
JPO's Experience in Promoting Intellectual Property (IP) and Cooperative Activities with African Countries

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Patent Examination Department

Japan Patent Office

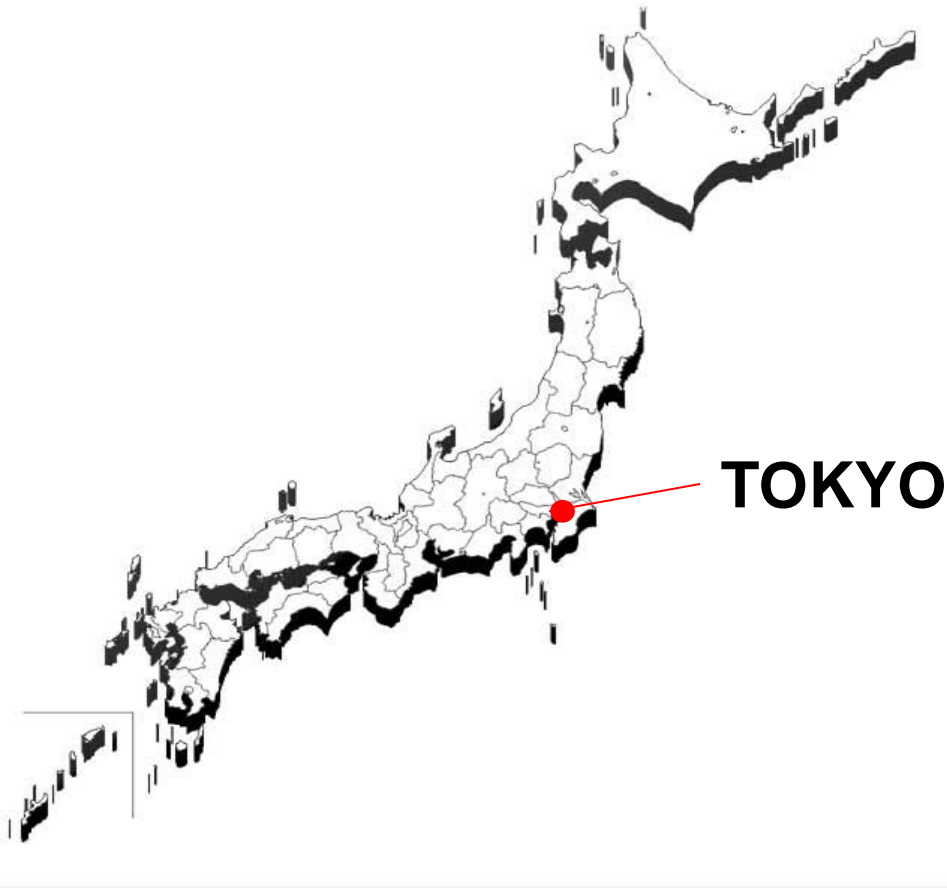
About Japan



- 1. Overview of JPO**
- 2. National IP Policy in Japan**
- 3. Japanese Industries' Growing Interest in Africa**
- 4. JPO's Cooperative Activities with Africa**

1. Overview of JPO

1-1. Location and Organization



Ministry of Economy, Trade,
and Industry

Japan Patent Office

Agency of Natural
Resources and Energy

Small and Medium
Enterprise Agency

1-2. JPO Building



Japan Patent Office

General Affairs Dept.

Trademark and Customer Relations Dept.

Patent and Design Examination Dept.

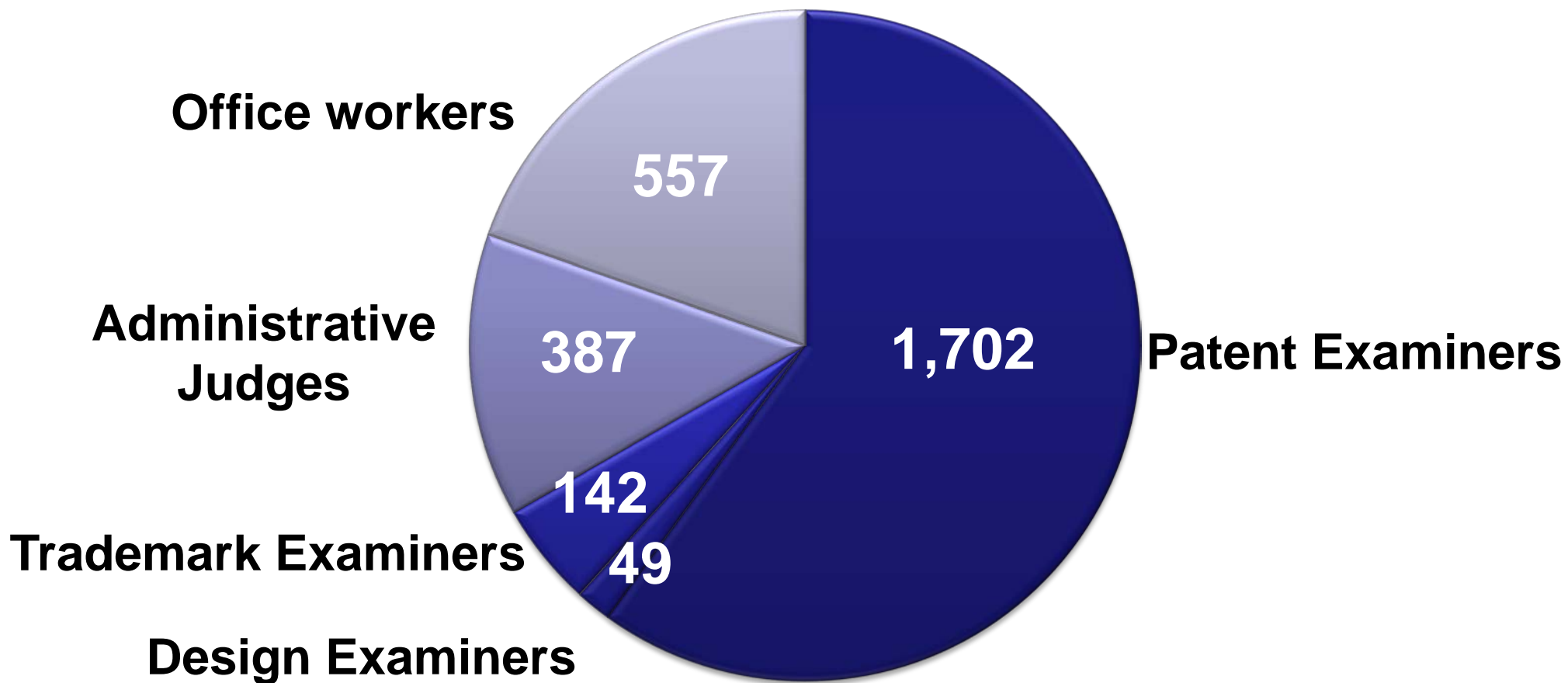
Trial and Appeal Dept.

