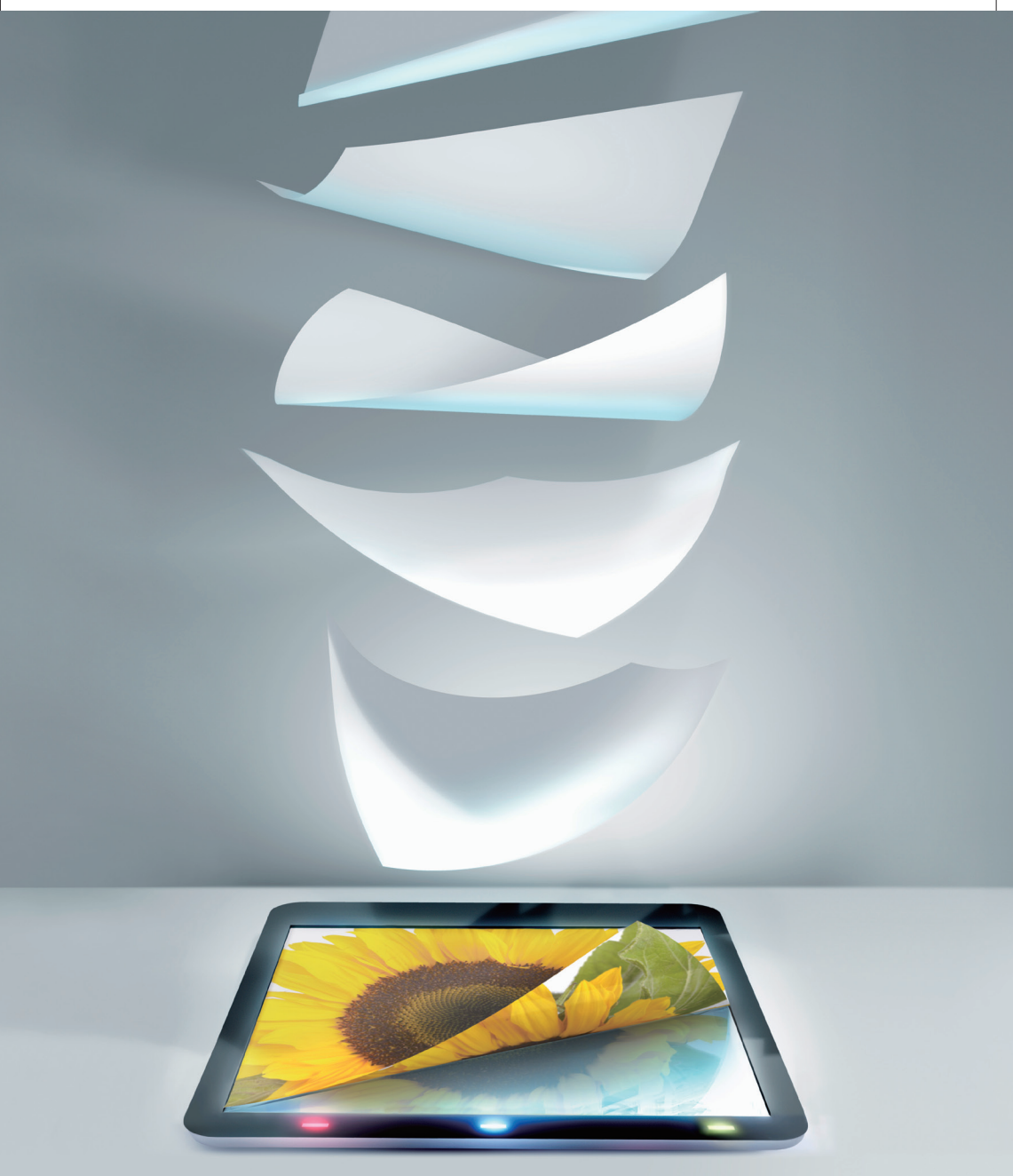


IP Service

KIPO provides the world's fastest IP examination service

Creative, highly valued intellectual property is essential in stimulating the growth of a society. Our role at KIPO is to ensure that all intellectual property is created and used as efficiently as possible. By providing timely and accurate examination services, we improve the value of intellectual property and further assist the transformation of Korea into a leader of innovation and technology.





