http://www.kipo.go.kr/en/

Korean Intellectual Property Office

Editorial Board
Multilateral Affairs Division
Korean Intellectual Property Office

Publisher
Korean Intellectual Property Office
Government Complex Daejeon Builiding 4, 189, Cheongsa-ro,
Seo-gu, Daejeon, 302-701, Republic of Korea
Tel +82 (42) 481-8637 Fax +82 (42) 472-9314
Website: http://www.kipo.go.kr/en/
E-mail: kipomla@korea.kr

March 2016

Annual Report 2015

Korean Intellectual Property Office

ANNUAL REPORT 2015

Korean Intellectual Property Office

YOUR INVENTION PARTNER, KIPO

ANNUAL REPORT
2015

Message from the Commissioner

As the Korean governmental agency primarily responsible for overseeing intellectual property rights (IPRs), the Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO) strives to conduct its intellectual property (IP) administration in accordance with the national paradigm of creative economy, which seeks to foster innovation and new engines of economic growth to drive Korea's future prosperity.

Domestically, KIPO has put as great an emphasis as possible on further developing its examination services, as well as promoting economic sustainability through a virtuous cycle of IP creation, utilization, and protection. On the international front, we strengthened our cooperative ties with foreign IP offices and other international organizations we regularly interact with.

We took actions to enhance work efficiency within our examination departments. One such action was to assign additional manpower to these departments in order to better ensure high-quality examination and trial services, and another was to enable examiners to maximize their time by helping them stay focused on their examinations.

This has resulted in some significant changes. For example, despite receiving an ever-increasing number of IPR applications, we nevertheless reduced our average first action pendency to only 10 months for patents/utility models and 5 months for trademarks/designs. Furthermore, signs indicate that the quality of our examination is increasing.

The year 2015 marked the 50th occasion of Korea's Invention Day, encouraging us to reflect upon achievements made during the past half century and to look ahead to what might be achieved over the next fifty years. In celebration of this day, KIPO hosted an event in which past inventions were exhibited and inventors who made significant contributions to society were honored.

In addition, we prepared a blueprint for a nation-wide patent strategy, and we conducted patent trend surveys covering more than 2,800 Korean governmental R&D projects. We also provided support for the creation of high value-added standard-essential patents(SEPs), as well as for product development that takes into account IP rights and incorporates patenting, branding, and design.

To help support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) possessing outstanding patents and cutting-edge technology, we established an IP financing system that allows them to use their IP as collateral for attaining substantial loans. In 2015, we expanded this system to include participation from private sector banks, rather than limiting it solely to the public sector. The result was a cumulative sum of around USD166 million lent to a total of 402 SMEs.

Moreover, 196 KIPO-funded Invention Education Centers throughout the nation provided IP education to around 250,000 primary, middle, and high school students, thereby contributing to increased public IPR awareness and the fostering of a new national talent pool of inventors.

To promote public participation in helping stamp out counterfeit goods, KIPO launched the nationwide "Counterfeits OUT, Originals IN" campaign and systematically cracked down on IP infringers. As a result, according to relevant foreign evaluation agencies, the level of Korea's IPR protection has drastically risen.

Furthermore, we expanded our multilateral and bilateral cooperation in order to better improve the global IP system.

In April 2015, during the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)'s 15th meeting of the Committee on Development and Intellectual Property, KIPO presented a launching event for IP- IGNITE, a multimedia toolkit focusing on global IP issues. During the event, this and other of our global IP education programs received support and praise from WIPO members. Furthermore, we will continue to expand cooperative ties with our fellow WIPO members in order to come up with innovative new avenues of IP education as we move forward into the future.

Also noteworthy was the KIPO-WIPO Appropriate Technology Grand Symposium in April 2015. This symposium was held to provide a venue for KIPO to share with developing countries and international organizations its experience in overseeing appropriate technology (AT) development projects and to promote further such projects for the future.

On a related note, in December 2015, KIPO jointly held an AT competition in Mongolia to assist local companies struggling due to lack of proper brand development. Thanks to this competition, we were able to help local businesses create added-value for their brands.

Last but not least, during the IP5 heads meeting held in China in May 2015, the framework for the Global Dossier was completed, and a joint statement was adopted that laid the groundwork for future stages of inter-office cooperation and expressed the IP5 offices' firm commitment to providing better services.

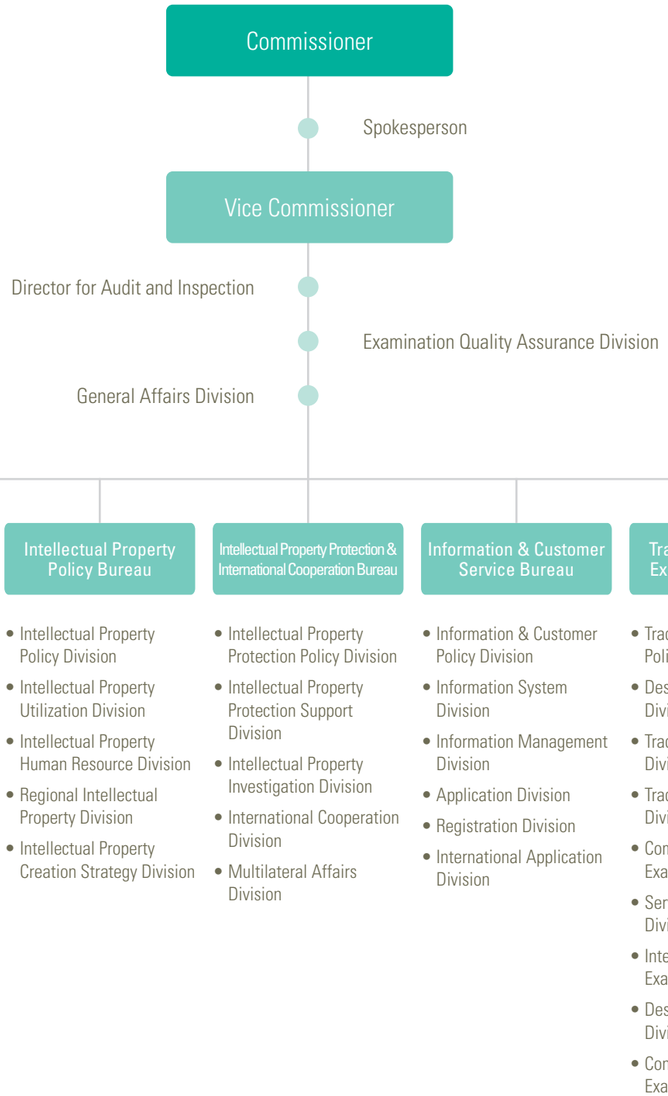
Last year's achievements would not have been possible were it not for the continued interest and support shown by our numerous stakeholders and IP service users, both foreign and domestic. We at KIPO remain steadfast in our resolve to facilitate economic innovation and the realization of a creative economy.

It is my great pleasure to be involved with publishing this year's annual report, which contains information on KIPO's primary activities and overall performance results for 2015. I hope it serves to provide you with a better understanding of our recent projects and overarching vision for the future.

Choi Donggyou | Commissioner

"We at KIPO remain steadfast in our resolve to facilitate economic innovation and the realization of a creative economy."

Organizational Chart of **KIPO**



Director General for Planning & Coordination
- Director for Planning & Finance
- Director for Organization & Management Innovation
- Director for Regulatory Reform & Legal Affairs

Intellectual Property Policy Bureau
- Intellectual Property Policy Division
- Intellectual Property Utilization Division
- Intellectual Property Human Resource Division
- Regional Intellectual Property Division
- Intellectual Property Creation Strategy Division

Intellectual Property Protection & International Cooperation Bureau
- Intellectual Property Protection Policy Division
- Intellectual Property Protection Support Division
- Intellectual Property Investigation Division
- International Cooperation Division
- Multilateral Affairs Division

Information & Customer Service Bureau
- Information & Customer Policy Division
- Information System Division
- Information Management Division
- Application Division
- Registration Division
- International Application Division

Trademark & Design Examination Bureau
- Trademark Examination Policy Division
- Design Examination Policy Division
- Trademark Examination Division 1
- Trademark Examination Division 2
- Complex Trademark Examination Division
- Service Mark Examination Division
- International Trademark Examination Division
- Design Examination Division
- Convergence Design Examination Division

Intellectual Property Trial and Appeal Board
- Board 1-11
- Trial Policy Division
- Litigation Division

International Intellectual Property Training Institute
- Education Planning Division
- IP Education Division
- International Education Division

Seoul Branch Office
- Administrative Division
- Application and Registration Division
- Electronic Documentation Division

Patent Examination Policy Bureau
- Patent Examination Policy Division
- Patent System Administration Division
- Energy Technology Examination Division
- Automobile Convergence Technology Examination Division
- Information Technology Convergence Examination Division
- Measurement & Analysis Technology Examination Division
- Medical Technology Examination Division
- PCT International Search & Preliminary Examination Division
- PCT International Search & Preliminary Examination Division

Patent Examination Bureau 1
- Home Appliance Examination Division
- Office Equipment Examination Division
- Living Appliance Examination Division
- Civil Engineering & Environment Examination Division
- Residential Technology Examination Division
- Electric Power Technology Examination Division
- Fine Chemistry Examination Division
- Food, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Examination Division
- Electronic Components Examination Division

Patent Examination Bureau 2
- Processing System Examination Division
- Precision Component Examination Division
- Semiconductor Examination Division
- Automobile Examination Division
- Polymer & Textile Examination Division
- Computer System Examination Division
- Pharmaceutical Examination Division
- Telecommunication Network Examination Division
- Resources Recovery & Reutilization Examination Division

Patent Examination Bureau 3
- Applied Materials Examination Division
- Robot & Automation Examination Division
- Advanced Transportation Examination Division
- Biotechnology Examination Division
- Mobile Communication Examination Division
- Metals Examination Division
- Display Device Examination Division
- Multimedia Broadcasting Examination Division

CONTENTS

Intellectual Property is

the driving force behind

a creative economy

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.

▲ Armillary Sphere

It is an astronomical instrument used to measure the positions and motions of the constellations, and it is assumed to have been used since around the 7thcentury, while making its first appearance in literature during 1433.

▶ Sundial(Angbu-ilgu)

It was originally made during the reign of King Sejong the Great of the Joseon Dynasty in the 15th century. This sundial differs from those of other centuries as it is concaved so the regularity of the space between the time and dial will be maintained, even if the length of the shadow of the sun varies with time.

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 office action pendency is as follows:

- Patents and utility models: 14.8 months in 2012 → 13.2 months in 2013 → 11.0 months in 2014 → 10.0 months in 2015
- Trademarks: 8.9 months in 2012 → 7.7 months in 2013 → 6.4 months in 2014 → 4.7 months in 2015
- Designs: 8.8 months in 2012 → 7.3 months in 2013 → 6.5 months in 2014 → 4.4 months in 2015

Hojakdo

It is a folk painting that depicts a tiger and a magpie; these two figures represent the shamanistic themes that the tiger drives off evil spirits and the magpie brings good news. Hojakdo Paintings were popular in the 18th and 19th century.

Samjokoh(Three-Legged Crow)

It is a legendary bird which is said to live in the sun, and it is the symbol of Goguryeo (BC 31-668) – a powerful nation in East Asian ancient times. Samjokoh means a crow with three legs.

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 2015 amounted to 462,243, a 6.5% 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 2015, Korea ranked first for 8 consecutive years (2007 to 2014) in regard to the number of resident patent applications per GDP and population.

PCT applications

Korea increased its number of PCT applications by 11.1 percent, from 13,138 in 2014 to 14,594 in 2015, 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, creates a global community that appropriately values and rewards inventions

International cooperation is critical in order 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.

▲ Korean Fan Dance

It is a Korean traditional dance performed with showy fans decorated with floral patterns and feathers, creating various beautiful shapes. Splendid costumes and rhythmical Korean classical music add to this dance.

▶ Goryeo Celadon(Incense Burner, Celadon with Openwork Design)

It is representative of Goryeo celadons of the Goryeo Dynasty which had the world's most advanced skills and techniques of making pottery in the 12th century. Three dainty rabbits which surmount the incense burner are impressive.

Worldwide IP Collaboration

WIPO Korea Funds-In-Trust (FIT)

Since 2004, we have contributed around 9.1 million Swiss francs for the continued operation of WIPO Korea FIT. On April 20, 2015, during the 15th meeting of the WIPO Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP), we hosted a launch ceremony for IP IGNITE, an IP educational platform that serves as an audio-visually enhanced version of WIPO Academy's Distance Learning-101 (DL-101).

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 obtain 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

21 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
- Natural Dyeing machines in Mongolia in 2015
- Waste water treatment system in Myanmar in 2015

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 Quinua 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
- A brand for Florens Bajawa Coffee in Indonesia in 2015
- A brand for wool product called Tsagaan alt wool in Mongolia 2015

2015 Statistical Overview

IPR applications

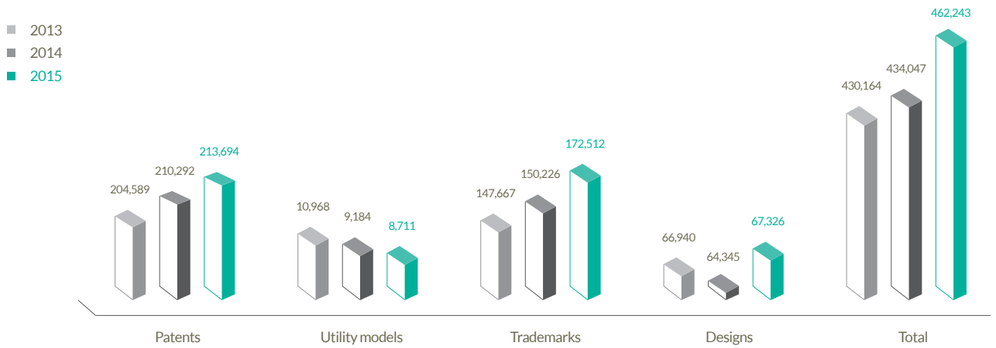
The total preliminary number of IPR applications, including patents, utility models, designs, and trademarks, submitted to KIPO in 2015 amounted to 462,243; this was a 6.5% year-on-year increase. In 2015, patent applications totaled 213,694, showing a 1.6% year-on-year increase, which was the highest growth rate among all IPRs.

Utility model applications decreased 5.2% on a year-on-year basis, totaling 8,711, and design applications increased 4.6% for a total of 67,326. Trademark applications for 2015 totaled 172,512, a 14.8% year-on-year growth rate.

Volatility caused by the financial crisis lowered the number of patent applications by 4.2% in 2009, but this was soon rectified in 2010 by a 4.0% increase which kicked off an upward trend that has since continued unabated. Patent applications stood at around 200 in 1949, before jumping to around 5,000 in 1980, and 100,000 in 2000. This number has more than doubled to over 200,000 throughout the past 13 years.

There were 46,419 foreign applications, accounting for 21.7% of the total number of patent applications. The greatest number of patent applications (15,283) was from Japan, which was a 2.3% year-on-year decrease. This was followed by the United States (14,655, a 4.7% year-on-year increase), Germany (4,087), France (1,984), China (1,947), and Switzerland (1,365).

(unit: cases)



International search reports and international preliminary examinations

The number of PCT international search reports undertaken by KIPO totaled 28,468 in 2015, this was a 5.6 decrease from 2014 which was 30,160.

The number of international preliminary examinations undertaken by KIPO in 2015 was 208, a decrease of 11.9% from 236 in 2014. The numbers have continuously decreased over the past few years due to the PCT regulation amendments in 2002, which extended the time taken to enter the designated states from 20 months to 30 months, even if international preliminary examination had not been requested. This trend is also partly due to International Searching Authorities reviewing the patentability of applications since 2004.

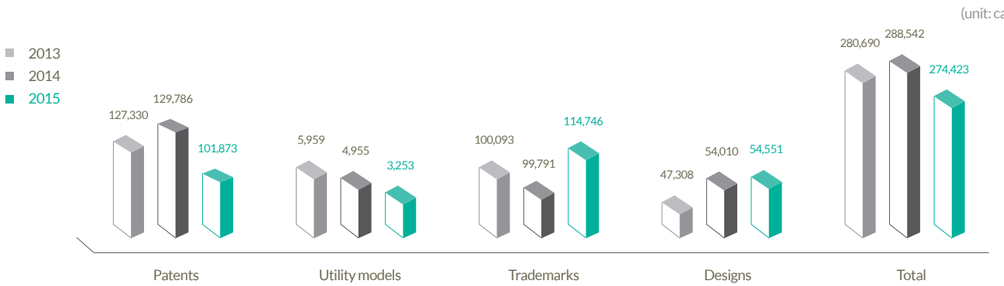
(unit: cases)

Registrations

The total number of registrations for intellectual property rights in 2015 reached 274,423, a 4.9% decrease from 288,542 in 2014.

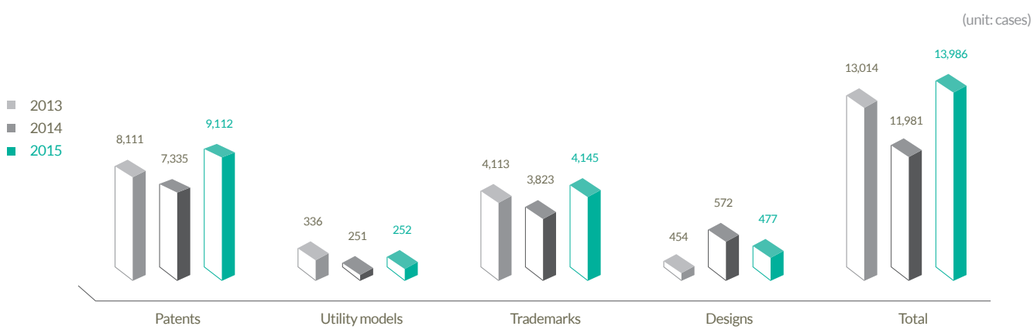
A breakdown of IP rights shows that: patent registrations reached 101,873, a 21.5% decrease rate on a year-on-year basis; utility models decreased by 34.3% to 3,253; and designs increased by 1.0% to 54,551. Further, trademark registrations increased by 15.0%, totaling 114,746.