1-4. Role of the JPO

- 1. Granting industrial property rights**
- 2. Establishing initiatives on industrial property**
- 3. Promoting international harmonization and assistance to developing countries**
- 4. Reviewing the industrial property rights system**
- 5. Supporting SMEs and universities**
- 6. Providing information and services involving industrial property**

1-5. Personnel in the JPO

Total: 2,837 employees (FY2014)



2. National IP Policy in Japan

Development of Japan's IP system

1884 Enacted Trademark Law

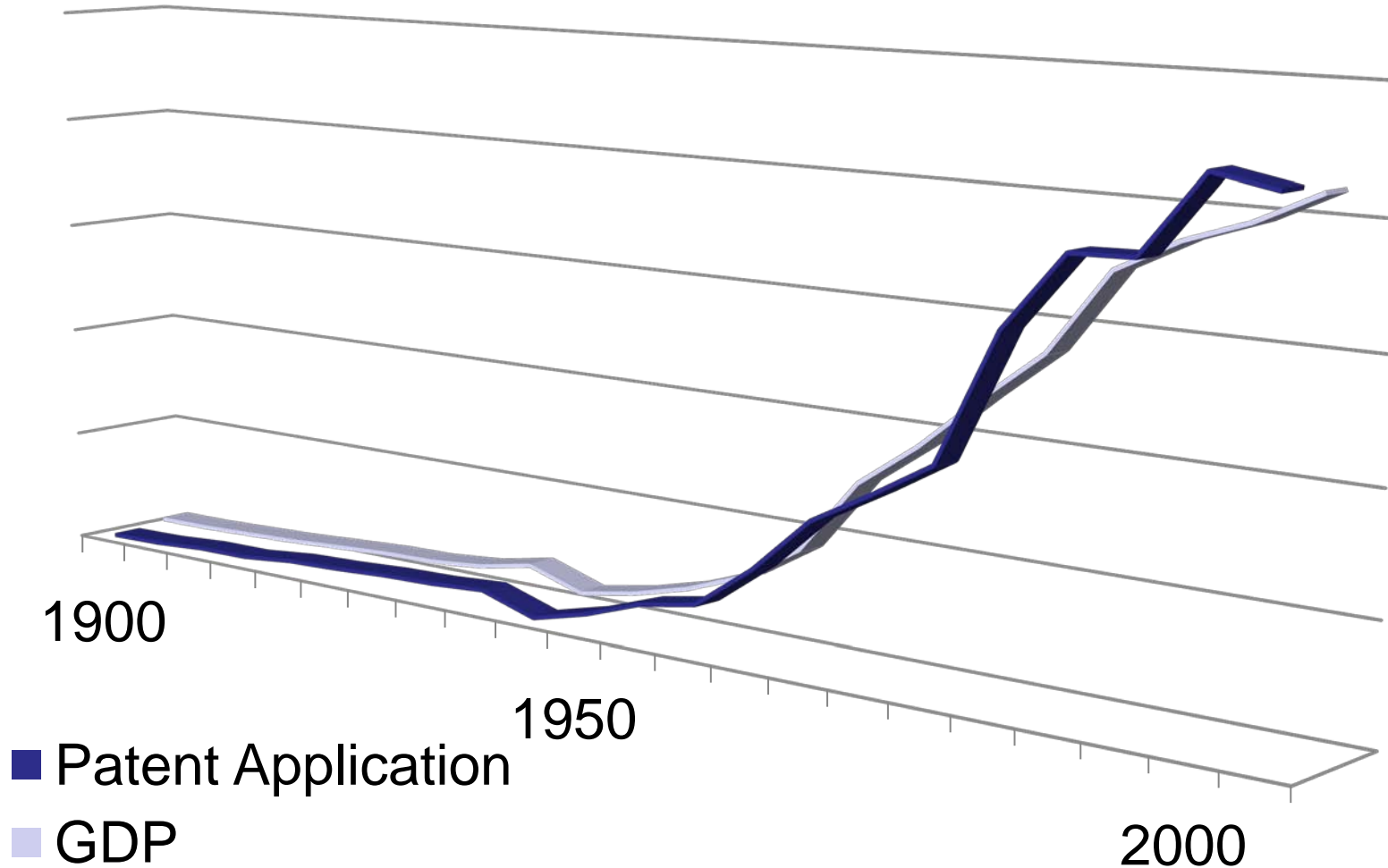
**1885 Enacted Patent Law
(Established the Patent Office)**



