patents within three months from the grant of a PPH request. As more countries join the initiative, applicants desiring to expand their market would find it easier to predict the timing of PPH examination at each country and manage their IP systematically and enter the global market more strategically.

2) Pilot PPH between the ROK and Indonesia

In December 2023, KIPO began a pilot PPH program with the IP office of Indonesia (Directorate General of IP; DGIP)

for prioritized examinations. This PPH program was established following an agreement at the Korea-Indonesia summit and between the heads of the IP offices of the ROK and Indonesia.

Prior to the pilot program, it could take up to 40 months to acquire a patent from the Indonesian Patent Office. Through the PPH, applicants who have received a relatively earlier patent decision from KIPO (average duration of domestic patent examination is 18.4 months) can expect a significantly reduced time to acquire a patent from DGIP.

With the addition of Indonesia, KIPO has partnered with a total of 38 IP offices (34 countries and 4 international organizations) through bilateral, IP5, and Global PPH (including PCT-PPH) programs.

Korean Model of National Invention & Creative Education

Trade and Cooperation Division

It is crucial to facilitate an environment conducive the growth of youth into innovative talented persons as they are the key pioneers to shape the future. In order to provide educational opportunities that enhance youth's inventive capabilities to developing countries, KIPO launched an initiative based on the ROK's successful experience in the development through invention education called the Korean model of National Invention & Creativity Education (NICE) aimed at fostering creative problem-solving abilities and critical thinking skills from an early age.

Accordingly, KIPO worked with WIPO to organize the 2023 KIPO-WIPO Leadership Course for Building Capacity of Teachers and Policy Makers in School Invention and IP Education based on this Korean model of invention education. Specifically, this course takes a blended deep-learning approach designed to impart experiential invention education unique to the ROK by combining theoretical education on invention education principles and practical training in student guidance activities. Overall, the curriculum covers the ROK's

invention and IP education policies, laws, systems, the history of invention/IP education, and its integration with regular subjects.

A total of 15 senior officials/policymakers (i.e., Deputy Minister of Education from Cambodia) and educators from Cambodia, Egypt, Malaysia, Indonesia and Vietnam participated in the course. Participants were able to engage in both theoretical lessons and site-visits to the International Intellectual Property Training Institute (IIPTI) in Daejeon and the Regional Invention Experience Education Center in Gyeongju.

The long-term goal is to help countries discover innovative talents essential for economic development. It is expected that the participating officials and educators will return to their respective countries and reference the Korean-model of invention education to promote more effective educational policies for youth.

Korean Model of Invention Education System