(unit: cases)



Trials

The number of trial requests increased by 16.7% on a year-on-year basis to 13,986, from 11,981 in 2014. A look at IP statistics shows that: patents increased by 24.2% to total 9,112, utility models increased by 0.4% to total 252, trademarks increased by 8.4% for a total of 4,145, while designs decreased by 16.6% to total 477.



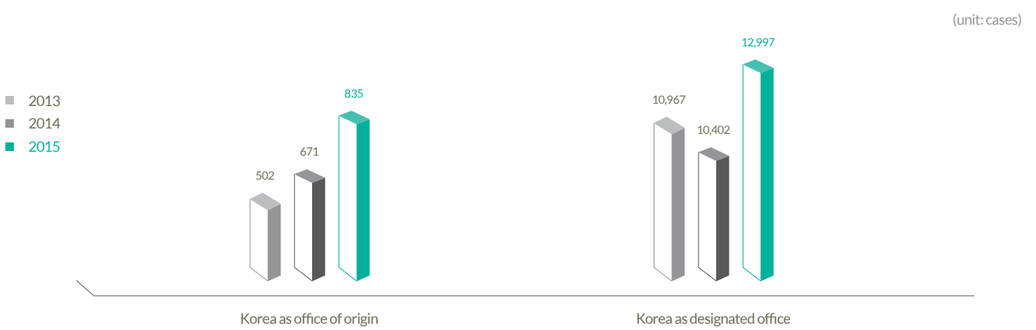
PCT, Madrid and Hague system

PCT

The number of international applications filed under the PCT by Korean applicants has experienced a steady annual increase primarily due to a clearer understanding of the advantages of the PCT system, increased awareness as to the importance of IPRs, and continued efforts toward the consolidation of international patent rights.

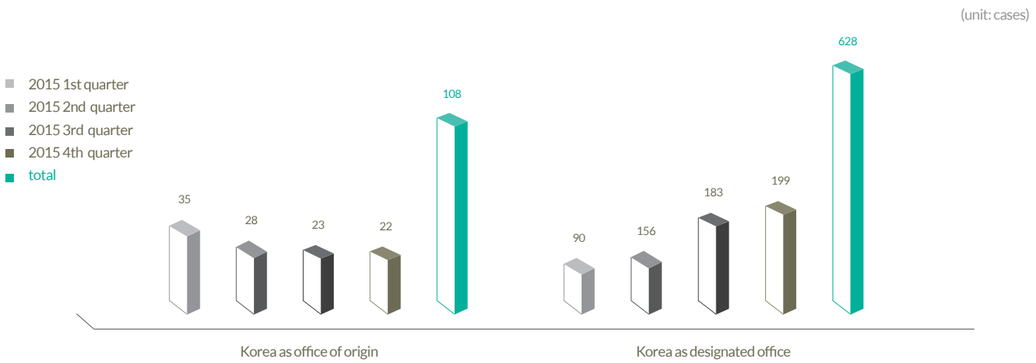
Madrid

The number of Madrid international applications, that designate Korea, submitted by foreigners reached 12,997 in 2015, a 24.9% increase from 10,967 in 2014.



Hague

As a result of Korea joining the Hague Agreement in July 2014, in 2015, we oversaw a total of 153 international trademark applications as the office of origin, and 628 international applications as the designated office.



2015 Highlights

JANUARY

16 KIPO Signs MOU with Leading Universities in the IP Field

23 Roundtable with Members of the Franchise Industry for Overseas IP Protection

28 KIPO and Intellectual Property Department of the Hong Kong Special Administration Sign MOU on IPR Cooperation

FEBRUARY

07 Award Ceremony for Outstanding Examiners

25 Intellectual Property Concert for the General Public

27 Invention Education Conference

MARCH

05 KIPO-UAE KIPOnet Export Agreement Signing Ceremony

13 Opening Ceremony for the Smart Patent Examination Center

16 IIPTI-WIPO Patent Examiner Course

19 IP5 Deputy Heads Meeting

APRIL

20 IP IGNITE Launching Event

22 World Intellectual Property Day

29 KIPO-WIPO Appropriate Technology Grand Symposium

MAY

12 KIPO Commissioner Choi Donggyou Takes Office

17 Official Launch of Invention Savers JIN

19 Korea's 50th Invention Day

21 IP5 Heads Meeting

JUNE

03 High Level Invitational Training Program for the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO) and its Member States

04 MOU between KIPO and Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism

18 Award Ceremony for Outstanding Patents

19 Meeting with European Chamber of Commerce in Korea

JULY

14 KIPO-USPTO Cooperative Patent Classification Implementation Group Meeting

20 Opening Ceremony for IP Creative Zone

23 Youth Invention Festival

29 Revisions to the Patent Act to Benefit Both Consumers and Applicants

AUGUST

06 Robot Convergence Festival

11 Award Ceremony for Outstanding Examiners

31 Patent Litigation Defense Competition

SEPTEMBER

03 PATINEX 2015

22 Asia IP Business and Finance Conference

24 Deputy Heads Meeting between KIPO and the DPMA

OCTOBER

05 WIPO General Assembly

06 KIPO-WIPO Heads Meeting

22 KIPO-JPO Heads Meeting

NOVEMBER

04 Gangwon IP Festival

04 The 6th KIPO-WIPO Advanced International Certificate Course

17 Korea-China-Japan Heads Meeting

23 Campus Patent Strategies Universiade

DECEMBER

01 Chungbuk IP Forum

23 Completion of the 2015 International IP Sharing Project and International Content Development

Providing IP Services

Changgyeonggung Palace
King Sejong the Great, the fourth king of the Joseon Dynasty, built this palace for his father (King Taejong) in 1418. It is the symbolic scenery of Seoul where tradition is combined with modern styles and the city's forest of buildings.

Examination Services

01 Reducing first office action pendency

As technological development continues to increase, the Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO) is reducing its first office action pendency for intellectual property rights (IPRs) in order to afford its customers timely protection.

In 2015, first office action pendency was 10.0 months for patents and utility models, 4.7 months for trademarks, and 4.4 months for designs. Compared to 2014, this was a reduction of 1.0 month for patents and utility models, 0.7 month for trademarks, and 1.1 month for designs.

With IPR application submissions continuously on the rise, KIPO's goal for 2016 is to maintain its current average first office action pendency through improved outsourcing of prior art searches and the recruitment of additional examiners.

Recruiting additional examiners

In 2015, we recruited 84 new examiners for patents and utility models, as well as 10 new examiners for trademarks and designs. By the end of 2015, our examination personnel totaled 812 for patents and utility models, and 167 for trademarks and designs.

Expanding KIPO's outsourcing of prior art searches

In 2015, we outsourced prior art searches for 97,314 patent and utility model applications (56% of all applications), an increase of 4,331 applications over the previous year. In addition, we outsourced prior art searches for 74,213 trademark applications (31% of all applications) and 28,519 design applications (41% of all applications). In 2016, we plan to outsource prior art searches for 86,541 patent and utility model applications, 82,002 trademark applications, and 26,118 design applications.

02 Enhancing examination quality

Managing examination quality through examination review

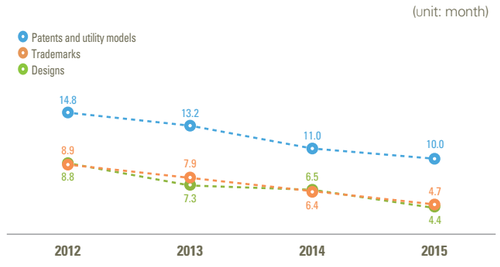
One way we ensure examination quality is by double-checking randomly selected IPR examination cases and international search reports (ISRs) under the PCT in order to identify areas for potential improvement.

Examination review is primarily conducted by the Examination Quality Assurance Division (EQAD), as well as by the examination bureau directors, who review examinations according to specific guidelines. The EQAD assists with each examination bureau's quality control by providing statistical data on each examiner. Such data includes their rates of registration, acceptance of invalidation trial result, etc.

In 2015, EQAD reviewed examinations conducted on 3,276 patents and utility models (2.1% of concluded examinations), 5,706 trademarks and designs (2.4% of concluded examinations), and 1,497 ISRs. In addition to the aforementioned items, examination reviews of 2,166 patents and utility models, as well as 1,303 trademarks and designs, were carried out by examination bureau directors.

In the second half of 2015, examination reviews were conducted and all application/notification errors were corrected before applicants were sent final notification of a decision of registration or decision of rejection. In addition, it became each examination bureau director's responsibility to evaluate examinations currently in progress, rather than completed ones only.

Average first office action pendency



On-the-job training (OJT) for examiners and administrative judges

In 2015, we operated a variety of training courses for examiners and administrative judges of every career stage in order to help them improve their expertise. We organized a total of 4 basic courses, 16 legal courses, 11 practical examination courses, 20 capacity-enhancing courses, and an examiners' course on cutting-edge technology (held a combined total of 120 times).

The 4 basic courses, in which 325 examiners participated, ranged from ones tailored toward new examiners to ones focused on mid-grade examiners, litigation system experts, and administrative judges.

In addition, we ran in-depth legal training courses, beginning with basic theoretical training on important laws for examinations and trials (the Patent Act, Trademark Act, etc.), followed by debates on major issues and cases.

We also provided training on the Civil Act, the Copyright Act, etc., and a total of 515 examiners participated in the 16 courses of this program.

Moreover, we established 11 capacity-building courses (including basic and in-depth case studies on examinations) for our examiners and administrative judges, as well as 15 practical examination courses—including a course on commercializing IPR technology.

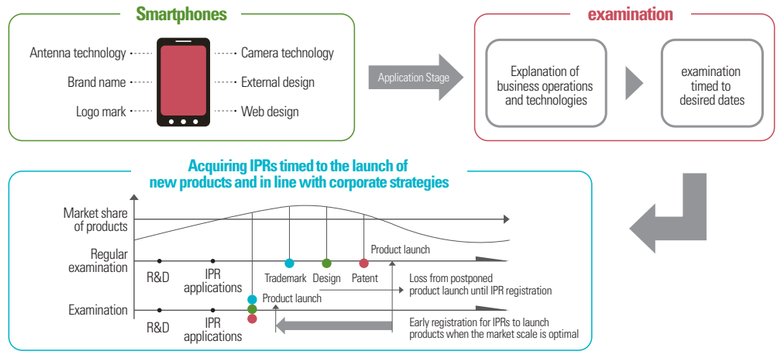
During 2015, 664 examiners attended the courses, which were held a total of 22 times. We also delivered 66 lectures aimed at providing the 1,573 examiners and administrative judges in attendance with training on cutting-edge convergence technologies.

Public-Private Joint Advisory Committee for Patent Quality Improvement

A Public-Private Joint Advisory Committee for Patent Quality Improvement was set up to provide a channel for communicating with private sector academics, researchers, industry experts, and patent lawyers in order to collect ideas on how patent policies might be amended to improve overall patent quality.

In 2015, Advisory Committee meetings were held on two separate occasions, once in June and once in December, to discuss KIPO policies that have an impact on patent

Example of collective examination



quality. Such policies include methods for improving examiner capabilities, conducting joint examinations with the USPTO, and administering examination reviews. Suggestions from experts in the private sector were thoroughly reviewed for potential implementation, and the results were then reported back to said experts.

Open Patent Technology Forum for Improving Examiner Expertise

The Open Patent Technology Forum invites companies that file a large volume of patent applications to introduce their cutting-edge technologies to patent examiners.

In March 2015, Samsung Electronics gave a seminar on their overall patent strategy and four major fields of technology (including semi-conductors and memory chips).

In July 2015, LG Electronics gave a similar seminar in which they introduced their patent strategy and four major fields of technology (including LTE communication technology).

LG Chemical followed suit in October 2015 by sharing their patent strategy and four major fields of technology (including secondary batteries).

03 *Customized examination services*

Examination 3.0

We shifted our examination paradigm from the existing system—in which examiners simply give their reasons for refusal—to a more customer-oriented examination system that helps applicants acquire high-quality patents by boosting interactive communication with examiners regarding the proper scope of the inventions. Services include:

A) Preliminary examination
Preliminary examination was first introduced in 2014, enabling applicants and patent examiners to communicate with each other prior to first office actions in order to discuss the overall direction of the examination and resolve any possible reasons for rejection. In 2015, preliminary examination became available in all cases of accelerated examination.

B) Review of pre-amendments
The process of reviewing pre-amendments was introduced in 2015 as a way of informing applicants of whether reasons for rejection can be resolved prior to the final amendment.

C) Collective examination
Collective examination is a customized service in which, at the applicant's request, separate applications involving patent, design, and/or trademark rights for a single product are examined simultaneously. In 2015, the service was further expanded to include new technologies resulting from national R&D projects.

Statistics on three-track examination requests

Category	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Accelerated examination	22,249 (13.9%)	24,205 (14.6%)	25,609 (14.7%)	27,437 (15.4%)	28,574 (15.5%)
Regular examination	138,202 (86.1%)	141,217 (85.3%)	148,427 (85.2%)	150,763 (84.6%)	155,525 (84.4%)
Customer-deferred examination	153 (0.1%)	190 (0.1%)	149 (0.1%)	54 (0.1%)	112 (0.06%)
Total requests for examination	160,604 (100%)	165,612 (100%)	174,185 (100%)	178,254 (100%)	184,211 (100%)

Trial Services

Three-track patent and utility model examination service

We provide examination services in accordance with our clients' IPR strategies and preferred time schedules. In the case of patents and utility models, applicants can choose the most appropriate examination track for their IP strategy: accelerated, regular, or customer-deferred. Accelerated examination takes between two to four months, whereas, conversely, customer-deferred examination is completed within three months of the desired postponed examination date.

Two-track trademark and design examination service

To accommodate applicants in need of expedited trademark or design rights, we implemented a two-track examination system. Applicants who qualify for accelerated examination receive their initial examination results within 45 days of applying for a trademark, and within 2 months of applying for a design, thereby enabling them to commence more rapidly with business activities and/or dispute resolution. In 2015, there were 4,214 requests (2.4% of all applications) for accelerated examination of trademarks and 4,592 requests (6.8% of all applications) for accelerated examination of designs.

01 *Video Conference Oral Hearing*

In April 2014, as a way of making IPTAB services more convenient, video conferences were set up for oral hearings. In 2015, Video conference began to be widely used. These video conferences allow trial participants to take part in oral hearings at not only KIPO's Daejeon office, but KIPO's Seoul office as well.

A survey conducted among video conference users reported a 95% satisfaction rate, with 98% of customers stating they would use this service again.

02 *Reducing trial pendency*

With the recent global surge in IPR disputes, KIPO is taking measures to reduce trial pendency and resolve these disputes as quickly as possible. In 2015, we hired five new administrative judges, resulting in a reduced inter partes trial pendency of only 5.9 months.

03 *Three-track trial service*

The Intellectual Property Trial and Appeal Board (IPTAB) operates a three-track (super-accelerated, accelerated, and regular) trial system in order to more efficiently handle trials that require expedited processing.

Usually, trials are treated on a first come first serve basis, however, some trials—such as trials to confirm the scope of a right and re-trials due to the revocation of trial decisions from the patent court, etc.—qualify for accelerated trials. Super-accelerated trials consist of an oral hearing within one month from the expiry date of the written opinion submission, and trial decisions are made within two weeks after the oral hearing. Plaintiffs receive a trial decision within three months, and these

trials are more quickly processed than accelerated trials. Super-accelerated trials can consist of trials to confirm the scope of a right, invalidation trials corresponding to infringement lawsuits, etc.

04 Activities to Improve Trial Quality

IPTAB's trial decisions are often referenced during infringement lawsuits, and they can directly impact corporations' business strategies. Therefore, IPTAB makes every possible effort to improve the quality of its trials, with a special emphasis on fairness and accuracy.

Administrative judges are selected from among a pool of patent/trademark/design examiners, each of whom averages at least ten years of examination experience.

In order to enhance their expertise, various training programs are provided, including customized OJT, regular refresher courses, and legal courses. These judges also engage in regular self-study programs in which they can converse with participating court judges and professors from relevant fields.

Trial decision feedback from administrative judges also function as an integral part of IP trial quality control. IPTAB's presiding administrative judge evaluates trial decisions made by the administrative judges, and, in every quarter, a trial quality evaluation committee reviews trial decision annulments in search of possible errors. The administrative judges are then informed of the committee's findings so they can better align their activities with prior court decisions.

Statistics on two-track examination requests

Category	Trademarks			Designs		
	2013	2014	2015	2013	2014	2015
Total no. of applications (A)	147,667	150,226	172,512	66,940	64,345	67,326
Requests for expedited examination (B)	3,430	3,497	4,214	3,792	4,143	4,592
Requests for expedited examination as a percentage of the total (B/A)	2.3	2.3	2.4	5.7	6.4	6.8

Statistics on super-accelerated, accelerated, and regular trials in 2015

Requests made in 2015	Patents and utility models	Trademarks and designs	Sub total
Super-accelerated trials	141 (2.6%)	22 (0.5%)	163 (1.7%)
Accelerated trials	1,016 (18.7%)	394 (9.6%)	1,410 (14.8%)
Regular trials	4,278 (78.7%)	3,693 (89.9%)	7,971 (83.5%)
Total	5,435 (100%)	4,109 (100%)	9,544 (100%)

IP system

01 Patents and utility models

Revisions to the Patent Act and the Utility Model Act

The Patent Act and the Utility Model Act were revised on January 28, 2015 (effective as of July 29, 2015), in which a grace period with additional measures preventing patent applications from being rejected due to accidental public disclosure was introduced. Also, the submission period for divisional patent applications was extended, enabling applicants to better respond to market changes.