1888 Enacted Design Law

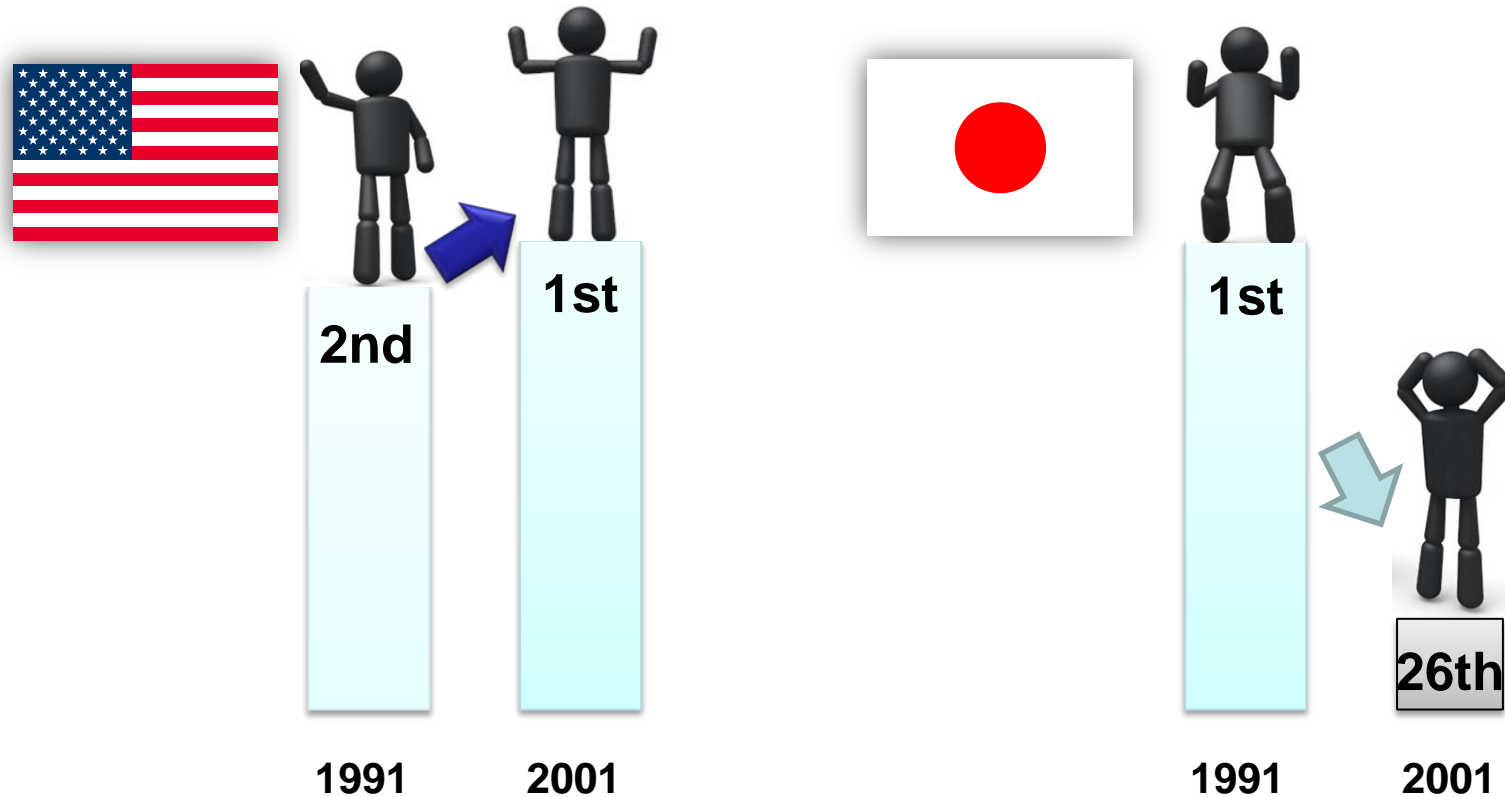
2-2. Improvement of IP and Development of Economy

- Positive correlation between Number of Patent Applications and GDP



2-3. Background of the need for National IP strategy

- In the late 1990s, there was growing concern about the ***decline in the international competitiveness*** of Japanese industries



Sources: IMD “World Competitiveness Yearbook 2001”, etc

“As one of our national goals, I will ensure that ***the results of research activities and creative endeavors are translated into intellectual properties that are strategically protected and utilized*** so that we can enhance the international competitiveness of Japanese industries.”



Then Prime Minister **Koizumi**

* Strategic Council on Intellectual Property: formed February 2002 and consisted of relevant ministers and senior figures from industry and academia

2-5. National IP Strategy

Intellectual Property Strategy Headquarters
(Head: Prime Minister Established: 2003)



