

Innovation

KIPO fosters IP innovation through fast patent examination service and reliable quality

Creative ideas have the power to change the world. KIPO continues to provide innovative, timely, and accurate IP examination services to ensure that ideas are adequately protected as IP.



Cheomseongdae
Cheomseongdae is the oldest existing astronomical observatory in Asia. Constructed during the reign of Queen Seon-deok (632-647), it was used for observing the stars in order to forecast the weather. This stone structure is a beautiful combination of straight lines and curves, and was designated as National Treasure No. 31 on December 20th, 1962.

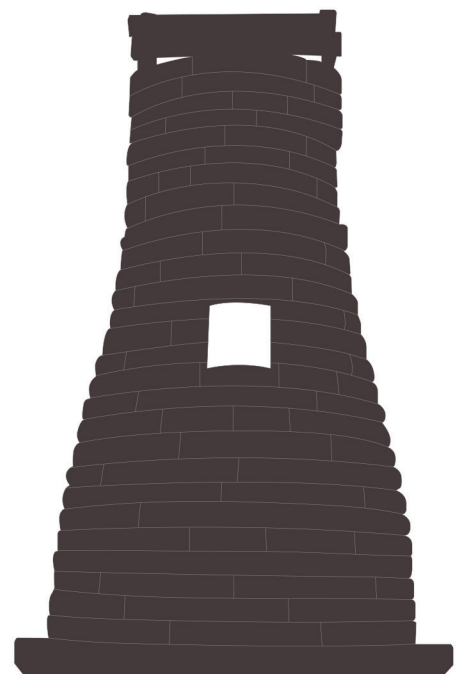
Premium Examination Services

We aim to provide high-quality and customer-oriented examination services by improving examination systems, raising the overall quality of each of our IP administration processes (the application, examination and registration stages), and reducing first action pendency.

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

The average first action pendency is as follows:

- Patents and utility models: 14.8 months in 2012 → 13.2 months in 2013 → 11 months in 2014
- Trademarks: 8.9 months in 2012 → 7.7 months in 2013 → 6.4 months in 2014
- Designs: 8.8 months in 2012 → 7.3 months in 2013 → 6.5 months in 2014



Prologue

Hangul

Koreans use their own unique alphabet called Hangul. It is considered to be one of the most efficient alphabets in the world and has garnered unanimous praise from language experts for its scientific design and excellence. Hangul was created under King Sejong during the Choson Dynasty (1393-1910). In 1446, the first Korean alphabet was proclaimed under the original name "Hunmin chong-um", which literally meant "the correct sounds for the instruction of the people."

Competitiveness

KIPO increases its IP competitiveness by maintaining the highest number of resident patent applications per both GDP and population

In this era of creative economies, IPRs are the core factor of any competent business strategy. KIPO is dedicated to establishing a competitive and rewarding IP system that nurtures IP creation and utilization by transforming novel ideas into strong IPRs.

IP Competitiveness

IP applications

The total preliminary number of IP applications, including patents, utility models, designs, and trademarks, submitted to KIPO in 2014 amounted to 434,047, an 0.9% growth rate year-on-year. Patent applications stood at around 200 in 1949 before jumping to around 5,000 in 1980 and 100,000 in 2000. Over the past 14 years, this number has doubled to more than 200,000.

Patent application competitiveness

According to the World IP Indicator unveiled by WIPO in December 2014, Korea ranked first for seven consecutive years (2007 to 2013) in regard to the number of resident patent applications per GDP and population.

PCT applications

Korea increased its number of PCT applications by 5.6 percent, from 12,439 in 2013 to 13,138 in 2014, accounting for 4.16 percent of all PCT applications—the 5th largest amount by country of origin.



Harmonization

KIPO, in collaboration with key national allies, makes a global community that appropriately values and rewards inventions

International cooperation is important for the stakeholders to easily acquire and protect IPRs. KIPO contributes to the advancement of IP systems as it works to increase the value of IP holdings by participating in various activities worldwide.



Samulnori

The term Samulnori was first brought up in 1978 and describes a genre of music in addition to being the name of Korea's leading traditional performance group. When used to describe the music genre, Samulnori refers to the performance of four musicians playing and dancing, each with a different Korean traditional percussion instrument. The Korean word 'samul' means 'four things', and 'nori' means 'to play'. Hence 'four things playing.'

Worldwide IP Collaboration

Korea Funds-In-Trust (FIT)

Over the past 10 years, we have contributed around 8.1 million Swiss francs for the continued operation of the Korea FIT. A ceremony commemorating the 10th anniversary of the Korea FIT's establishment was held during the WIPO 2014 General Assembly. This ceremony served to celebrate the Korea FIT's achievements and reinforce Korea's future commitment to playing a pivotal role in bridging the IP divide among WIPO member states.

21 Countries Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH)

In order to improve the efficiency and quality of examinations, we have become actively involved in the IP5 and the TM5. In 2014, we successfully hosted the IP5 Annual Meeting to harmonize global patent systems. We are also implementing the Patent Prosecution Highway with twenty-one countries to reduce the time and costs required to gain patents internationally.

- PPH countries: Japan, USA, China, Austria, Denmark, UK, Canada, Russia, Finland, Germany, Spain, Mexico, Singapore, Hungary, EPO, Australia, Israel, Sweden, Norway, Portugal, and Iceland

17 IP Sharing Projects

In collaboration with WIPO and APEC, we are implementing IP-sharing projects to support key national allies through the provision of appropriate technologies and brand development.

Appropriate technologies developed and provided by KIPO are as follows:

- Sugar cane charcoal manufacturing for Chad in 2010
- Soil brick manufacturing for Nepal in 2010
- A simple water purifier for Cambodia in 2011
- A cooking stove for Guatemala in 2012
- Appropriate construction technology to improve insulation in bamboo housing for Nepal in 2012
- An oil extractor for farms in the province of Tarlac in the Philippines in 2013
- A bicycle-operated water pump for Pinu in Papua New Guinea in 2013
- Dispersing-type sewage processing equipment in the Vietnam in 2014
- Manual extractors for bee farms in Ghana in 2014

Brands developed and provided by KIPO are as follows:

- A Chadian mango brand in 2010
- Chinese bamboo products in 2011 and 2012
- Chilean fruit cocktail products in 2011 and 2012
- Cambodian red rice and longan (a tropical fruit) in 2012
- A Bolivian grain brand called Quinoa in 2013
- A local brand for the province of Tarlac in the Philippines in 2013
- A brand for bee farms in Ghana in 2014
- A brand called Diamond Mango in Myanmar in 2014