A revision was also made to the policy for reimbursing examination request fees. If, for whatever reason, examination service is not provided (for example, in cases where an application is withdrawn prior to certain office actions), applicants will be fully reimbursed for any examination request fees they already paid. This change to the Patent Act went into effect on May 18, 2015.

02 Trademarks and Designs

Amendments to Trademark Examination Standards

Several changes were made in the trademark field. Consistency of trademark examinations was improved by ensuring examiners consult with each other extensively in cases where more than one examiner was responsible for separate applications submitted by a single applicant. We also worked to enhance examination fairness and accuracy by improving regulations for examining 3D trademarks. We also took further measures to improve customer convenience, such as by expanding eligibility for accelerated trials and extending the timeframe for designated period extension requests up to 4 months from the end of the originally designated period.

Changes were made in the design field, as well. For example, we determined that, as long as the entire submitted design could be easily inferred, applicants need not submit the drawing in its entirety. For items featuring a flat reverse side with no particular design, a drawing of that side is no longer required. When filing a patent for a fashion accessory, mannequins or coat hangers used to better display the item is now considered part of the design itself.

Enlarging the reference list of goods and services

To assist in the registration of trademark applications, the reference list of names of goods and services was expanded from 15,000 in 2014 to 46,000 in 2015. Names jointly acknowledged by the TM5, as well as those acknowledged by WIPO and OHIM, are included in KIPO's notification of goods list so that applicants can easily check goods being distributed in major countries.

Whenever goods classifications are falsely presented, or when the English names of goods contain errors and require corrections, trademark registration is delayed for the amount of time necessary for the corrections to be made. By providing the original source information pertaining to the names of goods and services acknowledged in major countries, which is reflected in KIPO's notification of goods list, applicants have an easier time filling out the description of goods in overseas applications and obtaining international trademarks in a timely manner.

03 Trials

Revisions of the Trademark Act and the Design Protection Act

The fee for appealing a decision of rejection was required to be paid in full by the trial applicant, and was not refunded even in cases where, as a result of the appeal, the initial decision of rejection was revoked. Since this practice was not deemed satisfactory, the Trademark Act and the Design Protection Act were amended so that, if a decision of rejection is revoked through no fault of the trial applicant, the trial request fee will be

fully refunded to said applicant. Furthermore, starting in the first half of 2016, cases where: trial applications or decisions to participate in a trial are dropped by the applicant prior to a notification of the closure of the trial review; trial requests are rejected in situations where an appeal is deemed inadmissible; and the trial applicant is denied eligibility to take part in the trial will result in the applicant being refunded half of the already-paid trial request fee.

Amendments in Trial Procedure Regulations

The drug patent linkage system in pharmaceutical law was implemented in March 2015 to boost the generic drug industry via various patent challenges (i.e. the nullification of registered drug patents) while still providing fair compensation (i.e. a sales ban on generic drugs) to the patent holder. The introduction of the linkage system caused a significant increase in petitions for patent trials (a total of 1,957 petitions in 2015). Had these trial decisions been delayed, producers of generic drugs would have suffered heavy losses from having to wait to enter the market. Delayed trial decisions can lead to financial losses on the part of National Health Insurance, as well. To prevent this, IPTAB amended its trial procedure regulations in March 2015 to allow for accelerated trials in cases such as invalidation trials for drugs and trials to confirm the scope of a right.

In October 2015, additional changes were made to trial regulations, resulting in accelerated trials for second-round appeals. Second-round appeals occur when an applicant wishes to re-appeal after the examiner upholds his/her decision of rejection at the end of the first appeal. By granting accelerated trial status to second-round appeals, average pendency for appeal trials was reduced by three months—a dramatic reduction in overall trial and examination pendency for appeals against decisions of rejection.

PCT IP System International Search Service

PCT applications are filed with the Receiving Office (RO). A PCT international search entails perusing prior art related to the submitted invention, reviewing its patentability, and providing the results to the applicant.

KIPO was designated as a PCT international authority in September 1997 and has been conducting PCT international searches since December 1999, providing PCT international search services to foreign applicants since 2002. As of January 2015, 20 patent offices have been designated as international authorities. Since 2006, there has been a surge in international search requests made by US applicants, and, in 2014, these requests accounted for 97.2% of all international search requests we received.

Requests for PCT international searches

Category		2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Koreans		9,950	10,736	11,971	12,442	13,579
Foreigners	U.S.A	15,167	15,778	16,968	17,162	14,480
	Others	549	566	592	556	409
	Subtotal	15,716	16,344	17,560	17,718	14,889
Total		25,666	27,080	29,531	30,160	28,408

IP Administrative Automation System

01 KIPOnet

In 1999, KIPO launched its automation system (KIPOnet), which serves as an e-filing platform for trials, as well as the filing, receipt, examination, and registration of applications. In 2009, we began work on the third-generation version of KIPOnet (KIPOnet III) and launched it in June 2013. In particular, we introduced a server-based cloud (SBC) platform to further enhance our security, and we converted the fee payment system to Swiss francs (CHF). In 2014, we improved our e-application software to make acquiring IPRs more convenient. In addition, we phased-in an administrative system for international designs to enforce the amended Design Protection Act in accordance with the Hague Agreement.

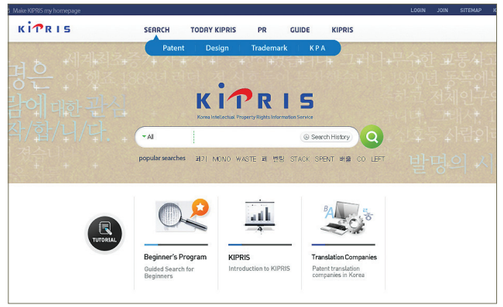
To prevent excessive workloads among examiners and improve overall examination quality, the Smart Examination System was established, with service beginning on December 11, 2015.

The Smart Examination System has two main functions: (1) Automatic Analysis of Applications and (2) Error Detection in Notifications. The Automatic Analysis function checks applications for formality-related errors, such as the listing of more than two inventions in one claim. The Error Detection function detects any errors made when examiners manually file out notifications. Such errors include applying the wrong law to the application, omitting a claim, etc.

02 Korea IPRs Information Service (KIPRIS)

The Korea Intellectual Property Rights Information Service (KIPRIS, http://www.kipris.or.kr) is a free online search service we provide to the general public so they can conveniently browse both international and domestic IP information.

We are pursuing a diverse range of activities for



publicizing and promoting the utilization of IP information. For example, we provide beginner's guides and regular email updates for KIPRIS users. We also provide free machine translation services that convert text from Korean into English (and vice versa) and from Japanese and Chinese into Korean. Furthermore, we provide a mobile app (http://m.kipris.or.kr) so stakeholders can easily use KIPRIS anytime, anywhere. We will continue to make improvements that allow users better access to KIPRIS' diverse IP resources.

03 Korea IPRs Information Service (KIPRIS^{Plus})

KIPRIS^{Plus} (http://plus.kipris.or.kr) is a portal for Application Programming Interface (API)-based Web services, providing real-time IP information to those who wish to access all the data without having to build their own databases. It allows companies and research institutes, among other entities, to reduce the time and cost involved with developing IP information databases. Currently, KIPRIS^{Plus} has information—information such as patents, designs, and trademarks—on 64 kinds of goods, in addition to 47 kinds of information from the private sector. Fifty-two different organizations, including IP information service companies and public agencies, currently use this service. We plan to identify and disseminate useful IP data to the public and expand the provision of Open API- and Linking Open Data (LOD)-

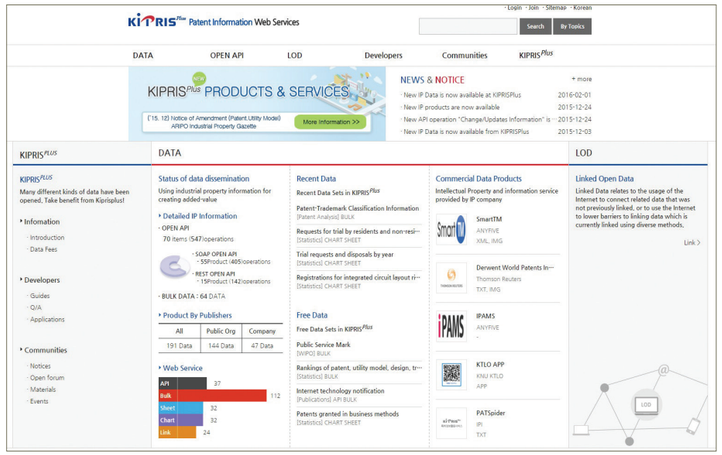
based data to further reinforce the role of KIPRIS^{Plus} as an open platform for providing and distributing IP information.

04 Information security system

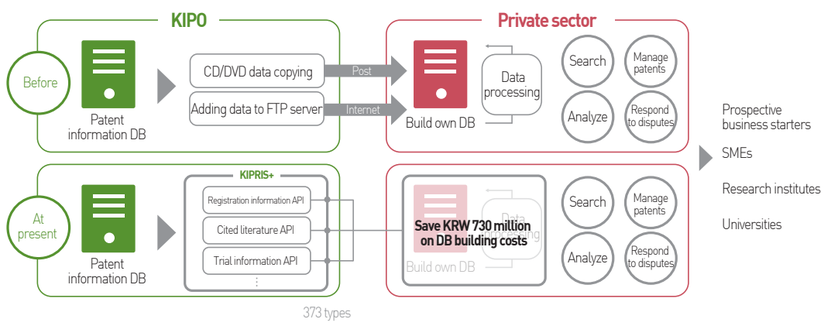
We continuously develop and implement various managerial and security procedures for safeguarding valuable information—such as undisclosed patent documents—from cyber-attacks. In 2009, we separated our internal and external networks in accordance with security guidelines. Cloud computing was introduced in 2012, and we divided our comprehensive network into a SBC platform and an external network. In 2013, we tightened security on documents transmitted between the external network and the SBC platform. All IP documents are saved in the SBC server to prevent patent information leakage.

In addition, we built an information security system while still cooperating with prior art search staff from our subsidiary organizations and outsourcing firms by granting them access to our in-house cloud system. Since 2005, our KIPO Monitoring Control Center has prevented, detected, and responded to cyber-attacks in real time. In 2011, we expanded our security control to include our subsidiary organizations and outsourcing firms. We also evaluate the information security of our subsidiary organizations and hold outsourcing firms responsible for any security violations.

As a result of our efforts, KIPO was recognized by the 2014 Status Review of Administrative Management Capacity as having the best practice in cyber safety and ranking number 1 among the 43 central administrative agencies in the 2015 Information Security Management Status Evaluation.



Development of IP information database before and after KIPRIS^{Plus}



05 IP Point System

To prevent excessive application requests by any one individual, anytime a single applicant submits more than 20 applications, the examination fee waiver is limited to only 30% of the applications, as opposed to the previous fee waiver of 70-80%. For applicants who are eligible for a full examination fee waiver, but request more than 30 examinations, an examination request fee is issued in order to help prevent excessive workloads for the examiners.

In November 2015, the IP Point System was introduced as a way of offsetting examination fees. Points are awarded to patent holders who make their patent, utility model, and design rights available to the public free of charge, prompting active utilization of IPRs and presenting new business opportunities to small and medium-sized companies.

06 Application and registration systems

In 2015, the "Guidebook on Patent Application Forms" was distributed to help applicants correctly fill out their application forms. Public briefings were held for SMEs in order to explain key examination cases and changes to the overall system. KIPO also provided these SMEs with its "Guidebook on Examination Fee Waivers" which explains how to qualify for examination fee exemptions.

Furthermore, an ex officio system was introduced whereby, if an application contains clerical errors made by the applicant, the person in charge of the formality check can make ex officio corrections, thereby eliminating easily avoidable delays in the examination process.

Currently, we also issue registration certificates in English for patents, utility models, trademarks, and designs—making it easier for right holders to engage in overseas marketing and publicity.

07 Customer feedback

With active participation from our customers, we operated an IP Administration Monitoring Team and held an IP administration idea contest to ascertain new areas for examination improvement. In May 2015, we held an idea contest, wherein a total of 136 ideas were suggested—47 of which were adopted as policies for streamlining our IP administration. The IP Administration Monitoring Team is composed of customers with expertise who actively participate in IP-related affairs, and it monitors IP administration as a way of generating feedback from other voices in the field. In 2015, a third team of 25 participants engaged in IP work with company employees, patent attorneys, law firm representatives, and college students. Over the course of the year, it generated a total of 146 ideas and adopted 103 suggestions for systemic and institutional improvement.

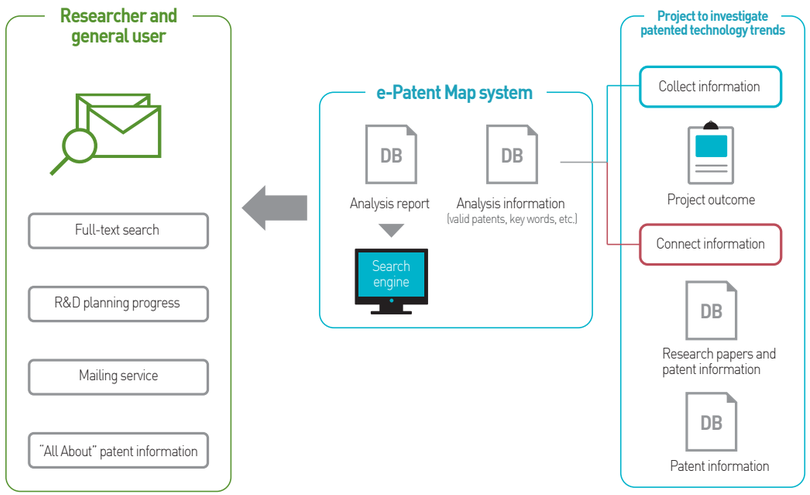
Promoting the Creation and Utilization of IP

Busan Port

It is Korea's first trading port that opened in 1876, and currently plays an important role as the gateway to Korean economics, ranking fifth in the world for container traffic.

Analyzing the Patent Trends of Government

Diagram of how the patent trend analyses of government works



We have been conducting trend analyses for patented technology by utilizing patent information gleaned from the planning stages of government R&D projects, ensuring that these projects are efficiently carried out.

Through these analyses, we can set the direction for patent creation by ensuring that similar or duplicate patents do not already exist, and that no legal issues stand in the way of a potential patent.

We supported analyses on patent trends and duplicate patents for 3,885 governmental R&D projects in 2013; 3,214 in 2014; and 2,829 in 2015.

Patent trend analyses are available on the Patent Map website (http://www.patentmap.or.kr). They are easily accessible for general researchers, and useful for conducting R&D.

Project for dispatching patent management experts

In 2006, we launched a project for dispatching patent management experts, and have since striven to create and promote high-quality IP generated by universities and public research institutes.

This project has contributed to raising IP awareness and building IP capacities through the provision of IPR consultations, the holding of seminars and briefings, and the constructing of a patent management system, thereby benefitting each and every university and public research institute.

In 2015, by dispatching patent management experts, we provided 1,456 consultations, held 275 seminars and briefings, and performed 796 technology transfers valued, in total, at approximately USD 15.0 million.

Supporting the utilization of non-used technologies

Since 2010, we have pursued projects that promote the utilization of non-used patented technologies and prevent the disappearance of promising patented technologies.

We supported 30 universities and public research institutes in deliberations on 3,626 different inventions and their potential to be registered in foreign markets.

Among them, 1,279 inventions (35% of the total) were designated exemplary technologies. From these, we selected 21 inventions and supported patent right acquisition for them overseas.

Thanks to the "IP Business Support Project," 37 patented technologies with high commercialization potential and ease of market access, which were held by 25 different universities and public research institutions, were marked for strategic support.

We also identified 56 under-utilized patents and transferred them to relevant industries by assisting patent holders with their patent creation and marketing strategies. These activities ultimately generated a total of USD 3.8 million in royalties.

Project for vitalizing the IP ecosystem

Since 2009, we have undertaken a project for vitalizing Korea's IP ecosystem in order to support cooperative networking between industries and financial institutions for more efficient technology transfers, commercialization, and IP creation, as well as between universities and public research institutes for sharing knowledge, cooperatively responding to changes in global IP business models, and disseminating achievements .

In 2015, we helped establish the "IP Utilization Network" to pro-actively respond to changes in IP business models and encourage universities and popular research institutes to pool their IP commercialization know-how.

In 2014, together with the Small and Medium Businesses Administration (SMBA), we held the Patent Technology Transfer Road Show in hopes of transferring outstanding patented technologies held by universities and public research institutions. In 2015, the Ministry of Science, ICT and Future Planning (MSIP) and the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (MLIT) participated in the Road Show as well, making it an exemplary case of successful cooperation among government ministries. Through the Road Show, KIPO, the MSIP, and the MLIT jointly identify outstanding patented technologies to be put to public use, while the SMBA works to match technologies to relevant businesses and provide the necessary funding. In 2015, 986 outstanding public technologies were identified and 100 technology transfers initiated.

As another way of promoting more effective usage of IP, we piloted the IP Utilization Network (IP-Plug) for different technological fields. Whether online or in person, IP-Plug connects businesses in need of technology (but unable to find adequate suppliers) with companies, universities, and public research institutions that have relevant technologies (but are unable to find appropriate buyers). In 2015, a total of 7 IP-Plug sessions were held involving medical devices and electronic parts, bringing together 800 IP suppliers, buyers, investors, and IP utilization experts. Other diverse technological fields will be covered in future IP-Plug sessions, helping to develop an IP trading environment based on mutual trust.

Regional IP Capacity Building

01 *Regional IP centers*

KIPO currently operates 30 Regional IP Centers (RIPC) across Korea to further promote the spirit of invention, enhance overall IPR awareness, encourage IPR creation throughout the region, and improve the region's business competitiveness via IPRs. The centers serve as important strategic hubs that coordinate IP creation and utilization activities throughout the country.