Intellectual Property Strategic Program

**Ministry of
Economy,
Trade and
Industry**

JPO

Customs

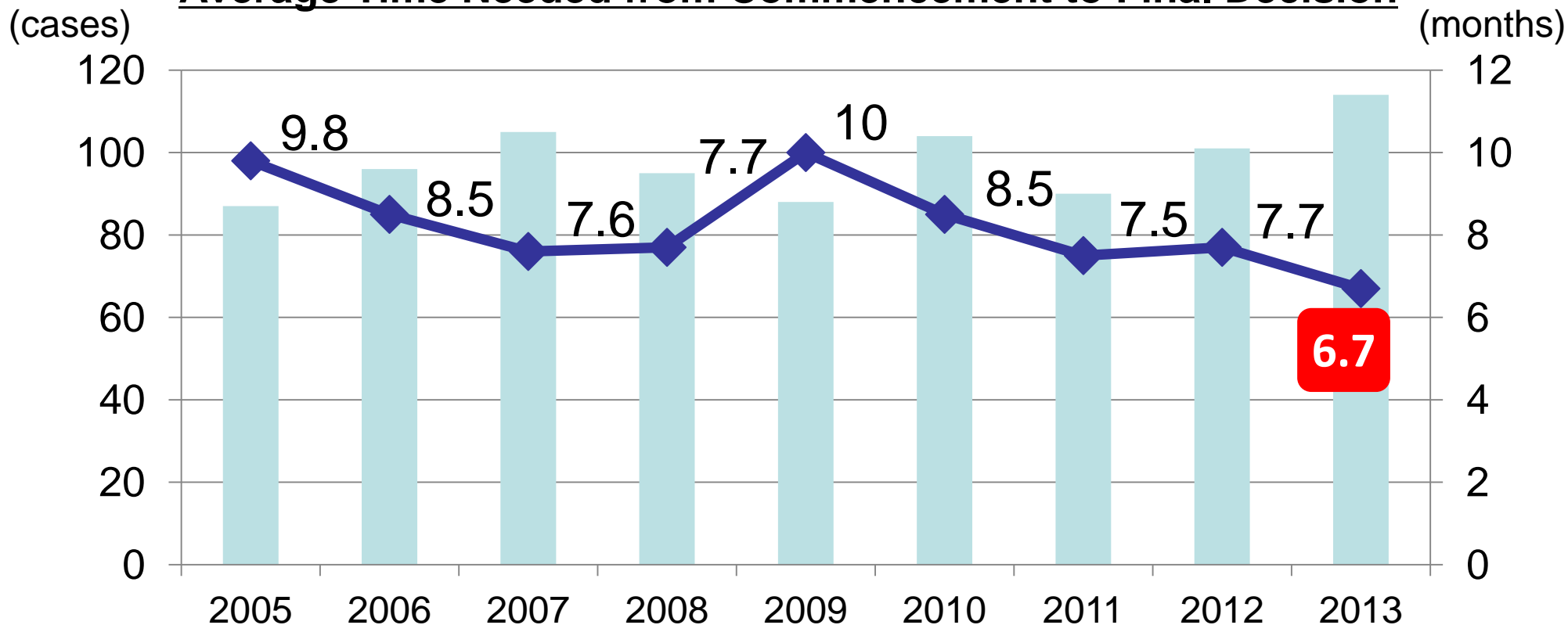
... and all other institutions involved in IP

2-6. National IP Strategy - Actions

IP High Court

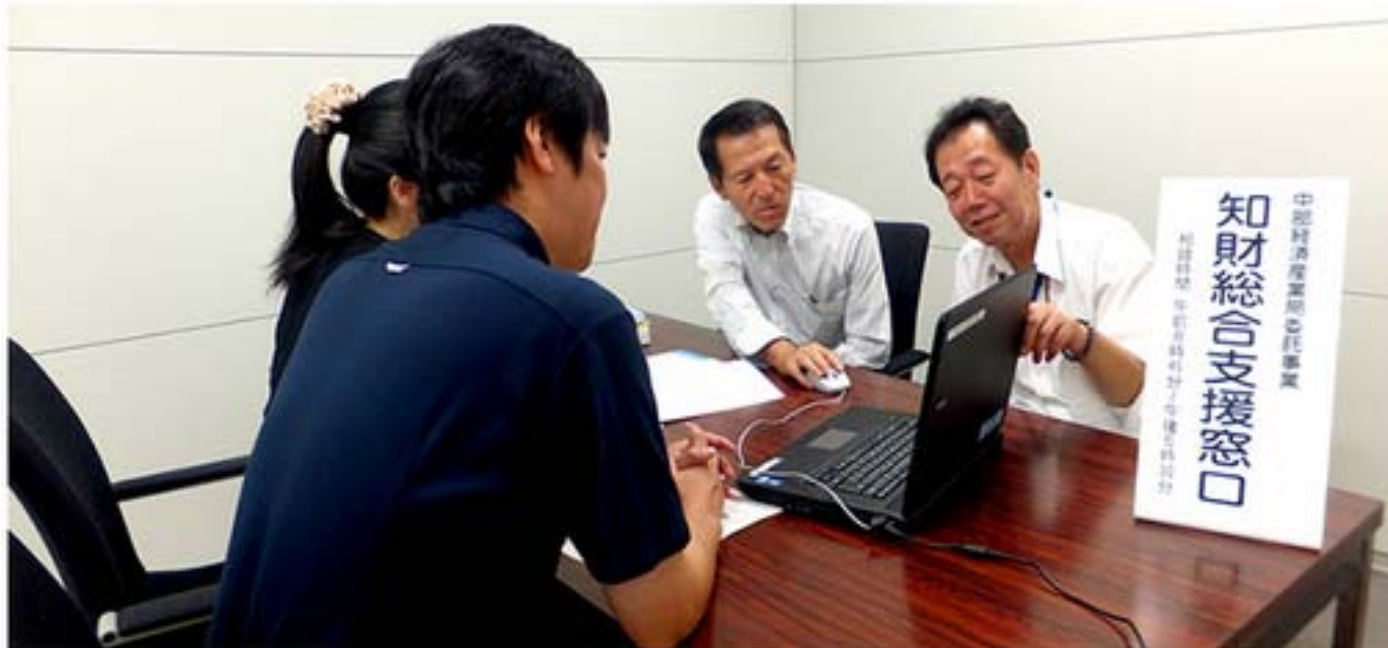
- Established in April 2005
- Specialized in intellectual property cases

Number of New Civil Cases Received and
Average Time Needed from Commencement to Final Decision



Strengthening IP Management at SMEs

- Sending IP experts to SMEs and universities
- Offering consultations and advice to SMEs at local offices