World-class Examination Services

We aim to provide world-class examination services by increasing examination manpower, improving the overall examination system, and building a more convenient third-generation KIPOnet system (KIPOnet III). The average first action pendency are as follows:

- Patents and Utility models: 18.5 months in 2010 > 16.8 months in 2011
- Trademarks: 10.6 months in 2010 > 9.98 months in 2011
- Designs: 10.0 months in 2010 > 8.8 months in 2011

We offer customized examination services for applicants with our three-track patent and utility model examination system and our two-track trademark and design examination system.

We continuously strive to deliver IP services of the highest quality. We are able to provide high-quality examination and trial services by building the capacity of examiners and trial examiners, enhancing the evaluation of examinations, expanding the outsourcing of prior art searches, and implementing the community patent review. The quality of our examination processes has been recognized internationally.

- Number of PCT investigations requested by foreign companies:
11,653 in 2008 > 13,978 in 2009 > 13,877 in 2010 > 15,716 in 2011

IP Environment

**KIPO creates
a culture that
respects IP**

Original, imaginative, and inventive ideas bring hope and prosperity to all of us. To ensure that these valuable ideas are adequately protected as intellectual property rights, we strive to create and maintain an environment that respects creativity. We place high value on all IPRs and constantly improve protection to initiate a more rewarding future for our customers.





IP-respected Environment

We launched the Special Judicial Police Squad for Trademarks in September 2010 to bolster the crackdown of counterfeit goods in Korea. The duty of the police squad expanded to include online crackdowns in December 2011.

- Before launching the special police squad (January ~ August, 2010):
15 individuals arraigned; 2,860 counterfeit goods confiscated
- After launching the special police squad (September 2010 ~ December 2011):
184 individuals arraigned; 57,218 counterfeit goods confiscated

To enhance the protection and acquisition of IPRs of Korean companies in foreign markets, we operate IP Desks in multiple countries. In 2011, we ran several IP Desks in China (Beijing, Shanghai, Qingdao, and Shenyang), Thailand (Bangkok), and Vietnam (Ho Chi Minh).

As part of our efforts to enhance the local protection of IPRs of Korean businesses overseas, we conduct thorough investigations and background checks on the businesses and regions prone to IPR infringements.

- Total value of the counterfeit goods confiscated overseas:
KRW 600 million in 2011 > KRW 2.1 > billion in 2012

We held the "East Asia IPRs Seminar" jointly with China and Japan in June 2011 to discuss cooperative measures to prevent IPR infringement.

IP Cooperation

KIPO strengthens worldwide IP collaboration

In today's global environment, international cooperation is a vital component in the accommodation of new IP policies and practices. By actively leading international collaborations and discussions to share the latest IP information, we are constantly contributing to the advancement of intellectual property systems worldwide.





Worldwide IP Collaboration

In addition to strengthening our partnership among the world's leading intellectual property offices, the IP5, we also joined the G4 partnership in the area of trademarks and designs.

- Patents: We are currently executing the ten major tasks of the IP5 partnership (including the policy for joint training of examiners, machine-based translations of foreign languages, etc.) which were identified and discussed at the IP5 Meeting.
- Trademarks and Designs: In 2011, we joined the US, Japan, and the EU to form an international G4 partnership system for trademarks and designs.

In an effort to expand relations with developing countries, we utilize Official Development Assistance (ODA) funds to support the development of IP office automation systems in those countries.

We are continuously reinforcing our capacity for bilateral cooperation by opening a Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) with new countries and signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the European Trademark Office (OHIM) in March 2011.

- PPH countries: 2 in 2008 > 9 in 2011

Furthermore, we are training and dispatching workers with appropriate technologies to developing and least developed countries. Our past endeavors include disseminating the technology for making charcoal from sugarcane and for producing dried mango products to local communities in Chad (Jan. ~ Jul. 2010). We are currently distributing household water purifiers in Cambodia to help improve the supply of drinkable water in the region (Mar. 2011 ~ Nov. 2012).