The centers responded to 11,407 requests for patent consultations, 3,953 requests for brand consultations, 2,637 requests for design consultations, and held 28 invention promotion events.

Korea's IP Creative Zones supported patent applications for 204 ideas and trained 938 inventors on everything from idea development to patenting and commercialization.

Furthermore, we extended our IP talent-sharing project nationwide in order to match 207 talent donors with 131 aid recipients for a total of 185 instances of talent sharing.

An examination of this talent sharing showed that

design development support accounted for 56 cases, followed by 47 IP application consultations, 27 cases of brand development support, 19 IP management consultations, 6 IP trainings, etc.

02 *Proving regional IP awareness*

Regional IP forums and IP policy meetings

It has become mandatory for regional governments to draw up their IP plans under the Framework Act on Intellectual Property (effective as of 2011), resulting in a growing need for improved understanding of IP throughout Korea.

In 2015, we responded to this need by holding IP forums in the cities of Busan and Jeju, as well as in the provinces of Gangwon, Junnam, and Gyeongbuk.

In addition, 2013 saw the launch of regional IP policy meetings for discussing ways to jointly implement (together with regional governments) advanced IP policies for building a virtuous cycle of IP creation, utilization, and protection. These meetings, in which we and 17 regional governments actively participate, are held twice a year to implement consistent IP policies between the federal and regional governments.

Customized IP training across all demographics

We run IP training projects that target, via regional IP centers, the various demographics of a particular region—including the staff of SMEs, civil servants from regional governments, prospective business starters, and students—to raise awareness of IP importance.

In 2015, we held 64 public official trainings (2,482 trainees) for regional governments, and a total of 265 general trainings (8,766 trainees) for the public. Our purpose was to raise IPR awareness and explain IP system basics, patent information searches, and the e-filing of applications. We also ran a total of 217 intensive trainings (4,378 trainees) to educate people on the creation, registration, and utilization of IP, and to foster competent and talented IP experts.

Enhancing the IP Capacities of SMEs and Promising Enterprises

Furthermore, 405 sessions of "House-call IPR Education" were held for 3,206 business people. Through consultations with client companies, we customized the education program to match our clients' level of IP knowledge and preparedness.

We consider the men and women of our military to be our future industrial workforce, which is why we are working with Korea's Army, Navy, Air Force, and Ministry of Defense to provide IPR training for soldiers. We also host an annual Invention Competition for these soldiers and award prizes for the best inventions.

Furthermore, customized training that was held exclusively for military personnel since 2006 was expanded in 2011 to include every branch of the military. In 2015, we held invention contests for Korea's armed forces, resulting in 39 award-winning ideas which were later exhibited at the 2015 IP Expo.

01 *Expanding IP financial services*

In 2013, together with the Korea Development Bank (KDB), we enabled SMEs to acquire loans using only their IPRs as collateral. We recently expanded our IP financing service to include the Industrial Bank of Korea (IBK), and, in 2015, such funding in the amount of USD 166.5 million was provided to 396 companies. Over the past three years, a total of USD 364.8 million in funding has been provided to more than 900 companies.

02 *Fostering the Star IP Company Project*

We are working to nurture the potential of Korea's Star IP companies as a method for improving IP creation and utilization among SMEs. The Star IP Company Project involves identifying regional SMEs with impressive growth potential and, over a three-year period, assisting them with transforming their ideas into patents through the use of customized patent maps, as well as brand and design development. Through this Project, we provide professional consultations on IP management strategies in order to foster regional business standouts. Since 2010, we have nurtured a total of 1,066 promising SMEs into Star IP companies: 108 in 2010, 203 in 2011, 157 in 2012, 151 in 2013, 227 in 2014 and 220 in 2015. In 2015, we provided intensive customized support to Star IP companies.

Fostering the Development of an IP Workforce

01 *Increasing IP competency in academic institutions*

University IP courses

Since 2006, KIPO has supported universities and graduate schools in providing courses (both elective and required) incorporating IP-related content. We also sponsor the hiring of IP-focused professors in order to build a foundation for independent IP education at universities and support selected schools as IP Education Leaders to further disseminate IP knowledge within academia. KIPO also runs its IP Professor Fostering Programs to increase the number of university professors qualified to teach IP-related courses.

We have developed, and are now distributing to universities, standardized IP education curriculum at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, culminating in an engineering certificate and enabling students to systematically build upon their IP knowledge. In addition, we produced and distributed IP education textbooks targeting people with different knowledge levels and academic backgrounds.

Master of Intellectual Property (MIP) program

Since 2010, we have operated a special Master of IP course at the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST) and Hongik University as a way of

Undergraduate and graduate IP education courses (Science and Engineering Departments)

Course	Stage	Year	Education module: Introduction to IP	Patents and creative thinking	IP creation	Patent information investigation	IP protection	IP utilization	R&D patent strategies
	Intro-duction	1st year		Creative thinking and basic design		Basic creative design			
	Basic	2nd year	Introduction to IP				Introduction to IP		
		3rd year	Students can choose from the following courses: Patent analyses and invention application, Business startup, and IP I, and IP II						
		4th year		Compre-hensive creative design		Compre-hensive creative design			
	In-depth	Graduate school	R&D strategies from a patent viewpoint						

systematically nurturing Chief Intellectual Property Officers (CIPOs). The program provides an interdisciplinary approach based on IP-related subjects, such as engineering, law, and business management. Furthermore, in 2015, we selected two Korean universities to manage a scholarship program for SMEs lacking in staff members exclusively responsible for handling IP.

02 *Promoting academic-industrial cooperation*

Campus Patent Strategies Universiade

Since 2008, we have held the Campus Patent Strategies Universiade to raise collegiate interest in patent education, expand practical patent education at the university level, nurture engineers who possess the patent-related knowledge that companies need, and keep industry supplied with innovative ideas coming from universities.

At this Universiade, students at both the graduate and undergraduate level, with help from their academic advisors, draw up future strategies and offer solutions to questions prepared by private companies. The private companies then screen the answers and award monetary prizes to their top choices. The Universiade represents a new type of cooperation among government, industry, and universities. Students can quickly grasp the corporate R&D process as a result of the IP-related knowledge they have gained, while participating companies are provided with new creative ideas. In 2015, we had participation from 41 companies, as well as 3,572 teams from 113 universities.

Collegiate invention activities and academic–industrial cooperation

As yet another way to boost inventions from universities, as well as to turn their inventions into IPRs, commercialize their inventions, and foster creative inventors well-versed in IP, we have been holding university invention contests ever since 2012. For each contest, we operate IP summer camps, and IP experts train and actively support students in conducting prior art searches and preparing patent applications. Furthermore, when it comes to especially innovative ideas and IPRs, we take care of the patent application fee, the testing of product prototypes, commercialization, etc. During the 2015 contest, a total of 4,284 ideas were submitted from 127 universities, posting an 8.2% year-on-year growth rate in the number of requests made.

Design to Business (D2B) Fair

Since 2006, Design to Business Fairs have been held as part of a concerted effort to raise design right awareness and, in doing so, reinforce national industrial competitiveness. D2B Fairs are distinctive in that companies gain creative designs through the open innovation of talented designers, while designers retain the IPRs to their innovative designs. At the fair, companies propose designs for goods in need of a makeover, and designers submit their designs to companies. When companies commercialize an award-winning design, both the award-winners and the companies sign a licensing contract. The award-winners receive royalties in relation to the product's generated revenue. In 2015, 23 companies presented goods for the contest, and 4,809 designs from 75 universities were submitted to the D2B Fair, resulting in 124 design applications.

03 *Fostering creative inventors*

Management of invention classes

We enhanced national invention education by supporting invention classes and special class activities. Furthermore, we designated four universities for teacher education, and we operate education centers there to train and nurture professional invention teachers, both prospective and current. In 2015, we operated creative invention education centers for primary, middle, and high school students in a total of 196 schools in 16 cities and provinces nationwide in order to develop and provide invention education programs targeted not only to students, but also their parents and the general public, thus contributing to enhanced IP awareness and invention education throughout those regions. We plan to continue to finance such programs in hopes of cultivating awareness of and interest in IP among students and their parents.

Invention promotional programs for youth

We manage various invention and creativity contests in order to discover creative, talented inventors, and we select and support excellent students and teachers actively engaged in invention classes. The Korean Student Invention Exhibition has been held ever since 1988 to discover and nurture promising inventors that can lead tomorrow's knowledge-based society by encouraging them to design and produce innovative inventions. Since 2002, the Korean Student Creativity Championship has been jointly held by KIPO and Samsung Electronics, with the aim of nurturing outside-the-box thinking among today's youth by having them collaborate with each other to solve problems. This championship is distinctive in that students form teams, and their creativity is evaluated as they resolve various tasks given to them both in advance and during the event. The Youth Inventors Program (YIP) is a program that nurtures creativity, collaboration, and entrepreneurship among today's youth by having middle and high school students present creative solutions to dilemmas proposed by companies, which then help support the students in submitting patent applications. In addition, we award scholarships to promising student inventors.

In 2011, we established a new grand prize for outstanding invention instructors in order to recognize those who promote invention-oriented thinking and the spread of invention education.

In 2015, a total of 11 companies participated in YIP. Seventy teams (197 students total) were selected to present their ideas, and 70 patent applications were filed.

Education for the next generation of entrepreneurs

We have run educational programs, at KAIST and the Pohang University of Science and Technology (POSTECH), aimed at middle and high school students with the potential

to become creative IP-based entrepreneurs. We offered various educational programs on core entrepreneurial skills, including creative problem solving and future technology forecasting, while simultaneously fostering IP expertise. In addition, as part of an effort to enhance the business startup capacities of students who completed the next-generation talented entrepreneur course, we run a step-by-step business startup program covering everything from conceiving new inventions to the early stages of a business startup.

The Gifted Future Generation of Businesses is a 2-year program that, as of 2015, has seen participation from 757 students.

04 *Events to promote inventions*

Invention Day was established to celebrate the world's first rain gauge, which was invented on May 19, 1441, during the reign of King Sejong. Every year, we host an annual Invention Day Ceremony to promote the importance of invention and inspire members of the general public to become inventors.

In 2015, we hosted the 50th Invention Day Ceremony, attended by such high-ranking government officials as the Vice Minister cum Minister of Strategy and Finance (then acting as Prime Minister) and the Chairperson of the Presidential Council on IP, demonstrating the government's strong will in supporting IP growth. At the ceremony, 80 inventors were specially awarded for their contributions to Korea's industrial development.

To further celebrate the occasion and raise IP awareness, a movie festival, photo exhibition, IP hackerthon and many other exciting events were held. We also selected the "Inventor of the Year" in recognition of how new products and new technologies have contributed to our national competitiveness. The Inventor of the Year's photo and invention are publically displayed in the Inventor Hall of Fame as a way of affording inspiration to other inventors.

On November 26, 2015, KIPO hosted the Korea IP Exhibition in Seoul. It featured 525 inventions from 33 countries, including the US, Germany, and Russia. The goal of the exhibition was to further expand global exchanges among inventors, build international networks, and explore new markets for outstanding Korean inventions.

As part of KIPO's efforts to encourage female inventors to create and commercialize inventions, we jointly host the Korea International Women's Invention Exposition with WIPO and the Korea Women Inventors Association. This year's expo was held May 15-18 at the Seoul aT Center and was a huge success, with more than 35,000 visitors and 253 inventions submitted by female inventors from 25 different countries.

In conjunction with the International Exposition, we hosted the IP Wave for Creative Women Leaders on May 19-21, 2015. It was attended by a total of 99 female inventors and

business leaders, who came from 9 different countries and each of whom had previously received IP management training from WIPO.

At the 2015 Woman Idea Living Show, women submitted creative, fun, and sophisticated ideas for everyday inventions. Women whose ideas were selected received support in filing patent applications and manufacturing prototypes. The online community was invited to vote on the prototypes displayed on the homepage (http://www.womanidea.net), and the inventors gave presentations explaining their ideas.

Enhancing IP Protection

Dancheong Pillar

Dancheong refers to the various patterns and pictures made up of five basic colors such as green, red, yellow, white and black, which are painted on wooden buildings. It symbolizes a belief that these buildings are insured against misfortunes such as fire.

IP Protection in Korea

01 *Enhancing IPR protection against counterfeits*

In September 2010, we launched the Special Judicial Police Force for Trademark Rights as a way of enhancing law enforcement on counterfeits, and we established offices in the cities of Seoul, Busan, and Daejeon.

In 2015, the Special Judicial Police Force criminally arraigned 378 individuals found producing and/or selling counterfeit goods, with a total of 1,197,662 counterfeit items being seized.

Due to the boom in e-commerce, online transactions of counterfeit goods have been rapidly increasing. To efficiently tackle this issue, in November 2011, we established an online law enforcement task force equipped with digital forensic equipment to firmly regulate online transactions of counterfeits. We criminally arrest sellers of online counterfeit goods and block and/or shut down offensive websites.

Law Enforcement Results

Category		2010 (September – December)	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Subtotal
Criminal arrests	Number of individuals	45	139	302	376	430	340	1,632
Criminal arrests	Number of seized goods	28,629	28,589	131,599	822,360	1,114,192	1,192,988	3,318,357

In addition, we actively reinforce investigations into those counterfeit goods that have a great impact on people's lives, such as the large-scale illegal manufacturing and distribution of counterfeits related to health and safety.

02 *Raising awareness of IPR protection*

KIPO conducted a series of public awareness activities and collaborated with civic consumer advocacy groups to enhance IPR protection and consumer awareness of the illegality of counterfeit goods.

We also held national campaigns in 13 cities, urging consumers to buy genuine goods. Since 2011, we have conducted a total of 96 consumer training sessions targeting housewives and office workers to prevent them from purchasing counterfeits. We produced televised advertisements with a famous actress as our publicity ambassador in order to form a social consensus on the illegality of counterfeit goods. We also increased public awareness in this regard through the usage of various online media, including Social Network Services (SNS).

We operated "College Student Supporters" to promote IPR protection among college students through campaigns and other activities. We also produced cartoons to raise awareness of IPR protection among the youth, then conducted practical education on how to distinguish genuine goods from counterfeits.

03 *Laws and systems related to IPR protection*

Since the second half of 2013, we have reviewed various means for improving laws and systems regarding damages for IPR infringements, in hopes of affording better protection for patents.

We managed a committee of external experts to improve the damages system, analyzed civil and criminal rulings related to patent infringements, conducted nationwide surveys (targeting relevant companies) on whether to increase damages, and listened to various feedback in order to draw up improvement measures.

As a result, we prepared and proposed a revision to the Patent Act. The main content of this proposal can be largely categorized along the following lines: development of a system for awarding damages, suppression of malicious infringements of patent rights, alleviation of the burden of proof that falls to patent right holders, and prevention of trade secret leakages during trials.

The aforementioned revision to the Patent Act is currently under discussion at the National Assembly.

Overseas IP Protection

Once passed, it will constitute as an appropriate compensation system for victims of IPR infringement, thereby enhancing the effectiveness of the patent system and contributing to a healthier IP ecosystem.

04 *Improved systems to protect corporate trade secrets*

The number of cases involving the Trade Secret Certification Service, which was introduced in November 2010 to alleviate the difficulty of authenticating trade secret ownership during infringement litigations, has steadily grown, and is expected to reach an accumulative total of 87,641 cases by the end of 2015. Time stamps are generated by combining unique codes, called "hash values," from trade secret e-documents with authorized time values. Time stamps are then registered with the Korea Institute of Patent Information (KIPI) to prove the existence of original copies of trade secrets, as well as their initial dates of possession.

In addition, we developed and distributed Trade Secret Protection Management information to help SMEs manage their trade secrets with minimal cost and manpower. This system, which was initially a paid service, will be made available for free starting in 2016.

05 *Collaborating for IPR protection with government organizations, etc.*

In collaboration with related organizations—such as the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism; the Korea Customs Service; regional governments; and non-governmental organizations (NGOs)—we have been producing and televising public awareness campaigns to alert consumers to safety issues surrounding counterfeits, as well as to nurture a national culture that respects IP. We also jointly launched a campaign named "Counterfeits OUT, Originals IN" to raise awareness of the need for counterfeit goods eradication.

A public campaign, including IP protection slogans and UCC competitions, helped raise awareness of the importance of IPR protection, especially among teenagers and mid-to-old age groups. Through TV and radio spots, as well as ads placed in public transportation and movie theatres, we supported enhancing IPR awareness throughout Korean society.

01 *IP-DESK*

KIPO operates IP-DESKs to protect and further promote IPRs belonging to Korean companies doing business overseas. Recently, additional IP-DESKs were added in areas where Korean companies are frequently embroiled in IPR disputes. In 2014, we set up an IP-DESK in Frankfurt, Germany, where IPR disputes related to technology displayed at international exhibitions frequently arose. An IP-DESK in Tokyo, Japan was then added in 2015. As of January 2016, we were operating a total of 11 IP-DESKs in 6 countries worldwide.