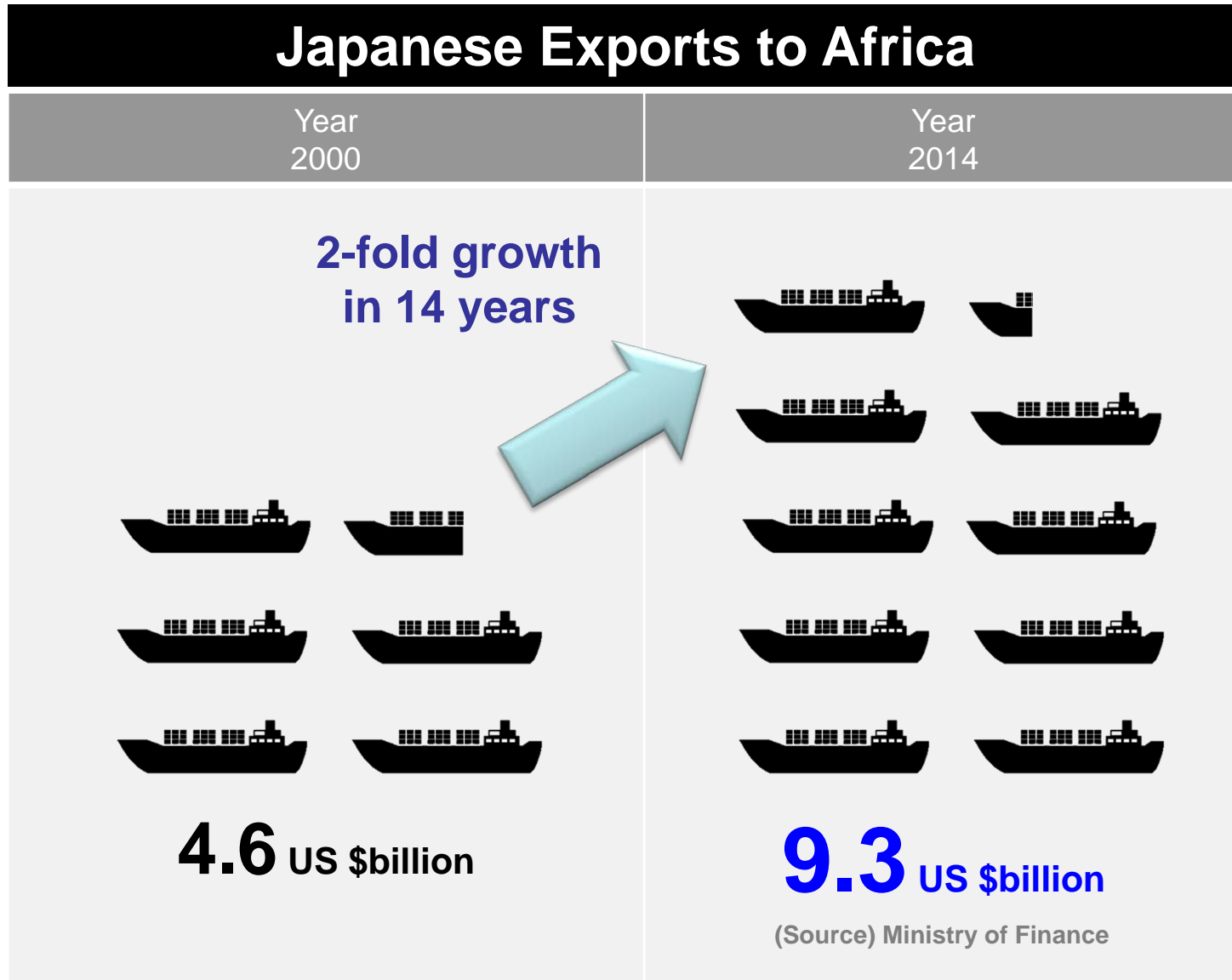
Design Rights: Protector of Originality

**Design Rights:
To Know is to Benefit**

(Basic Version)

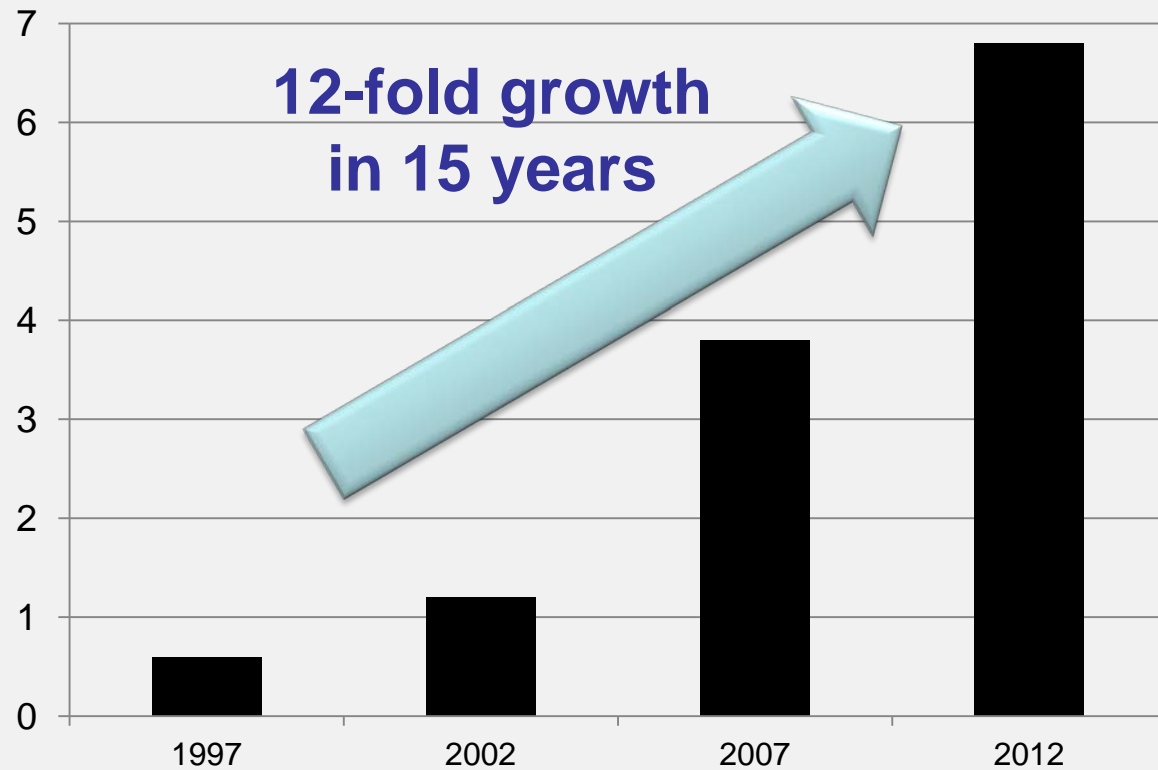
3. Japanese Industries' Growing Interest in Africa