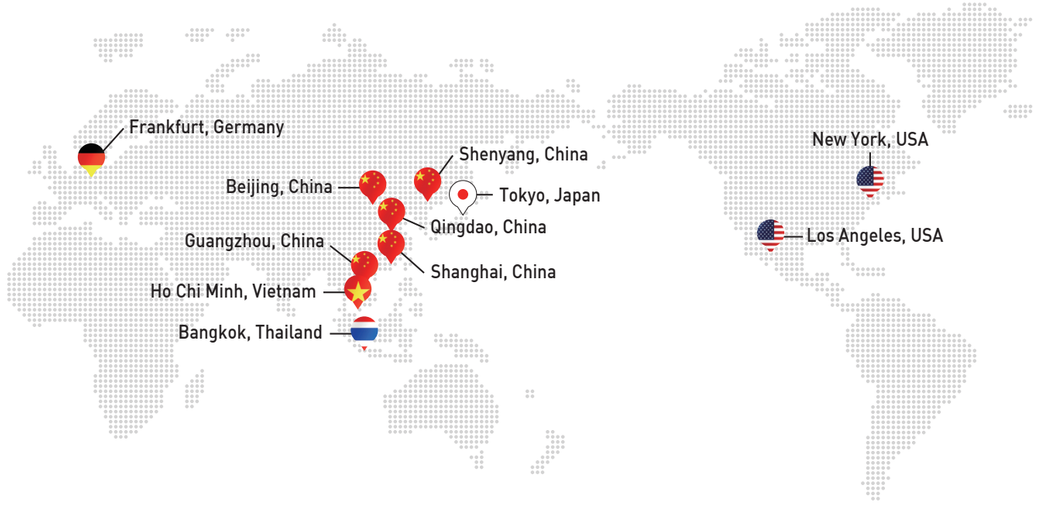
IP-DESKs provide Korean companies—whether active in or preparing to enter foreign markets—with consultations on registering and protecting IPRs and resolving IPR disputes. In addition, we hold seminars to share information on preventing infringements. We also held seminars to help government officials recognize counterfeit goods and are making efforts to develop cooperative channels with foreign IPR-related organizations in order to protect the IPRs of Korean companies operating overseas.

02 *Establishing policies to protect "K-brands"*

In response to the way that Korean goods are increasingly being counterfeited in certain overseas markets, in 2014 we implemented, through cooperation with other relevant government agencies, "Comprehensive Protection Measures for K-Brands." And, in 2015, we provided systematic support to further protect Korean brands.

In collaboration with those industrial associations that generally face the greatest amount of IPR disputes, we hosted IPR protection capacity and awareness seminars and supported site inspections of counterfeit goods distribution channels overseas. This was done in order to advise Korean companies on how to best secure trademark rights before entering overseas markets. We also monitored the online distribution of counterfeit goods and illegal usage of K-brands by overseas trademark trolls. The results of our monitoring were then shared with Korean companies to help them determine appropriate counter measures.

Locations of Korea's IP-DESKs around the world



Global IP Cooperation

Jeju-do

It is Korea's representative tourist site, and was given the title of World Natural Heritage in 2007.
Promoted to be known as the "Free International City", it carries out various policies of tourism, as well as businesses for foreigners.

Multilateral Cooperation and FTA

01 *Multilateral meetings at WIPO*

At the 2015 WIPO (World Intellectual Property Organization) General Assembly, that was held in Geneva, Switzerland, KIPO Commissioner Choi Donggyou delivered his general statement, introducing Korea's major achievements in recent years. Such achievements included the establishment of 17 Creative Economy Innovation Centers, the amending of the Patent Act, as well as the Utility Model Act, and the expansion of IP-based financing, which encourages IPR commercialization and the fostering of innovative start-ups, into the private sector. In addition, Mr. Choi participated in both the Group B+ and Sub-group meetings regarding the global harmonization of patent systems.

On April 20, 2015, during the 15th meeting of the WIPO Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP), we hosted a launch ceremony for IP IGNITE, an IP educational platform that serves as an audio-visually enhanced version of WIPO Academy's Distance Learning-101 (DL-101).

Throughout 2015, we participated in working group meetings to expand such global IP services as the PCT, Madrid, and Hague systems. We also participated in WIPO standing committees—i.e., the Standing Committee on the Law of Patents (SCP); the Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs, and Geographical Indications (SCT); and the Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS)—to discuss global IP norm settings.

Furthermore, we participated in permanent WIPO committees—including the Program and Budget Committee (PBC), the Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP), the Intergovernmental Committee (IGC), and the Advisory Committee on Enforcement (ACE)—to discuss WIPO's budget and development agendas, genetic resource protection, and technical assistance and coordination in the field of IP enforcement.

02 *APEC Intellectual Property Rights Experts Group (IPEG)*

In 2015, within the framework of APEC's Intellectual Property Rights Experts Group (IPEG), we proposed a new project called "Guidebook for SMEs' IP Business Cycle" in hopes of producing an IP policy reference manual for SMEs. This project was intended as part of the larger "initiative(s) to facilitate the exploitation of IPRs and innovation in SMEs," which Korea co-proposed with Mexico during the 38th IPEG meeting. The Guidebook project perfectly aligns with APEC's theme for 2015 ("Building Inclusive Economies, Building a Better World") and its key priority of "Fostering Small and Medium Enterprises' Participation in Regional and Global Markets." The project received official support from the Small- and Medium-sized Enterprise Working Group (SMEWG) and was met with universal approval from IPEG member economies. APEC allotted it funding in the amount of USD 100,000, and the project is now scheduled for completion in 2016.

During the 40th and 41st IPEG meetings, KIPO updated the public on the status of its APEC-related projects—namely, "Developing a Mobile Application for IP Awareness" and "KIPO's IP Sharing Project." These activities illustrate the manner in which KIPO is increasing its role in IPEG by proposing new projects that closely align with APEC themes/key priorities and have received enthusiastic support from other IPEG members.

03 *FTA negotiations on IP*

Korea's first free trade agreement (FTA) was signed with Chile (effective as of April 1, 2004), and, since then, further FTAs have been agreed upon with Singapore (effective as of March 2, 2006), EFTA (effective as of September 1, 2006), ASEAN (effective as of June 1, 2007), the United States (effective as of March 15, 2012), the European Union (effective as of July 1, 2011), Peru (effective as of August 1, 2011), and Turkey (effective as of May 1, 2013). With India, Korea signed a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) that went into effect on January 1, 2010. In addition, FTAs signed with Australia (effective as of December 12, 2014), Canada (effective as of January 1, 2015), China (effective as of December 20, 2015), New Zealand (effective as of December 20, 2015), and Vietnam (effective as of December 20, 2015) were put into effect, and an FTA with Colombia (ready for ratification) is scheduled to come into effect sometime in the near future.

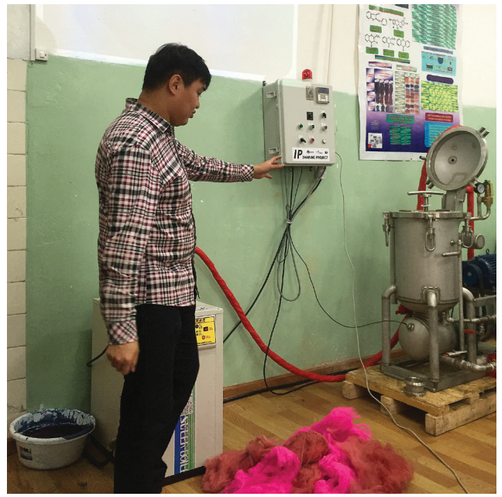
As of this writing, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), the Korea-China-Japan FTA, the Korea-Central America FTA, and the Korea-Ecuador Strategic Economic Cooperation Agreement (SECA) are all under negotiation. By signing FTAs with the European Union and the United States, Korea has already attained a high level of IPR protection that surpasses that of World Trade Organization (WTO) Trade-Related Aspects of IPRs (TRIPs).

Sharing IP

01 *Appropriate technology*

Appropriate technology (AT) refers to technology specifically tailored to the environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic factors of a particular region. Mainly developed to improve the quality of life for low-income households, it is more cost-effective, efficient, and easier to implement and maintain than cutting-edge technologies. In other words, it is technology with low-usage value in developed countries but which can be highly revolutionary in less developed ones. Using technological information obtained from patent documents, we were able to provide AT to several countries in need of a helping hand. In fact, KIPO is fast becoming a global leader in utilizing IP for AT development.

In 2013, we developed an Ylang-Ylang oil extractor for farms



in Anao, located in the Tarlac province in the Philippines. We also developed and provided bicycle-operated water pumps to Pinu in Papua New Guinea.

In 2014, we used the Korea-FIT-supported KIPO-WIPO AT competitions as an avenue for discovering high-demand technologies that could provide a basis for future AT. We also developed a decentralized sewage treatment system in Vietnam, as well as a beehive honey extractor and corresponding manual in Ghana.

In 2015, we developed a drainage system for a high school in Myanmar that suffered from severe flooding during the rainy season. Utilizing a technology that had been patented by a Korean SME, we were able to create and install this system using only such materials as were readily available locally.

Also in 2015, the government of Mongolia, on the basis of its submission to the 2014 KIPO-WIPO AT competition, officially requested KIPO's help in boosting its natural dye industry by improving the quality of its wool products and streamlining the manufacturing thereof. As a result, in collaboration with the Research and Development Institute for Light Industry of Mongolia (RDILI) and the Mongolian Intellectual Property Office, we carried out a project for developing two machines for extracting the natural dye and applying it to the wool.

02 *Brand development project*

Although high-quality locally-farmed goods and other specialty items are often found in less developed countries, due to a lack of attention to brand development, the majority of producers never receive the benefits of a proper marketing campaign. To resolve this problem, in 2011 and 2012, APEC joined us in supporting brand acquisition through the "One Village One Brand Project."

In 2013, we developed a grain brand called "Quinua" in Bolivia, as well as a certified local brand for the Tarlac province in the Philippines. In Tarlac, we also held a "One Village One Brand" seminar to share insights into brand development and proper methods for IP utilization.

In 2014, in addition to the AT project we conducted there, KIPO aided the citizens of Ghana by using brand development to help revolutionize their bee keeping industry. In Myanmar, we developed the brand "Diamond Mango" at the request of that country's Fruit, Flower, and Vegetable Producers and Exporters Association, and we held a "One Village One Brand" seminar for their government officials and business representatives to help them develop strategies for brand utilization.

In 2015, following up our efforts to provide Mongolians with AT in the form of a natural dye extractor, we also used brand development to give a boost to Mongolia's wool industry. The "One Village One Brand" seminar we held at the end of this project was attended by 40 participants.

In addition, we developed a coffee brand for Indonesia's Flores Bajawa region. Their coffee had been granted a geographical indication (GI) certificate in Indonesia, but the GI mark lacked any distinctive design elements. We worked to design a brand logo that highlighted both the region's natural beauty and the special quality of their coffee.

03 *WIPO Korea Funds-in-Trust (FIT) projects*

Since 2004, KIPO has operated the WIPO Korea Funds-in-Trust and applied it toward KIPO-WIPO projects that support less developed countries.

The most representative of these projects is the AT competition that has been held every year since 2011. This competition helps utilize patent information in order to solve everyday problems faced by people in less developed countries. Mongolia hosted the competition in 2014 and 2015, and a total of 40 AT entries were received. Before the three finalists were chosen, each invention underwent a preliminary examination and was the subject of an oral presentation given by its inventor. The award ceremony aired on Mongolia's state broadcasting channel and was also covered by various local media, indicating a high degree of interest on the part of the Mongolian people.

KIPO and WIPO also jointly hosted the Appropriate Technology Grand Symposium to further share and expand upon lessons and outcomes garnered from past AT projects. Throughout the two-day symposium, more than 250 participants gathered in Seoul to discuss and share ideas on global trends and the future direction of AT development.

Through KIPO-WIPO's Study Visit program, IP experts from all over the world are invited to Korea to learn about its IPR policies and discuss ways for further developing IPR policy in their own countries. Six representatives from Africa and ten from Indonesia visited Korea in June and December respectively.

The Regional Colloquium on IP Enforcement for Judges gave us an opportunity to discuss the legal enforcement of IP, an area of ever-increasing interest among stakeholders. This colloquium, which took place in Bangkok in October 2015, was jointly held by KIPO and the Department of Intellectual Property of Thailand.

WIPO Korea FIT also helps foster IP experts in less developed countries. Through the fund, we sponsored a Bangladeshi student to enroll in the WIPO-QUT Joint Masters Program offered by Australia's Queensland University of Technology. In similar fashion, we sponsored

International Cooperation

one student from Pakistan and another from India to attend the WIPO-SNU Masters Program offered by Seoul National University.

Every July, KIPO hosts the IP Summer School, a course officially offered by WIPO. The program is held in Daejeon and open to the general public. In 2015, a total of 11 students took part.

04 *Development of IP education contents*

In 2006, in collaboration with WIPO's SMEs Division, we developed an English e-learning program called IP PANORAMA, which tackles IP issues from a business perspective. As of now, it is available in 24 different languages, including 6 UN official languages, and we have utilized it for both online and offline international IP training for WIPO member states. For example, ever since 2010 we have offered the Advanced International Certificate Course (AICC) with WIPO and KAIST. In 2015, 641 people from 83 different countries participated in the online course, and, over the past 6 years, more than 4,100 people from WIPO member states have taken part. In 2014, in collaboration with WIPO Academy, we also developed the IP e-learning program IP IGNITE, an audio-visually enhanced version of WIPO's DL-101. Within its 12 modules, IP IGNITE covers everything from basic IP fundamentals to advanced information on international IP law and WIPO-administered treaties. Its easy-to-understand storytelling methods and flash animation make studying IP more enjoyable. IP IGNITE was inspired by student feedback regarding DL-101, which has been made available to Korean universities ever since 2005. In 2015, KIPO launched the IP education game "Invention Savers JIN," which nurtures creativity in young people by teaching them the basic principles of invention. By exploring the game's fantasy world, players subconsciously develop an interest in how things are invented, as well as in the history of popular inventions. A mobile version of IP PANORAMA that incorporates live-action video footage rather than animation was also developed in collaboration with WIPO's SME Division.

01 *Bilateral cooperation*

In 2015, we actively worked to promote bilateral cooperation with foreign IPR authorities by holding more than 20 meetings with the heads of other IP Offices.

As a result of a bilateral meeting between the commissioners of KIPO and the USPTO, Korea and the US agreed to further expand and strengthen cooperative relations through pilot projects pertaining to the Collaborative Search Program (CSP), exchanges of IP experts, and annual meetings for informatization experts. KIPO and SIPO agreed to host a joint seminar on strengthening the IPR capabilities of universities and to exchange administrative judges in order to share information on IP disputes. China, Japan, and Korea jointly agreed to exchange IP examination quality management information, and KIPO has regularly worked with the EPO/OHIM to host bilateral meetings for strengthening cooperative relations. In celebration of the 130th anniversary of diplomatic ties between their two countries, the patent offices of Korea and France agreed to jointly host IPR-related events scheduled for 2016. With Sweden, we worked to develop the "Asia Patent Information Search Service" which, starting in 2016, will provide search services for Asian patent information that was previously very difficult for Europeans to access. 2015 was also the year we began providing PCT international search services to Saudi Arabia.

Also in 2015, the number of countries participating in Patent Prosecution Highways with Korea increased to 24—up from 21 in 2014.

02 *IP5 framework*

As a result of recent increases in patent applications being submitted to major IP offices, patent examination backlogs have now become a serious global IP issue. To address the problem, the world's 5 biggest patent offices (in terms of patent application volume)—the EPO, the JPO, KIPO, SIPO, and the USPTO—first came together as the "IP5" in Hawaii back in 2007. The next year, the IP5 Heads Meeting was held in Jeju, Korea, where it was agreed that the IP5 would work together on 10 foundational projects and assemble three different working groups to carry them out.

In 2012, the IP5 Heads Meeting was held in Corsica, France, where the need to realign the IP5 projects was raised. As a result, the Global Dossier Task Force (for creating a global IT system for patents) and the Patent Harmonization Expert Panel (for harmonizing the patent systems of different countries) were established.

In 2013, the IP5 Heads Meeting was held in Cupertino, the USA, resulting in the adoption of the IP5 Patent Information Policy which served as a guideline for the five IP offices to freely (or with minimal fees) share with each other or a third party IP office the patent data they produced and collected. Also, a new IP5 Cooperation Mechanism was established for setting up the blueprint for the Global Dossier and revising the international patent classification system.

At the June 2014 IP5 Heads Meeting held in Busan, South Korea, the IP5 agreed to use the Open Portal Dossier (OPD) to make their patent examination status updates available to the general public. Also, in the area of patent harmonization, three priority tasks suggested by industry were selected, and different patent offices were made primarily responsible for carrying out each task.

At the 2015 IP5 Heads Meeting in Suzhou, China, the IP5 Joint Statement was adopted, outlining the IP5's future plans for providing better services to the public. The statement summarized the IP5's past achievements and presented new avenues of cooperation, thus providing a blueprint for future cooperation among the IP5.

03 *TM5 framework*

In May and December of 2015, we participated in meetings of the TM5, which was officially launched in May 2012,

as a cooperative effort for harmonizing various trademark systems. At the TM5 meeting, the five offices discussed enhancing applicant convenience and improving trademark system harmonization via 11 cooperative projects. We led the project to develop the TM5's website, as well as the project to compare and analyze examination results for applications submitted to all TM5 offices simultaneously. In May 2014, we successfully launched the official TM5 website (www.tmfive.org), which provides useful information and stats on each country's system, as well as detailed content regarding TM5 cooperative projects.

The TM5 website was then overhauled in December 2015. The new design is eye-catching and user-friendly, making it easier to locate trademark information pertaining to the United States, Europe, and other major countries. It is expected to be of great value to anyone working on an international trademark application.

04 *ID5 framework*

KIPO, along with the JPO, OHIM, SIPO, and the USPTO gathered in the US for the ID5's inaugural assembly. The ID5 is a consultative body where representatives from the five countries responsible for more than 90% of all design applications worldwide can discuss key issues in the design field. Along with the IP5 (patent sector) and the TM5 (trademark sector), the ID5 (design sector) serves as an important pillar in sustaining the global industrial property right system. At the inaugural meeting, member states adopted a joint declaration on the ID5's vision for the future. The member states also agreed to take on 13 cooperative projects in which KIPO will spearhead three of these tasks: constructing the ID5 website, conducting a comparative study on design registration requirements implemented by ID5 members, and, in collaboration with Japan, researching design classification policies.

International IT Cooperation

01 *IT-related bilateral cooperation*

In June, October, and November 2015, KIPO signed an MOU on informatization cooperation with Taiwan, Columbia, and China, respectively. By enabling electronic data exchanges with other patent offices and utilizing data obtained via searches, examination, and other customer services, we are able to better utilize IP information.