3-1. Japanese Industries' Interest in Africa is Growing...



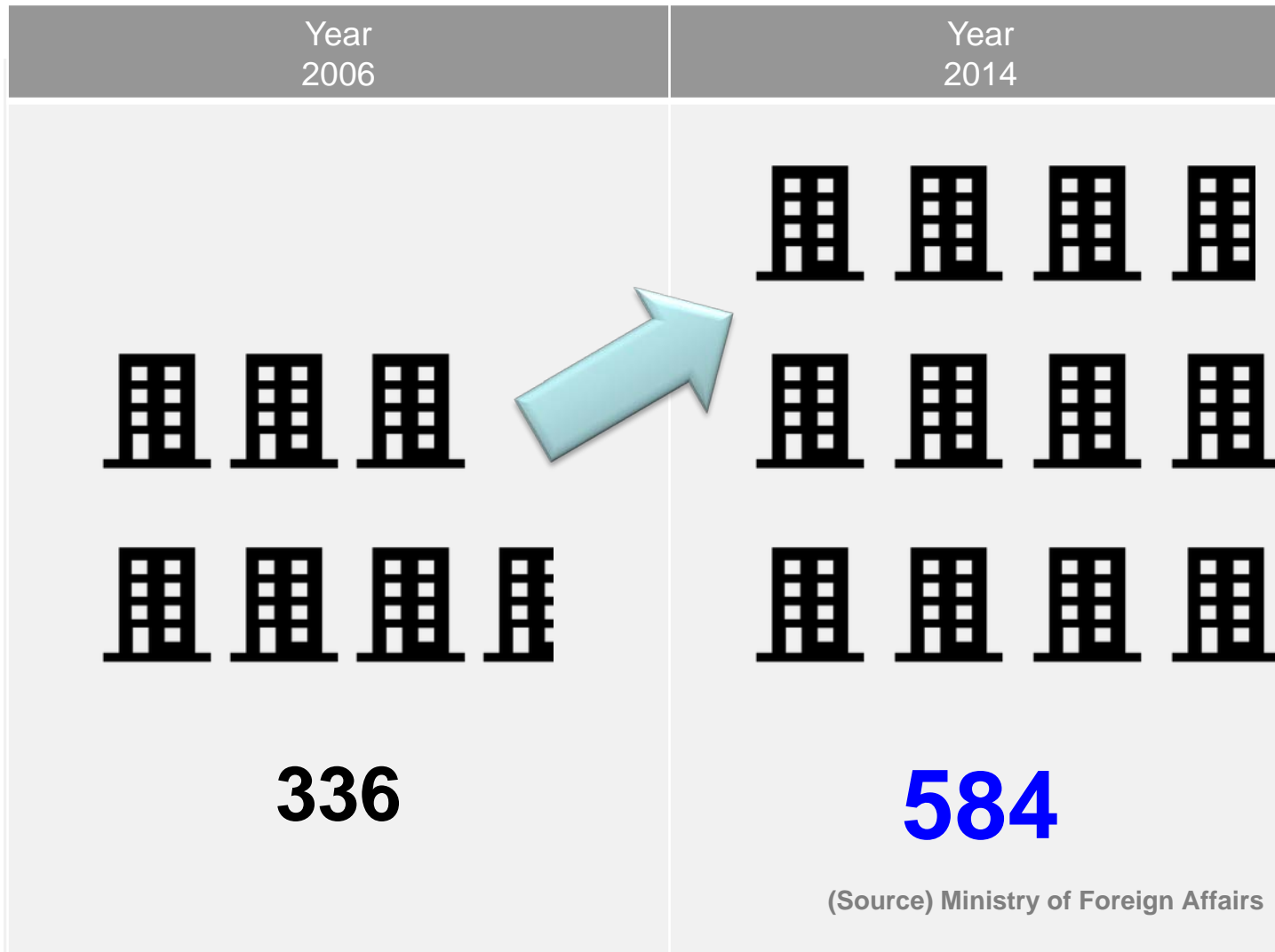
Japanese FDI to Africa

(US\$ billion)