In July and August 2015, we took part in expert meetings on informatization with Japan and China, respectively. In September, KIPO participated in working level meetings with the EPO to seek ways of improving data exchanges. In November and December 2015, we participated in working level meetings with WIPO to share ideas on introducing the ePCT, which is a platform that enables people to submit their PCT applications online.

02 *IP5 IT cooperation*

In January 2015, we participated in the IP5 Working Group 2 in order to resolve such IT issues as the Global Dossier (GD), One Portal Dossier (OPD), machine translation, common documentation datasets, and the dissemination of patent information. In particular, we focused on the IP5's proposed future direction for the Global Dossier. We also developed an OPD system and launched it in March 2015 as a way of providing the public with OPD services that were previously available only to examiners. As a result, Korean applicants can now check their examination status at all the various IP5 Offices on one screen. This allows them to more quickly and effectively respond to changes in examination status. In addition, we presented our research on measures for building a hybrid machine translation service for enhanced public dissemination of IP5 patent information.

03 *Assisting IP automation in less developed countries*

Through Official Development Assistance activities, we were able to develop a patent automation system for the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO). The system, which began operation in April 2015, allows for a paperless work process, including electronic services for application submission, fee payments, and patent information searches.

In 2015, Mongolia and Myanmar were selected to receive IP informatization assistance. As a result, we conducted consulting services for diagnosing their current IT infrastructures and further enriching their patent automation systems.

International Seminars and Training Courses

In 2015, the International Intellectual Property Training Institute (IIPTI) cooperated with WIPO and the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) to hold international seminars and provide 14 IP training courses attended by 354 foreigners. To enhance the effectiveness of IP training in less developed countries, we dispatched IP instructors to Vietnam and China to conduct on-site training.

Schedule for International Training Courses in 2015

Program	Course Title	Contents	Dates (in 2015)	Number of participants
WIPO Program (6 courses)	WIPO Patent Act, Patent Examination Course	Training on Korea's patent system and patent examination work	3.3~3.12	22
	WIPO Patent Examiner Course (OJT)	OJT for 2 Vietnamese examiners	3.16~3.27	2
	WIPO Trademark Act, Trademark Examination Course	Training on Korea's trademark system and trademark examination work	5.20~5.27	14
	WIPO IP Policy Workshop for Government Officials from Less Developed Countries	Workshop for government officials from less developed countries on IP policies	6.9~6.11	16
	WIPO IP Summer School	IP education for university students and young adults	7.13~7.24	19
	WIIPO Asia Pacific Regional Seminar	Joint research on IPR development in the Asia Pacific region	11.23~11.26	22
KOICA Program (3 courses)	KOICA-Azerbaijan IP System Course	Training on Korea's patent system and patent examination work	4.16~5.1	13
	KOICA Creative Invention Course	Training on creative invention promotion policies	6.18~7.8	11
	KOICA IP System Course	Training on understanding of Korea's patent policies and industrial site visits	8.27~9.16	9
Customized Program (5 courses)	Saudi Arabia Patent Examiner Course	Introduction to Korea's Patent Act and examination system	4.6~4.10	7
	ARIPO-Zimbabwe Patent Office IPR Course	Introduction to Korea's Patent Act and examination system	5.10~5.27	13
	Saudi Arabia Design Examiner Course	Introduction to Korea's Patent Act and examination system	10.19~10.23	5
	Vietnam Instructor Dispatch Course	Examination search and case study	10.20~10.21	37
	China Examination Cooperation Center Instructor Dispatch Course	Examination search and case study	12.1~12.2	164
Total	14 courses			354

Statistical Data

Applications

Application by IPR type

(unit: cases)

Category	2011	2012	2013	2014	**2015**
Patents	179,687	192,560	204,589	210,292	**213,694**
Utility models	11,894	12,463	10,968	9,184	**8,711**
Subtotal	191,581	205,023	215,557	219,476	**222,405**
Designs	56,540	63,152	66,940	64,345	**67,326**
Trademarks	124,000	132,611	147,667	150,226	**172,512**
Total	372,121	400,786	430,164	434,047	**462,243**

Note: Figures in parentheses include multiple applications.

PCT applications

(unit: cases)

Category	2011	2012	2013	2014	**2015**
Number of applications	10,413	11,869	12,439	13,138	**14,594**
Growth rate	8%	13.9%	4.8%	5.6%	**11.1%**

International trademark applications under the Madrid System

(unit: cases)

Category	2011	2012	2013	2014	**2015**
Korea as office of origin	489	499	502	671	**835**
Korea as designated office	9,821	10,090	10,967	10,402	**12,997**

International design applications under the Hague System

(unit: cases)

Category	Korea as office of origin	Korea as designated office
January	11	23
February	18	31
March	6	36
April	4	65
May	6	36
June	18	55
July	16	47
August	2	52
September	5	84
October	9	68
November	9	58
December	4	73
2015 total	**153**	**628**

Comparison of domestic and foreign applications

(unit: cases)

Category		Domestic		Foreign		Total
		Cases	Ratio	Cases	Ratio	
Patents	2011	138,034	77.7%	40,890	22.3%	178,924
	2012	148,136	78.4%	40,779	21.6%	188,915
	2013	159,978	78.2%	44,611	21.8%	204,589
	2014	164,069	78.0%	46,223	22.0%	210,292
	2015	**167,275**	**78.3%**	**46,419**	**21.7%**	**213,694**
Utility models	2011	11,462	96.7%	392	3.3%	11,854
	2012	11,899	95.8%	525	4.2%	12,424
	2013	10,463	95.4%	505	4.6%	10,968
	2014	8,754	95.3%	430	4.7%	9,184
	2015	**8,294**	**95.2%**	**417**	**4.8%**	**8,711**

(unit: cases)

Category		Domestic		Foreign		Total
		Cases	Ratio	Cases	Ratio	
Designs	2011	52,812 (54,300)	93.5% (92.8%)	3,712 (4,271)	6.5% (7.2%)	56,524 (58,571)
	2012	59,487 (60,867)	94.2% (93.0%)	3,648 (4,602)	5.8% (7.0%)	63,135 (65,469)
	2013	63,117 (65,441)	94.3% (93.5%)	3,823 (4,550)	5.7% (6.5%)	66,940 (69,991)
	2014	60,796 (63,083)	94.5% (93.3%)	3,549 (4,519)	5.5% (6.7%)	64,345 (67,602)
	2015	**64,078 (65,889)**	**95.2% (93.9%)**	**3,248 (4,309)**	**4.8% (6.1%)**	**67,326 (70,198)**
Trademarks	2011	112,575 (132,864)	91.0% (88.1%)	11,239 (18,113)	9.0% (11.9%)	123,814 (150,977)
	2012	120,341 (140,908)	90.8% (87.8%)	12,181 (19,539)	9.2% (12.2%)	132,522 (160,447)
	2013	135,317 (158,077)	91.6% (89.1%)	12,350 (19,401)	8.4% (10.1%)	147,667 (177,478)
	2014	138,098 (164,287)	91.9% (89.4%)	12,128 (19,519)	8.1% (10.6%)	150,226 (183,806)
	2015	**160,061 (191,504)**	**92.8% (90.5%)**	**12,451 (20,043)**	**7.2% (9.5%)**	**172,512 (211,547)**
Total	2011	314,883 (336,660)	84.8% (84.1%)	56,233 (63,666)	15.2% (15.9%)	371,116 (400,326)
	2012	339,863 (361,810)	85.6% (84.7%)	57,133 (65,445)	14.4% (15.3%)	396,996 (427,255)
	2013	368,875 (393,959)	85.8% (85.1%)	61,289 (69,067)	14.2% (14.9%)	430,164 (463,026)
	2014	371,717 (400,193)	85.6% (85.0%)	62,330 (70,691)	14.4% (15.0%)	434,047 (470,884)
	2015	**399,708 (432,962)**	**86.5% (85.9%)**	**62,535 (71,188)**	**14.5% (14.1%)**	**462,243 (504,150)**

Note: Figures in parentheses include multiple applications.

Patent and utility model applications by technological field in 2015

(unit: cases)

Classification	Patents			Utility models		
	Domestic	Foreign	**Subtotal**	Domestic	Foreign	**Subtotal**
Agriculture	2,770	223	**2,993**	389	6	**395**
Foodstuffs, Tobacco	4,534	499	**5,033**	109	5	**114**
Personal of domestic articles	7,523	560	**8,083**	1,872	62	**1,934**
Health, Amusement	8,065	1,952	**10,017**	633	53	**686**
Dental, or toilet purposes	4,025	1,945	**5,970**	5	-	**5**
Separating, Mixing	3,845	1,043	**4,888**	119	14	**133**

(unit: cases)

Classification	Patents			Utility models		
	Domestic	Foreign	**Subtotal**	Domestic	Foreign	**Subtotal**
Shaping	3,364	1,016	**4,380**	91	15	**106**
Grinding, Polishing, etc	3,975	1,213	**5,188**	214	10	**224**
Printing	903	195	**1,098**	144	2	**146**
Transporting	14,152	2,204	**16,356**	1,289	40	**1,329**
Technology, Nano-technology	88	36	**124**	-	-	**-**
Chemistry	3,623	984	**4,607**	19	5	**24**
Organic chemistry	1,997	2,752	**4,749**	-	-	**-**
Organic macromolecular compounds	2,350	2,163	**4,513**	-	-	**-**
Dyes, Petroleum	2,567	1,486	**4,053**	11	1	**12**
Biochemistry	2,444	669	**3,113**	7	-	**7**
Metallurgy	1,766	1,189	**2,955**	11	3	**14**
Textiles or flexible materials	1,707	293	**2,000**	48	9	**57**
Paper	204	78	**282**	4	-	**4**
Building	8,623	563	**9,186**	774	16	**790**
Earth or rock drilling, Mining	362	49	**411**	16	-	**16**
Engines of pumps	3,117	1,458	**4,575**	95	8	**103**
Engineering in general	3,206	1,089	**4,295**	225	19	**244**
Lighting, Heating	6,173	663	**6,836**	501	24	**525**
Weapons, Blasting	340	34	**374**	18	1	**19**
Instruments	11,706	3,499	**15,205**	220	21	**241**
Horology, Computing	19,067	3,461	**22,528**	194	13	**207**
Educating, Information storage	4,022	765	**4,787**	203	4	**207**
Nucleonics	350	112	**462**	6	-	**6**
Electric elements, Electric techniques	21,103	8,047	**29,150**	485	55	**540**
Electric communication technique	12,538	4,654	**17,192**	114	15	**129**
Others	6,766	1,525	**8,291**	478	16	**494**
Total	167,275	46,419	**213,694**	8,294	417	**8,711**

Note: Figures for 2015 are preliminary.

Patent applications in biotechnology

(unit: cases)

Category	2011		2012		2013		2014		2015	
	Cases	Ratio	Cases	Ratio	Cases	Ratio	Cases	Ratio	**Cases**	**Ratio**
Domestic	4,556	72.2%	4,852	74.6%	5,152	72.8%	5,091	73.3%	**5,601**	**74.0%**
Foreign	1,750	27.8%	1,654	25.4%	1,929	27.2%	1,856	26.7%	**1,972**	**26.0%**
Total	6,306	100%	6,506	100%	7,081	100%	6,947	100%	**7,572**	**100%**

Note1: Figures for 2015 are preliminary.
Note2: Based on the following biotechnological categories of the Eighth Edition of the International Patent Classification: A01H; A01K 67/00~67/04; A01N 63/00~65/00; A61K 8/97~8/99; A61K 8/64~8/68; A61K 35/12~35/76; 36/00~36/9068; A61K 38/00~38/58, 39/00~39/44, 48/00, 51/00~51/10; C02F 3/00~3/34, 11/02~11/04; C07H 19/00~21/04; C07K; C12C~M; C12N; C12P; C12Q; C12S; G01N 33/50~33/98.

Patent applications in business methods

(unit: cases)

Category	2011		2012		2013		2014		2015	
	Cases	Ratio	Cases	Ratio	Cases	Ratio	Cases	Ratio	**Cases**	**Ratio**
Domestic	6,167	94.2%	7,259	95.8%	6,828	94.9%	6,813	93.5%	**8,621**	**94.4%**
Foreign	375	5.8%	315	4.2%	365	5.1%	476	6.5%	**510**	**5.6%**
Total	6,542	100%	7,574	100%	7,193	100%	7,289	100%	**9,131**	**100%**

Note1: Figures for 2015 are preliminary.
Note2: Based on the Eighth Edition of the International Patent Classification.

Applications by residents of foreign countries in 2015

(unit: cases)

Countries	Patents	Utility models	Designs	Trademarks	International Trademarks	**Total**
United States of America	14,655	83	1,172 (1,518)	4,006 (6,795)	2,810 (4,758)	**22,726 (27,809)**
Japan	15,283	29	923 (1,116)	1,929 (3,292)	1,254 (2,434)	**19,418 (22,154)**
Germany	4,087	14	171 (244)	241 (488)	1,624 (4,423)	**6,137 (9,256)**
China	1,947	91	217 (251)	2,654 (3,449)	829 (1,238)	**5,738 (6,976)**
France	1,984	1	65 (72)	326 (498)	1,015 (2,217)	**3,391 (4,772)**
Switzerland	1,365	2	76 (143)	221 (296)	844 (1,848)	**2,508 (3,654)**
United Kingdom	922	3	115 (183)	529 (1,084)	726 (1,964)	**2,295 (4,156)**
Taiwan	920	148	55 (66)	417 (575)	-	**1,540 (1,709)**
Italy	469	4	54 (64)	165 (248)	836 (1,736)	**1,528 (2,521)**
Netherlands	824	7	94 (279)	163 (239)	264 (681)	**1,352 (2,030)**
Sweden	659	2	40 (50)	39 (53)	202 (570)	**942 (1,334)**
Canada	362	3	31 (33)	309 (551)	21 (39)	**726 (988)**
Australia	174	4	14 (15)	129 (262)	350 (788)	**671 (1,243)**
Austria	334	1	3 (7)	27 (43)	132 (346)	**497 (731)**
Spain	146	1	8 (14)	71 (108)	267 (466)	**493 (735)**
Finland	273	-	27 (49)	26 (104)	134 (787)	**460 (1,213)**
Singapore	156	-	11 (11)	123 (202)	152 (283)	**442 (652)**
Belgium	229	3	34 (34)	34 (53)	125 (229)	**425 (548)**
Israel	271	1	13 (13)	38 (57)	75 (114)	**398 (456)**
Luxembourg	153	1	13 (13)	77 (101)	134 (327)	**378 (595)**
Denmark	170	5	12 (22)	30 (67)	140 (360)	**357 (624)**
Norway	110	1	12 (13)	13 (40)	68 (228)	**204 (392)**
India	139	-	1 (1)	25 (32)	29 (65)	**194 (237)**
Ireland	94	-	3 (3)	36 (68)	57 (88)	**190 (253)**
Russian Federation	49	2	4 (8)	6 (6)	125 (294)	**186 (359)**
Turkey	32	-	-	7 (11)	134 (276)	**173 (319)**
New Zealand	53	-	5 (6)	45 (76)	60 (105)	**163 (240)**
Thailand	13	1	7 (9)	121 (147)	-	**142 (170)**
Brazil	40	-	6 (10)	53 (86)	1 (2)	**100 (138)**
Poland	30	1	-	14 (22)	47 (110)	**92 (163)**
Malaysia	17	1	7 (7)	64 (75)	2 (3)	**91 (103)**
Cayman Islands	51	-	-	34 (153)	3 (8)	**88 (212)**
Liechtenstein	23	-	18 (18)	3 (4)	40 (110)	**84 (155)**
Virgin Islands (British)	15	-	-	44 (94)	23 (65)	**82 (174)**
Czech Republic	22	-	-	7 (22)	50 (81)	**79 (125)**

(unit: cases)

Countries	Patents	Utility models	Designs	Trademarks	International Trademarks	**Total**
Saudi Arabia	71	-	-	4 (7)	1 (1)	**76 (79)**
Barbados	37	-	10 (10)	9 (13)	8 (10)	**64 (70)**
Mexico	12	-	-	31 (42)	19 (30)	**62 (84)**
Cyprus	16	1	-	10 (12)	32 (80)	**59 (109)**
Bulgaria	5	-	-	4 (4)	40 (58)	**49 (67)**
Chile	7	-	-	39 (70)	-	**46 (77)**
Vietnam	10	-	-	12 (12)	24 (44)	**46 (66)**
Hong Kong	4	2	17 (17)	21 (28)	-	**44 (51)**
Portugal	11	-	-	4 (5)	28 (43)	**43 (59)**
United Arab Emirates	10	-	1 (1)	28 (42)	4 (12)	**43 (65)**
South Africa	17	1	2 (2)	20 (23)	-	**40 (43)**
Qatar	1	-	-	35 (76)	-	**36 (77)**
Hungary	20	2	1 (1)	3 (3)	9 (18)	**35 (44)**
Malta	17	1	-	7 (9)	9 (27)	**34 (54)**
Greece	12	-	-	5 (21)	14 (30)	**31 (63)**
Indonesia	2	-	-	28 (35)	1 (4)	**31 (41)**
Bermuda	12	-	2 (2)	16 (24)	1 (3)	**31 (41)**
Ukraine	4	-	-	4 (5)	16 (22)	**24 (31)**
Monaco	2	-	-	13 (14)	8 (57)	**23 (73)**
Philippines	5	1	1 (1)	6 (8)	8 (13)	**21 (28)**
Lithuania	3	-	-	11 (13)	5 (10)	**19 (26)**
Slovakia	4	-	-	-	15 (28)	**19 (32)**
Bahamas	8	-	-	10 (21)	1 (1)	**19 (30)**
Iran	1	-	-	-	17 (56)	**18 (57)**
Iceland	1	-	-	-	12 (26)	**13 (27)**
Belize	2	-	-	9 (16)	1 (3)	**12 (21)**
Seychelles	2	-	-	8 (8)	-	**10 (10)**
Samoa	-	-	-	10 (21)	-	**10 (21)**
Romania	1	-	-	-	9 (16)	**10 (17)**
Slovenia	3	-	-	1 (1)	5 (14)	**9 (18)**
Sri Lanka	-	-	-	8 (9)	-	**8 (9)**
Jersey (U.K.)	-	-	-	7 (9)	1 (2)	**8 (11)**
Estonia	1	-	-	-	7 (11)	**8 (12)**
Latvia	3	-	-	-	5 (10)	**8 (13)**

(unit: cases)

Countries	Patents	Utility models	Designs	Trademarks	International Trademarks	**Total**
Cuba	6	-	-	2 (2)	-	**8 (8)**
Colombia	1	-	-	4 (4)	-	**8 (8)**
Morocco	-	-	-	1 (1)	5 (8)	**7 (10)**
Mongolia	-	-	-	7 (13)	-	**7 (13)**
Macao	-	-	-	6 (6)	-	**6 (6)**
Mauritius	3	-	-	5 (7)	1 (1)	**6 (8)**
Kazakhstan	-	-	-	-	3 (6)	**6 (9)**
Brunei Darussalam	2	-	-	5 (5)	-	**5 (5)**
Panama	-	-	-	2 (8)	1 (2)	**5 (12)**
Croatia	3	-	1 (1)	-	4 (7)	**5 (8)**
Jordan	-	-	-	2 (4)	-	**5 (7)**
Curacao	5	-	-	-	5 (7)	**5 (7)**
Bangladesh	2	-	-	-	-	**5 (5)**
Serbia	-	-	-	-	2 (4)	**4 (6)**
Paraguay	-	-	-	4 (4)	-	**4 (4)**
Belarus	1	-	-	-	4 (4)	**4 (4)**
Argentina	-	-	1 (1)	3 (8)	-	**4 (9)**
Ecuador	2	-	-	4 (4)	-	**4 (4)**
Uzbekistan	2	-	-	1 (1)	1 (4)	**4 (7)**
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	3	-	-	1 (1)	-	**3 (3)**
Uruguay	1	-	-	-	-	**3 (3)**
Syrian Arab Republic	2	-	-	2 (2)	-	**3 (3)**
Armenia	-	-	-	-	1 (1)	**3 (3)**
Lebanon	-	-	-	2 (9)	1 (2)	**3 (11)**
Puerto Rico	-	-	1 (1)	-	1 (1)	**2 (2)**
Guernsey	-	-	-	-	2 (4)	**2 (4)**
Dominican Republic	-	-	-	2 (2)	-	**2 (2)**
Albania	-	-	-	-	2 (4)	**2 (4)**
Georgia	2	-	-	-	2 (2)	**2 (2)**
Liberia	2	-	-	-	-	**2 (2)**
Gibraltar	-	-	-	-	-	**2 (2)**
Antigua and Barbuda	-	-	-	-	2 (2)	**2 (2)**
Montenegro	-	-	-	-	2 (7)	**2 (7)**
Kuwait	-	-	-	2 (2)	-	**2 (2)**
Ethiopia	-	-	-	1 (1)	-	**1 (1)**

(unit: cases)

Countries	Patents	Utility models	Designs	Trademarks	International Trademarks	**Total**
Yemen	-	-	-	1 (1)	-	**1 (1)**
Isle of Man	-	-	-	-	1 (5)	**1 (5)**
San Marino	-	-	-	-	1 (3)	**1 (3)**
Azerbaijan	-	-	-	-	1 (1)	**1 (1)**
Costa Rica	1	-	-	-	-	**1 (1)**
Algeria	1	-	-	-	-	**1 (1)**
Egypt	-	-	-	1 (1)	-	**1 (1)**
Netherlands Antilles	-	-	-	1 (1)	-	**1 (1)**
Libya	-	-	-	1 (1)	-	**1 (1)**
Nigeria	1	-	-	-	-	**1 (1)**
Sierra Leone	-	-	-	-	1 (2)	**1 (2)**
Cambodia	-	-	-	1 (2)	-	**1 (2)**
Afghanistan	-	-	1 (1)	-	-	**1 (1)**
Kyrgyzstan	-	-	-	1 (1)	-	**1 (1)**
Total	46,419	417	3,248 (4,309)	12,451 (20,043)	12,916 (27,749)	**75,451 (98,937)**

Note: Figures in parentheses include multiple applications.

Examinations

Patents and utility models

(unit: cases)

Category		First Action					Final Decisions			
		Approval of registration	Notice of preliminary rejection or amendment	Other notices	Withdrawal or abandonment	Total	Approval of registration	Rejection or cancellation	Withdrawal abandonment, annulment, or rejection	Total
Patents	2011	17,280	153,326	676	3,001	174,283	98,979	49,204	3,001	115,184
	2012	17,115	141,890	477	3,764	163,246	108,236	51,912	3,764	163,912
	2013	18,713	158,828	431	3,899	181,871	121,866	54,029	3,899	179,794
	2014	15,798	146,959	879	3,288	166,924	120,353	53,611	3,288	177,252
	2015	**10,433**	**149,484**	**947**	**3,909**	**164,773**	**92,748**	**52,963**	**3,909**	**149,620**
Utility models	2011	2,220	14,968	72	536	17,796	7,013	8,010	536	15,559
	2012	1,714	11,352	51	432	13,549	7,003	7,459	432	14,894
	2013	1,451	10,085	41	441	12,018	6,086	6,192	441	12,719
	2014	874	8,015	45	390	9,324	5,067	4,937	390	10,394
	2015	**425**	**6,856**	**39**	**249**	**7,569**	**3,204**	**3,775**	**249**	**7,228**

Designs and trademarks

(unit: cases)

Category		First Action				Final Decisions		
		Publication/approval of registration	Notice of preliminary rejection	Other notices	Total	Approval of registration	Rejection	Total
Designs	2011	28,104 (30,274)	26,977 (30,276)	-	55,081 (60,550)	45,379 (49,330)	8,166 (8,892)	53,545 (58,222)
	2012	30,398 (31,168)	32,436 (33,871)	-	62,834 (65,039)	50,960 (52,560)	10,165 (10,477)	61,125 (63,037)
	2013	29,809 (30,757)	34,612 (36,264)	-	64,421 (67,021)	51,636 (53,538)	10,945 (11,381)	62,581 (64,919)
	2014	33,182 (34,149)	35,665 (37,702)	-	68,847 (71,851)	58,878 (61,323)	11,075 (11,713)	69,953 (73,036)
	2015	**27,800 (28,987)**	**38,041 (40,394)**	**-**	**65,841 (69,381)**	**57,006 (59,068)**	**9,404 (10,072)**	**66,410 (69,140)**
Trademarks	2011	63,823 (72,732)	59,950 (80,590)	-	123,773 (153,322)	78,763 (94,913)	27,141 (32,820)	105,904 (127,733)
	2012	57,215 (63,777)	55,921 (73,897)	-	113,136 (137,674)	85,875 (103,660)	26,943 (32,711)	112,818 (136,371)
	2013	74,674 (81,674)	70,398 (90,933)	-	145,072 (172,607)	110,118 (130,158)	32,168 (38,601)	142,286 (168,759)
	2014	83,475 (94,136)	64,127 (84,104)	-	147,602 (178,240)	111,917 (134,745)	28,771 (34,092)	140,688 (168,837)
	2015	**96,005 (108,545)**	**68,578 (90,758)**	**-**	**164,583 (199,303)**	**128,500 (154,670)**	**31,745 (38,463)**	**160,245 (193,133)**

Note: Figures in parentheses include multiple applications.

Pendency period for patents, utility models, trademarks, and designs

Average first action pendency

(unit: month)

Category	2011	2012	2013	2014	**2015**
Patents / Utility models	16.8	14.8	13.2	11.0	**10.0**
Trademarks	10.0	8.9	7.7	6.4	**4.7**
Designs	10.0	8.8	7.3	6.5	**4.4**

Average total pendency

(unit: month)

Category	2011	2012	2013	2014	**2015**
Patents / Utility models	22.8	21.6	19.1	16.7	**16.0**
Trademarks	14.6	13.5	12.7	11.5	**10.0**
Designs	10.4	10.5	9.2	8.5	**68**

International search reports and preliminary examinations undertaken by KIPO

(unit: cases)

Category	2011	2012	2013	2014	**2015**
International Search Reports	25,666	27,080	29,531	30,160	**28,468**
International Preliminary Examinations	226	301	252	236	**208**

Note: Based on KIPO data

Registrations

Registrations by IPR type

(unit: cases)

Category	2011	2012	2013	2014	**2015**	**Growth rate**
Patents	94,720	113,467	127,330	129,786	**101,873**	**-21.5%**
Utility models	5,853	6,353	5,959	4,955	**3,253**	**-34.3%**
Subtotal	100,573	119,820	133,289	134,741	**105,126**	**-22.0%**
Designs	42,185	46,146	47,308	54,010	**54,551**	**1.0%**
Trademarks	71,255	77,903	100,093	99,791	**114,746**	**15.0%**
Total	214,013	243,869	280,690	288,542	**274,423**	**-4.9%**

Note: Trademark registration renewals are excluded.

Comparison of domestic and foreign registrations

(unit: cases)

Category		Domestic		Foreign		Total
		Cases	Ratio	Cases	Ratio	
Patents	2011	72,258	76.3%	22,462	23.7%	94,720
	2012	84,061	74.1%	29,406	25.9%	113,467
	2013	95,667	75.1 %	31,663	24.9%	127,330
	2014	97,294	75.0%	32,492	25.0%	129,786
	2015	**76,319**	**74.9%**	**25,554**	**25.1%**	**101,873**
Utility models	2011	5,705	97.5%	148	2.5%	5,853
	2012	6,151	96.8%	202	3.2%	6,353
	2013	5,718	96.0%	241	4.0%	5,959
	2014	4,682	94.5%	273	5.5%	4,955
	2015	**3,073**	**94.5%**	**180**	**5.5%**	**3,253**
Designs	2011	39,443	93.5%	2,742	6.5%	42,185
	2012	42,628	92.4%	3,518	7.6%	46,146
	2013	43,866	92.7%	3,442	7.3 %	47,308
	2014	49,856	92.3%	4,154	7.7%	54,010
	2015	**49,933**	**91.5%**	**4,618**	**8.5%**	**54,551**

(unit: cases)

Category		Domestic		Foreign		Total
		Cases	Ratio	Cases	Ratio	
Trademarks	2011	55,571	78.0%	15,684	22.0%	71,255
	2012	61,505	79.0%	16,398	21.0%	77,903
	2013	80,372	80.3%	19,721	19.7%	100,093
	2014	80,645	80.8%	19,146	19.2%	99,791
	2015	**95,484**	**83.2%**	**19,262**	**16.8%**	**114,746**
Total	2011	172,977	80.8%	41,036	19.2%	214,013
	2012	194,345	79.7%	49,524	20.3%	243,869
	2013	225,623	80.4%	55,067	19.6%	280,690
	2014	232,477	80.6%	56,065	19.4%	288,542
	2015	**224,809**	**81.9%**	**49,614**	**18.1%**	**274,423**

Note: Figures in parentheses include multiple applications.

Patent and utility model registrations by technological field in 2015

(unit: cases)

Classification	Patents			Utility models		
	Domestic	Foreign	**Subtotal**	Domestic	Foreign	**Subtotal**
Agriculture	1,266	85	**1,351**	162	-	**162**
Foodstuffs, Tobacco	1,454	134	**1,588**	33	-	**33**
Personal of domestic articles	2,870	322	**3,192**	736	23	**759**
Health, Amusement	3,493	1,007	**4,500**	238	15	**253**
Preparations for medical, dental, or cosmetic usage	1,733	745	**2,478**	4	-	**4**
Separating, Mixing	2,263	581	**2,844**	59	3	**62**
Shaping	2,548	582	**3,130**	60	8	**68**
Grinding, Polishing	1,816	606	**2,422**	82	6	**88**
Printing	381	185	**566**	49	1	**50**

(unit: cases)

Classification	Patents			Utility models		
	Domestic	Foreign	**Subtotal**	Domestic	Foreign	**Subtotal**
Transporting	6,902	1,244	**8,146**	540	23	**563**
Micro-structural technology, Nano-technology	173	45	**218**	-	-	**-**
Chemistry	1,536	548	**2,084**	8	2	**10**
Organic chemistry	998	1,403	**2,401**	-	-	**-**
Organic macromolecular compounds	1,165	1,187	**2,352**	1	-	**1**
Dyes, Petroleum	1,266	904	**2,170**	3	-	**3**
Biochemistry	1,488	339	**1,827**	6	-	**6**
Metallurgy	1,472	677	**2,149**	7	-	**7**
Textiles or flexible materials	1,117	257	**1,374**	23	10	**33**
Paper	128	69	**197**	3	-	**3**
Building	4,467	270	**4,737**	292	6	**298**
Earth or rock drilling, Mining	236	26	**262**	5	-	**5**
Engines of pumps	1,683	686	**2,369**	45	4	**49**
Engineering in general	1,556	627	**2,183**	91	4	**95**
Lighting, Heating	2,944	388	**3,332**	174	5	**179**
Weapons, Blasting	299	26	**325**	5	2	**7**
Instruments	5,356	1,757	**7,113**	87	10	**97**
Horology, Computing	7,340	1,938	**9,278**	56	22	**78**
Educating, Information strorage	1,342	633	**1,975**	59	1	**60**
Nucleonics	348	62	**410**	8	-	**8**
Electric elements, Electric techniques	9,031	4,641	**13,672**	188	29	**217**
Electric circuitry, Electriccommunicationtechnique	7,450	3,567	**11,017**	44	6	**50**
Others	198	13	**211**	5	-	**5**
Total	76,319	25,554	**101,873**	3,073	180	**3,253**

Note: Figures for 2015 are preliminary.

Patent registrations in biotechnology

(unit: cases)

Category	2011		2012		2013		2014		2015	
	Cases	Ratio	Cases	Ratio	Cases	Ratio	Cases	Ratio	**Cases**	**Ratio**
Domestic	2,207	82.7%	2,757	74.4%	3,294	76.9%	3,604	79.6%	**2,917**	**77.3%**
Foreign	462	17.3%	951	25.6%	989	23.1%	926	20.4%	**857**	**22.7%**
Total	2,669	100.0%	3,708	100.0%	4,283	100.0%	4,530	100.0%	**3,774**	**100%**

Note1: Figures for 2015 are preliminary.
Note2: Based on the following biotechnological categories of the Eighth Edition of the International Patent Classification: A01H; A01K 67/00~67/04; A01N 63/00~65/00; A61K 8/97~8/99; A61K 8/64~8/68; A61K 35/12~35/76; 36/00~36/9068; A61K 38/00~38/58, 39/00~39/44, 48/00, 51/00~51/10; C02F 3/00~3/34, 11/02~11/04; C07H 19/00~21/04; C07K; C12C~M; C12N; C12P; C12Q; C12S; G01N 33/50~33/98.

Patent registrations in business methods

(unit: cases)

Category	2011		2012		2013		2014		2015	
	Cases	Ratio	Cases	Ratio	Cases	Ratio	Cases	Ratio	**Cases**	**Ratio**
Domestic	1,579	91.4%	1,959	89.0%	1,860	91.0%	2,087	92.8%	**2,023**	**92.9%**
Foreign	148	8.6%	243	11.0%	185	9.0%	162	7.2%	**154**	**7.1%**
Total	1,727	100.0%	2,202	100.0%	2,045	100.0%	2,249	100.0%	**2,177**	**100%**

Note1: Figures for 2015 are preliminary.
Note2: Based on the Eighth Edition of the International Patent Classification.