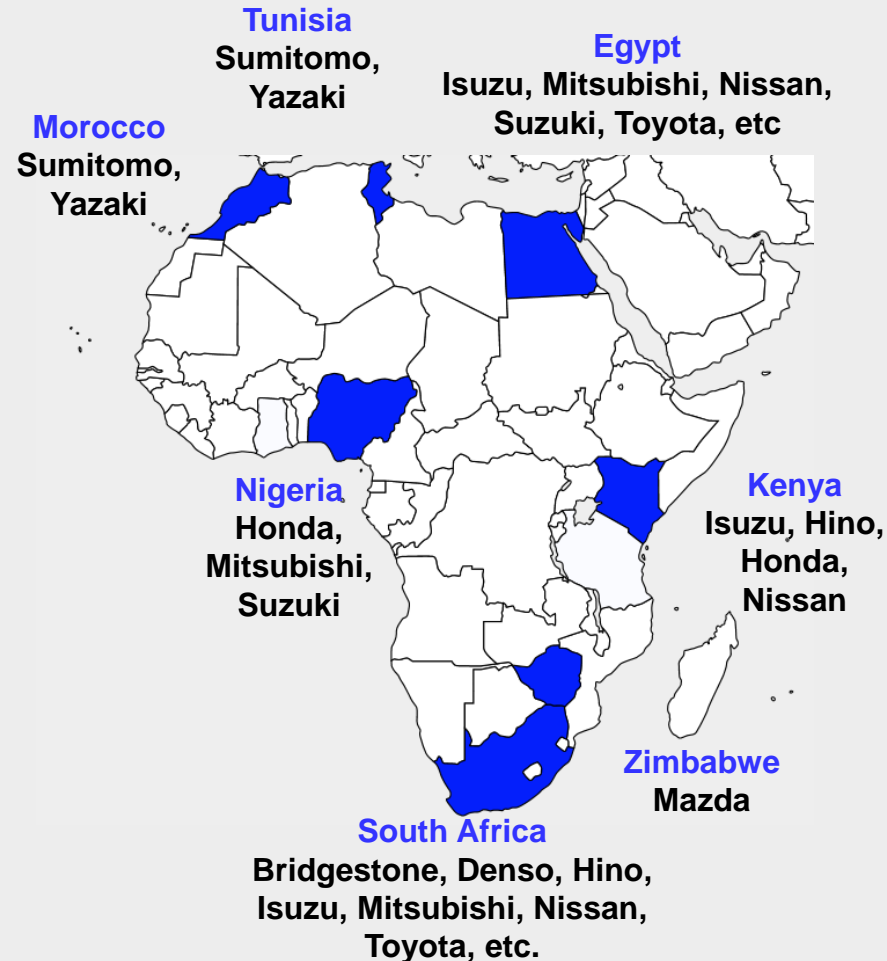


(Source) JETRO

Number of Japanese Companies in Africa



Japanese Companies Operating in Africa (Automobile Sector)



(Source) African Development Bank, June 2014

3-5. ...But Some Problems Remain in Doing Business

Examples of Counterfeit Honda Auto Parts Found in Africa (Piston Clutch, Head light)



3-6. ...But Some Problems Remain in Doing Business

Examples of Counterfeit Auto Parts Found in Africa

Clutch disc (Aisin)

Genuine

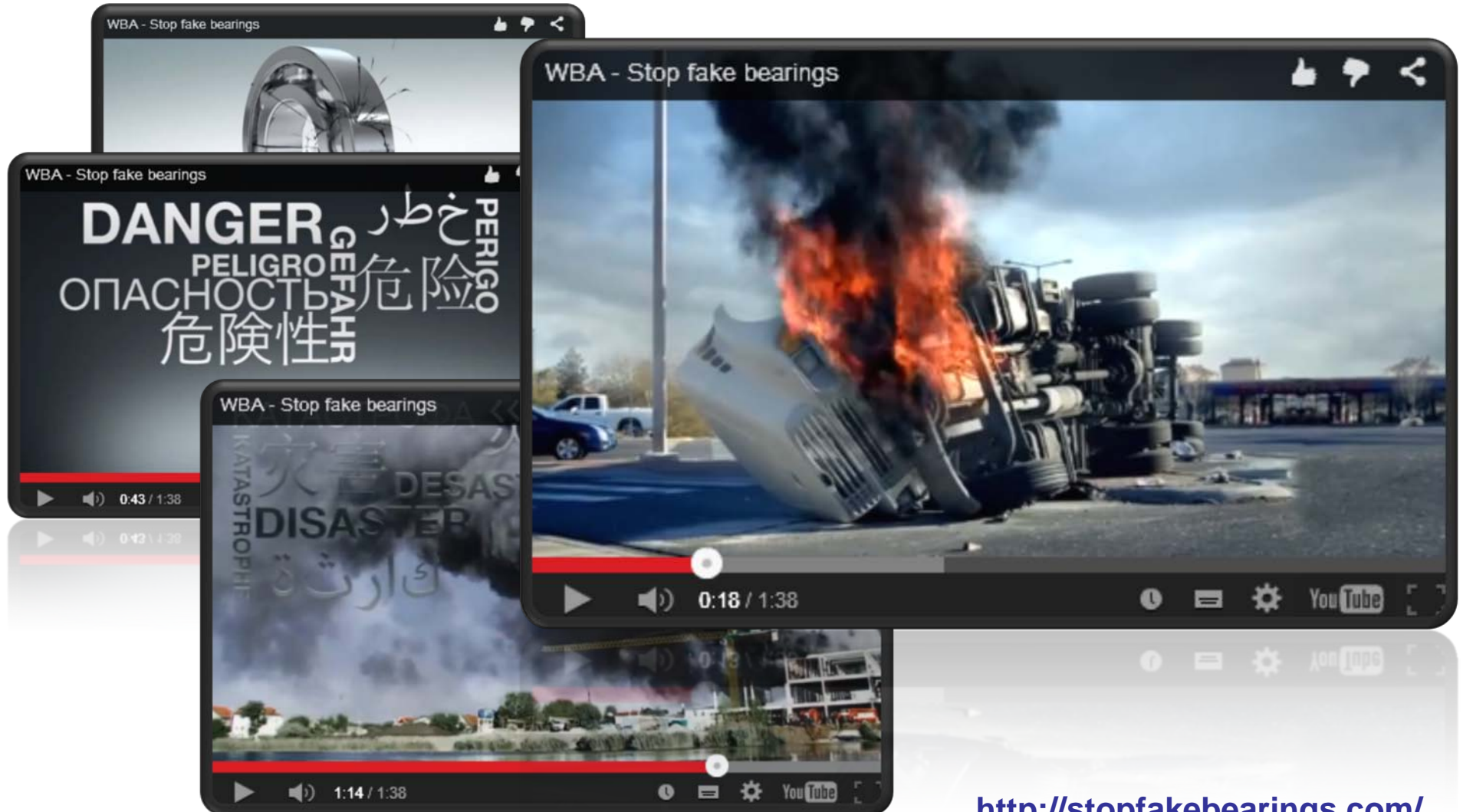


Counterfeit



3-7. ...But Some Problems Remain in Doing Business

Counterfeit auto parts can cause fatal accidents



<http://stopfakebearings.com/>

Examples of Requests from Japanese Industries on IP in Africa

1. Easier access to intellectual-property information and data
2. Prompt & reliable examination on and registration of industrial property filings
3. Accession by more countries to regional IP protection systems such as ARIPO and OAPI (or establishment of greater regional IP Office)
4. Easier access to legal professionals (patent attorneys) and improvement in their legal skills
5. Greater enforcement of customs measures to combat against counterfeit/pirated goods

4. JPO's Cooperative Activities with Africa

4-1. Overview

- In order to assist African countries to improve their IP systems, the JPO has initiated various activities under the following frameworks:



- WIPO Japan Funds-in-Trust



- Support programs implemented under the JPO's own budget

4-2. WIPO Japan Funds-In-Trust

- Established in 1987
- Voluntary contributions for improving, enforcing and computerizing system in the field of industrial property in developing countries



WIPO Japan Fund

Asia & Pacific Region



Main Objectives

- Build awareness on the importance of the industrial property system
- Give assistance to countries in establishing/strengthening their industrial property laws and institutions
- Develop human resources

African Region



Self-sustained Economic Development in Africa through Intellectual Property

In FY 2008, the JPO made a new contribution to setting up a New Japan Fund for African countries

4-3. Activities under Japan Funds-in-Trust

- Workshops & Seminars
- Expert Advisory Missions
- IP Education and Training
- Producing/providing public outreach materials

4-4. JPO's Cooperative Activities with Africa

Workshops and Seminars under Japan Funds-in-Trust (FY2014)

DATE & VENUE	SUBJECT
Lisbon, Portugal, April 9 to 11, 2014	Training of trainers about Effective Intellectual Property Asset Management by Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs) in Portuguese-Speaking African Countries (PALOP)
Sao Tome, Sao Tome and Principe May 19 to 21, 2014	Seminar on the Effective Utilization of the Technical and Scientific Information and Enhanced Trainers' Training
Lome, Togo June 10 & 11, 2014	High-level Sub-regional Meeting for Parliamentarians on the Contribution Intellectual Property System Makes to Economic, Cultural, Social and Technological Development of States

4-5. JPO's Cooperative Activities with Africa

Workshops and Seminars under Japan Funds-in-Trust (FY2014)

DATE & VENUE	SUBJECT
Dakar, Bambey, and Thiès, Senegal, June 10 to 14, 2014	Seminar on the effective use of technical and scientific information, enhanced training of trainers, and official TISC Launch
Lusaka, Zambia July 16-18, 2014	Meeting on Developing the TISC Project: Innovation Support Seminar, Training of Trainers Workshop and TISC Project Planning Meeting
Dar es Salaam & Zanzibar, Tanzania September 4 & 5 and 8 & 9, 2014	Technology and Innovation Support Center (TISC) Seminar on the Effective Use of Technical and Scientific Information

4-6. JPO's Cooperative Activities with Africa

Workshops and Seminars under Japan Funds-in-Trust (FY2014)

DATE & VENUE	SUBJECT
Casablanca, Morocco October 21-23, 2014	Regional Policy Dialogue on the Importance of the Elaboration and Implementation of National Policies relating to Intellectual Property and the Promotion of Research and Innovation for Competitiveness
Harare, Zimbabwe October 27 & 28, 2014	Workshop on Human Resource Development of IP Experts for ARIPO member states and observer States
Pretoria, South Africa October 29 & 30, 2014	Regional Colloquium on Building Respect for IP for Members of the Judiciary of the Common Law English-speaking countries of the Southern African Development Community (SADC)

4-7. JPO's Cooperative Activities with Africa

Workshops and Seminars under Japan Funds-in-Trust (FY2014)

DATE & VENUE	SUBJECT
Accra, Ghana February 23 to 25, 2015	WIPO Meeting on Developing the TISC Project: Second Workshop on the Effective Use of Technical and Scientific Information, Training of Trainers and TISC Project Planning Meeting
Ouagadougou, March 23 & 24, 2015 Bobo-Dioulasso, March 26 & 27, 2015	Project for Establishing the TISC: Seminar on the Effective Use of Technical and Scientific Information

Training Courses in Tokyo (1996 – 2014)

- Subjects include:
IP Administration, IP Examination Practice, IP Enforcement, ICT, etc.
- Total of 81 **trainees** invited from countries in Africa



Photo: ARIPO



Photo: JPO

Masters Degree in Intellectual Property (MIP)

- About **10 students** have been provided with scholarships each year since 2010, to enroll in WIPO's MIP programs at:
- **Africa University (Mutare, Zimbabwe)**
(in cooperation with ARIPO)
- **Yaoundé II University (Yaoundé, Cameroon)**
(in cooperation with OAPI)



Photo: OAPI

Thank you

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