Registrations by resident of foreign countries in 2015

(unit: cases)

Countries	Patents	Utility models	Designs	Trademarks	International Trademarks	**Total**
United States of America	7,337	26	1,217 (1,265)	3,922 (6,375)	1,444 (2,345)	**13,946**
Japan	9,615	16	1,186 (1,199)	2,155 (3,422)	803 (1,694)	**13,776**
Germany	2,201	8	266 (364)	211 (355)	1,114 (2,713)	**3,895**
China	853	22	164 (167)	1,699 (2,329)	566 (812)	**3,304**
France	1,195	2	124 (267)	284 (441)	645 (1,412)	**2,392**
Switzerland	711	1	123 (306)	346 (525)	563 (1,136)	**1,917**
United Kingdom	333	-	264 (272)	585 (1,096)	417 (1,065)	**1,607**
Italy	224	-	61 (133)	214 (322)	541 (1,139)	**1,111**
Netherlands	529	-	248 (273)	141 (224)	154 (366)	**1,097**
Taiwan	468	89	55 (55)	421(553)	-	**1,033**
Sweden	402	1	59 (63)	72 (132)	131 (326)	**669**
Canada	269	-	33 (34)	251 (499)	17 (29)	**571**
Finland	205	2	49 (51)	10 (35)	85 (468)	**353**
Australia	67	4	11 (13)	117 (171)	148 (278)	**349**
Singapore	122	-	11 (12)	119 (298)	64 (125)	**317**
Spain	46	-	9 (10)	51 (77)	154 (242)	**261**
Austria	143	1	4 (4)	7 (13)	89 (210)	**244**
Belgium	141	-	9 (9)	19 (25)	75 (211)	**244**
Denmark	74	1	21 (21)	29 (71)	111 (238)	**236**
Israel	112	2	14 (14)	25 (33)	50 (70)	**203**
Luxembourg	82	-	6 (8)	46 (86)	62 (161)	**198**
Ireland	45	1	4 (4)	36 (45)	59 (106)	**145**
India	66	-	1 (1)	26 (33)	12 (18)	**105**
Norway	40	-	12 (12)	19 (39)	25 (72)	**96**
Russian Federation	12	2	2 (2)	11 (23)	62 (168)	**89**
Thailand	5	-	1 (1)	80 (103)	1 (2)	**87**
New Zealand	10	-	6 (6)	30 (41)	34 (74)	**80**
Virgin Islands (British)	23	-	-	37 (104)	16 (72)	**76**
Brazil	16	-	28 (28)	27 (44)	2 (3)	**73**
Turkey	9	-	1 (1)	4 (4)	52 (90)	**66**
Liechtenstein	8	-	18 (24)	5 (6)	24 (41)	**61**
Malaysia	9	-	6 (6)	39 (50)	2 (2)	**56**
Saudi Arabia	22	-	-	30 (68)	1 (1)	**53**
Mexico	17	-	-	32 (38)	1 (1)	**50**
Chile	2	-	-	47 (50)	-	**49**

(unit: cases)

Countries	Patents	Utility models	Designs	Trademarks	International Trademarks	Total
Malta	1	-	-	10 (19)	34 (113)	**45**
Portugal	7	-	-	7 (15)	26 (45)	**40**
United Arab Emirates	-	-	18 (18)	17 (21)	5 (8)	**40**
South Africa	18	-	1 (1)	20 (50)	-	**39**
Cayman Islands	25	-	-	11 (41)	2 (3)	**38**
Czech Republic	2	-	1 (1)	1 (1)	32 (54)	**36**
Hong Kong	-	-	10 (10)	26 (44)	-	**36**
Bermuda	3	-	8 (36)	16 (24)	5 (25)	**32**
Poland	6	-	6 (6)	2 (2)	17 (42)	**31**
Bahamas	8	-	-	17 (35)	3 (10)	**28**
Indonesia	1	-	-	26 (47)	-	**27**
Vietnam	-	-	-	10 (12)	16 (23)	**26**
Barbados	18	-	4 (4)	3 (5)	1 (2)	**26**
Bulgaria	2	-	- (4)	-	18 (27)	**24**
Cyprus	4	-	-	7 (8)	11 (28)	**22**
Ukraine	4	-	-	3 (5)	14 (30)	**21**
Greece	9	-	- (1)	-	8 (11)	**18**
Philippines	-	-	1 (1)	13 (15)	4 (4)	**18**
Iceland	3	-	-	1 (1)	12 (27)	**16**
Hungary	3	-	1 (1)	3 (5)	8 (21)	**15**
Monaco	-	-	-	11 (15)	3 (19)	**14**
Mauritius	1	-	-	11 (13)	1 (1)	**13**
Slovakia	1	-	5 (5)	-	6 (17)	**12**
Republic of Korea	-	-	- (3)	-	8 (12)	**11**
Romania	-	-	-	-	9 (10)	**10**
Samoa	-	-	-	10 (15)	-	**10**
Cuba	7	-	-	-	2 (2)	**9**
Lithuania	-	-	-	3 (3)	5 (13)	**8**
Colombia	1	-	-	5 (9)	2 (2)	**8**
Slovenia	4	-	2 (2)	-	2 (8)	**8**
Croatia	-	-	1 (1)	6 (6)	1 (3)	**8**
Jersey (U.K.)	-	-	-	8 (12)	-	**8**
Qatar	-	-	-	8 (17)	-	**8**
Iran	1	-	-	3 (7)	3 (4)	**7**
Argentina	1	-	-	6 (6)	-	**7**
Morocco	-	-	-	3 (7)	3 (3)	**6**
Estonia	-	-	3 (-)	-	2 (2)	**5**
Belize	-	2	-	2 (2)	1 (2)	**6**

(unit: cases)

Countries	Patents	Utility models	Designs	Trademarks	International Trademarks	Total
Seychelles	1	-	-	4 (4)	-	**5**
Ecuador	-	-	-	4 (4)	-	**4**
Panama	2	-	-	2 (2)	-	**4**
Belarus	-	-	-	-	3 (17)	**3**
Georgia	-	-	-	-	3 (3)	**3**
Egypt	-	-	-	1 (1)	2 (2)	**3**
Lebanon	-	-	-	1 (1)	2 (3)	**3**
Sri Lanka	-	-	-	3 (4)	-	**3**
Peru	-	-	-	3 (3)	-	**3**
Pakistan	-	-	-	3 (3)	-	**3**
Fiji	-	-	-	-	2 (2)	**2**
Kazakhstan	1	-	-	-	1 (2)	**2**
Latvia	1	-	-	-	1 (1)	**2**
Serbia	1	-	-	-	1 (4)	**2**
Armenia	-	-	-	2 (2)	-	**2**
Brunei Darussalam	-	-	-	2 (2)	-	**2**
Jamaica	2	-	-	-	-	**2**
Mongolia	-	-	-	2 (2)	-	**2**
Andorra	-	-	-	-	1 (2)	**1**
Antigua and Barbuda	-	-	-	-	1 (3)	**1**
Bosnia and Herzegovina	-	-	-	-	1 (1)	**1**
Curacao	-	-	-	-	1 (1)	**1**
Gibraltar	-	-	-	-	1 (1)	**1**
Republic of Macedonia	-	-	-	-	1 (1)	**1**
Sierra Leone	-	-	-	-	1 (2)	**1**
Tunisia	-	-	-	-	1 (1)	**1**
The West Indies	-	-	-	1 (3)	-	**1**
Dominican Republic	-	-	-	1 (1)	-	**1**
Iraq	-	-	-	1 (1)	-	**1**
Jordan	-	-	1 (1)	-	-	**1**
Kenya	1	-	-	-	-	**1**
Saint Lucia	-	-	-	1 (3)	-	**1**
Marshall Islands	1	-	-	-	-	**1**
Macao	-	-	-	1 (2)	-	**1**
Nepal	-	-	-	1 (1)	-	**1**
Oman	-	-	-	1 (1)	-	**1**
San Marino	-	-	-	1 (1)	-	**1**
Uruguay	1	-	-	-	-	**1**

Trials and appeals

Trials and appeals requested

(unit: cases)

Category		2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Rejection	Patents	8,421	8,887	7,019	6,123	**6,093**
	Utility models	245	190	147	116	**112**
	Designs	135 (136)	141 (141)	124 (135)	154 (156)	**119**
	Trademarks	1,977 (2,949)	1,854 (2,899)	1,907 (2,776)	1,816 (2,656)	**1,559 (2,293)**
	Subtotal	10,778 (11,751)	11,072 (12,117)	9,197 (10,077)	8,209 (9,051)	**7,883 (8,617)**
Appeals against examiner's decision to dismiss amendment	Patents	2	3	1	-	**-**
	Utility models	-	-	-	-	**-**
	Designs	3 (3)	4 (4)	12 (12)	11 (11)	**7 (15)**
	Trademarks	2 (2)	1 (1)	4 (8)	1 (1)	**6 (7)**
	Subtotal	7 (7)	8 (8)	17 (21)	12 (12)	**13 (22)**
Appeals against examiner's decision of cancellation	Patents	1	-	1	-	**-**
	Utility models	8	9	2	1	**1**
	Designs	2 (2)	10 (10)	2 (1)	4 (4)	**4**
	Trademarks	-	-	-	-	**-**
	Subtotal	11 (11)	19 (19)	5 (5)	5 (5)	**5**
Trials for correction	Patents	111	131	142	140	**134**
	Utility models	7	9	6	6	**6**
	Designs	-	-	-	-	**-**
	Trademarks	-	-	-	-	**-**
	Subtotal	118 (118)	140 (140)	148 (148)	146 (146)	**140**
Invalidation	Patents	722	664	573	687	**2,194**
	Utility models	121	101	96	64	**80**
	Designs	179 (179)	260 (267)	191 (201)	254 (255)	**209 (210)**
	Trademarks	411 (502)	423 (493)	443 (544)	467 (550)	**584 (658)**
	Subtotal	1,433 (1,524)	1,448 (1,525)	1,303 (1,414)	1,472 (1,556)	**3,067 (3,142)**

(unit: cases)

Category		2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Trials to confirm scope of IP right	Patents	405	354	375	385	**691**
	Utility models	92	93	84	64	**53**
	Designs	119 (119)	154 (155)	125 (126)	149 (149)	**138**
	Trademarks	89 (109)	80 (122)	83 (186)	90 (119)	**93 (132)**
	Subtotal	705 (725)	681 (724)	667 (771)	688 (717)	**975 (1,014)**
Cancellation trials on trademark registration	Patents	2	-	-	-	**-**
	Utility models	-	-	1	-	**-**
	Designs	-	-	-	-	**-**
	Trademarks	1,376 (1,745)	1,379 (1,686)	1,676 (2,069)	1,449 (1,826)	**1903 (2305)**
	Subtotal	1,378 (1,747)	1,379 (1,686)	1,677 (2,070)	1,449 (1,826)	**1903 (2305)**
Grand total	Patents	9,664	10,039	8,111	7,335	**9,112**
	Utility models	473	402	336	251	**252**
	Designs	438 (439)	569 (577)	454 (476)	572 (575)	**477 (486)**
	Trademarks	3,855 (5,307)	3,737 (5,201)	4,113 (5,583)	3,823 (5,152)	**4,145 (5,395)**
	Grand total	14,430 (15,883)	14,747 (16,219)	13,014 (14,506)	11,981 (13,313)	**13,986 (15,245)**

Note: Figures in parentheses include multiple applications.

· Ex partes: Appeals against examiners' decisions of refusal / Appeals against examiners' decisions of cancellation / Appeals against examiners' decisions to dismiss amendments / Trials for correction

· Inter partes: Invalidation trials / Trials to confirm scope of IP rights / Trials for invalidation of correction / Trials for granting non-exclusive licenses / Trials for invalidation of registrations for extension of patent right term / Trials for invalidation of registration for renewals of trademark right term / Cancellation trials on trademark registrations / Cancellation trials on registrations of exclusive or non-exclusive licenses / Trials for invalidation on registrations for conversion of classification of goods

* Rejection refers to appeals against examiners' decisions of refusal and appeals against examiners' decisions to dismiss utility models.

** Invalidation refers to invalidation trials and trials for invalidation of corrections.

Successful petitions

(unit: cases)

Category		2011		2012		2013		2014		**2015**	
		Accep-tance	Ratio	Accep-tance	Ratio	Accep-tance	Ratio	Accep-tance	Ratio	**Accep-tance**	**Ratio**
Ex partes	Patents	1,248	28.8%	1,473	33.3%	1,394	32.1%	1,190	27.8%	**1,046**	**30.4%**
	Utility models	74	27.8%	61	30.2%	65	38.7%	29	25.0%	**29**	**27.6%**
	Designs	74 (74)	39.8% (39.8%)	50 (50)	37.3% (37.0%)	37 (37)	30.6 % (30.6%)	66 (77)	42.0% (45.8%)	**46 (54)**	**35.4% (39.1%)**
	Trademarks	1,144 (1,894)	55.3% (61.0%)	1,025 (1,652)	53.1% (56.6%)	1,062 (1,825)	52.9% (58.1%)	864 (1,321)	49.3% (53.4%)	**844 (1,368)**	**52.4% (58.7%)**
	Subtotal	2,540 (3,290)	37.1% (41.7%)	2,609 (3,236)	39.0% (42.2%)	2,558 (3,321)	38.6 % (42.8%)	2,149 (2,617)	34.0% (37.1%)	**1,965 (2,497)**	**37.2% (41.5%)**
Inter partes	Patents	552	48.5%	576	49.5%	463	45.6%	457	50.7%	**687**	**38.7%**
	Utility models	142	51.3%	105	47.3%	95	47.0%	52	38.8%	**66**	**56.9%**
	Designs	233 (233)	53.8% (53.8%)	173 (174)	48.7% (48.9%)	160 (176)	46.5 % (48.9%)	167 (169)	51.1% (51.4%)	**161 (161)**	**47.5% (47.5%)**
	Trademarks	1,180 (1,402)	63.1% (61.6%)	1,194 (1,376)	61.6% (59.6%)	1,321 (1,579)	66.1% (66.3%)	1,218 (1,490)	65.1% (66.3%)	**1,401 (1,653)**	**69.0% (68.1%)**
	Subtotal	2,107 (2,329)	56.7% (56.5%)	2,048 (2,231)	55.7% (55.1%)	2,039 (2,313)	57.3% (58.4%)	1,894 (2,168)	58.6% (60.0%)	**2,315 (2,567)**	**54.4% (55.1%)**
Total	Patents	1,800	32.9%	2,049	36.7%	1,857	34.7%	1,647	31.7%	**1,733**	**33.2%**
	Utility models	216	39.8%	166	39.2%	160	43.2%	81	32.4%	**95**	**43.0%**
	Designs	307 (307)	49.6% (49.6%)	223 (224)	45.6% (45.6%)	197 (213)	42.4% (44.3%)	233 (246)	48.1% (49.5%)	**207 (215)**	**44.1% (45.1%)**
	Trademarks	2,324 (3,296)	59.0% (61.3%)	2,219 (3,028)	57.4% (57.9%)	2,383 (3,404)	59.5% (61.6%)	2,082 (2,811)	57.4% (59.5%)	**2,245 (3,021)**	**61.7% (63.5%)**
	Total	4,647 (5,619)	44.0% (46.8%)	4,657 (5,467)	44.9% (46.6%)	4,597 (5,634)	45.1% (48.0%)	4,043 (4,785)	42.3% (44.9%)	**4,280 (5,064)**	**44.8% (47.5%)**

Note1: Figures in parentheses include multiple applications.

Note2: The successful petitions refer to the number of petitions granted. These figures exclude cases where the registration was decided on the basis of an examiners's reconsideration before a trial and invalidation of a patent process. The figures in parentheses indicate the percentage of the petitions granted.

· Ex partes: Appeals against examiners' decisions of refusal / Appeals against examiners' decisions of cancellation / Appeals against examiners' decisions to dismiss amendments / Trials for correction

· Inter partes: Invalidation trials / Trials to confirm scope of IP rights / Trials for invalidation of correction / Trials for granting non-exclusive licenses / Trials for invalidation of registrations for extension of patent right term / Trials for invalidation of registration for renewals of trademark right term / Cancellation trials on trademark registrations / Cancellation trials on registrations of exclusive or non-exclusive licenses / Trials for invalidation on registrations for conversion of classification of goods

Comparison of domestic and foreign trial requests

(unit: cases)

Category	2011		2012		2013		2014		**2015**	
	Domestic	Foreign	Domestic	Foreign	Domestic	Foreign	Domestic	Foreign	**Domestic**	**Foreign**
Patents	5,813	3,851	4,848	5,191	4,098	4,013	3,814	3,521	**5,809**	**3,303**
Utility models	468	5	396	6	329	7	244	7	**240**	**12**
Designs	374	65	515	62	419	57	514	61	**432**	**54**
Trademarks	3,080	2,227	2,528	2,673	2,957	2,626	2,869	2,283	**3,057**	**2,338**
Total	9,735	6,148	8,287	7,932	7,803	6,703	7,441	5,872	**9,538**	**5,707**

Note: Multiple applications for trademarks and designs are treated as single applications.

Income and expenditures / KIPO staff

Income

(unit: US dollar)

Category	2011	2012	2013	2014	**2015**
Income from fees	315,743,636	345,367,273	375,804,545	394,844,545	**414,455,455**
Income carried over from the previous year	31,044,545	34,099,091	28,054,545	33,515,455	**31,426,364**
Internal income and others	5,895,455	8,350,000	15,750,000	15,640,000	**49,564,545**
Total	352,683,636	387,816,364	419,609,091	444,000,000	**495,843,636**

Exchange rates: US $1 = 1,100 (in Korean won)

Expenditures

(unit: US dollar)

Category	2011	2012	2013	2014	**2015**
Non-personnel resources (projects)	207,110,000	228,000,909	236,025,455	263,656,364	**276,374,545**
Personnel resources	87,794,545	95,822,727	100,612,727	102,949,091	**109,799,090**
Deposit for special fund	27,272,727	41,818,182	52,727,273	48,370,000	**91,670,000**
Total	322,177,273	365,641,818	389,365,455	414,975,455	**477,843,636**

Exchange rates: US $1 = 1,100 (in Korean won)

KIPO staff

(unit: number of positions)

Category		2011	2012	2013	2014	**2015**
Examiners	Patent and utility models	692	711	710	724	**741**
	Industrial designs and Trademarks	135	145	148	151	**159**
Trial judges		88	88	88	90	**95**
Administrative staff		661	635	622	622	**605**
Total		1,576	1,579	1,568	1,587	**1,600**

Advanced degrees/special certificates possessed by KIPO staff at the time of their hiring

(unit: number of staff)

Category		Ph. D	Master's Degrees	Patent attorney certificate only	Lawyer certificate only	Professional Engineer certificate only
Examiners	Patent and utility models	316	30	21	1	25
	Trademark	4	1	5	6	0
	Industrial designs	6	2	2	1	0
	Total	**326**	**33**	**28**	**8**	**25**

About KIPO

The Korean Intellectual Property Office is the governmental authority in charge of affairs regarding patents, utility models, industrial designs, and trademarks. It was established in 1949 as an external bureau of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry under the name of Patent Bureau. In 1977, the Patent Bureau became an independent office of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and took the name of Korean Industrial Property Office. In 2000, it was renamed the Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO).

The main functions of KIPO include: the examination and registration of intellectual property rights; the conducting of trials on intellectual property disputes; the management and dissemination of information on intellectual property rights; the promotion and enhancement of public awareness of invention activities; the advancement of international cooperation; and the training of experts on intellectual property rights.

In response to the competitive global environment where intellectual property is becoming increasingly valuable, we aim to advance Korea and its position in the world through innovative intellectual property.

We support technological innovation and industrial development by promoting the creation, protection, and utilization of intellectual property. We strive to provide world-class intellectual property services; to promote the economic and industrial use of intellectual property; and to create an environment respectful of the intellectual property system.