

**Strategies for Mobilizing
Human and Financial Resources
to Improve Patent Search and
Examination Capability**

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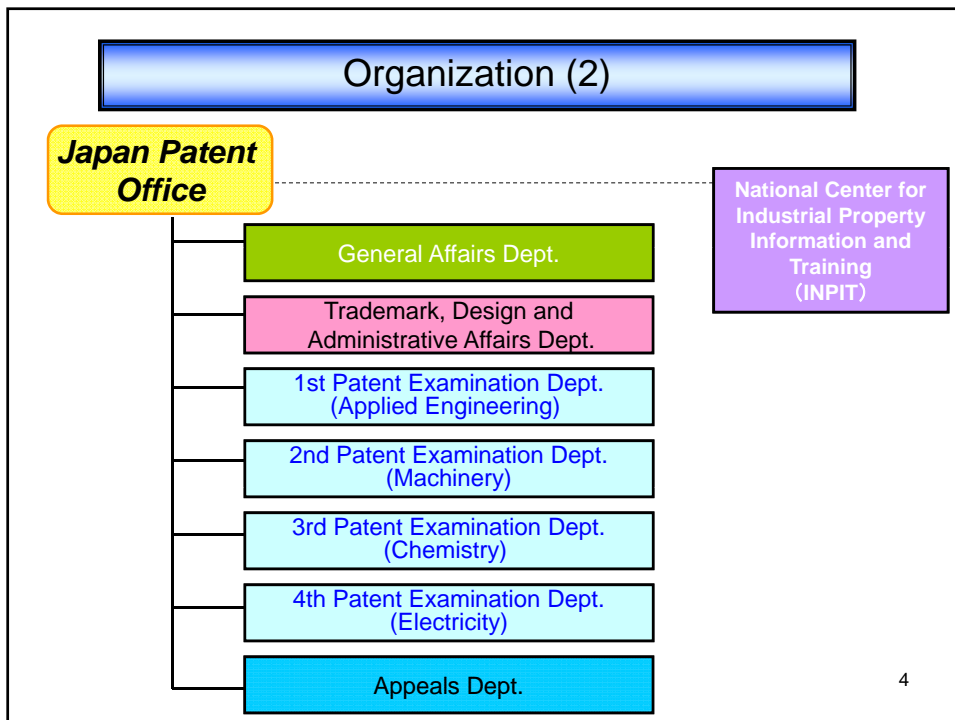
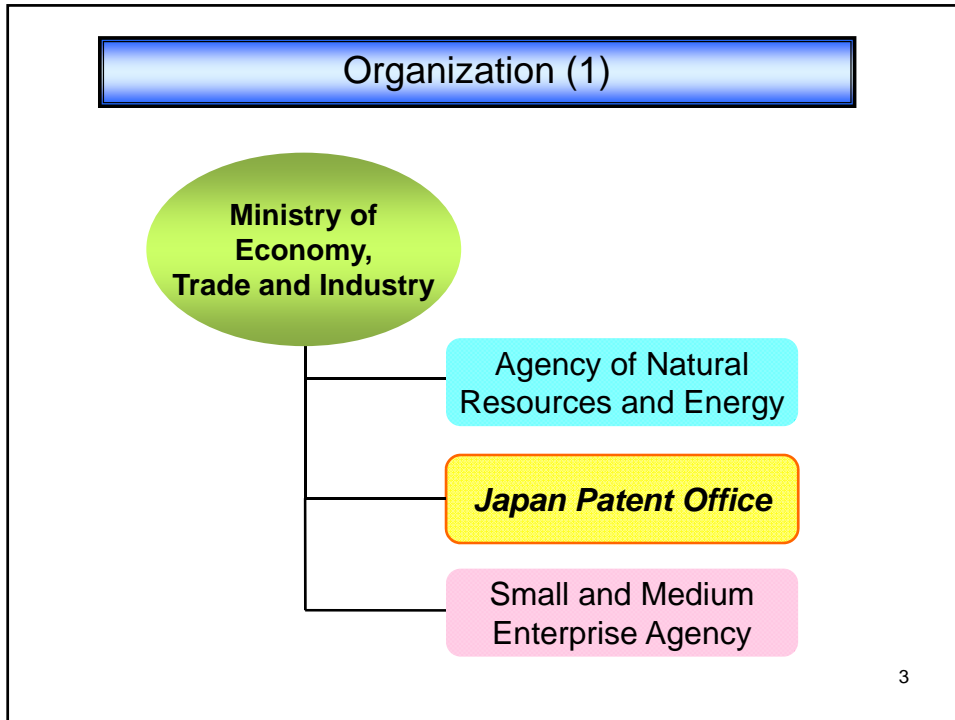


1

1.Organization of JPO



2

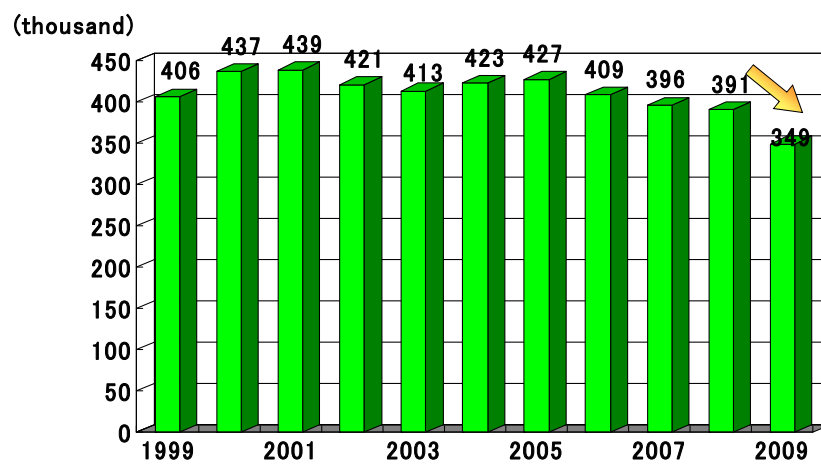


2. Current Situation of Patent Examination

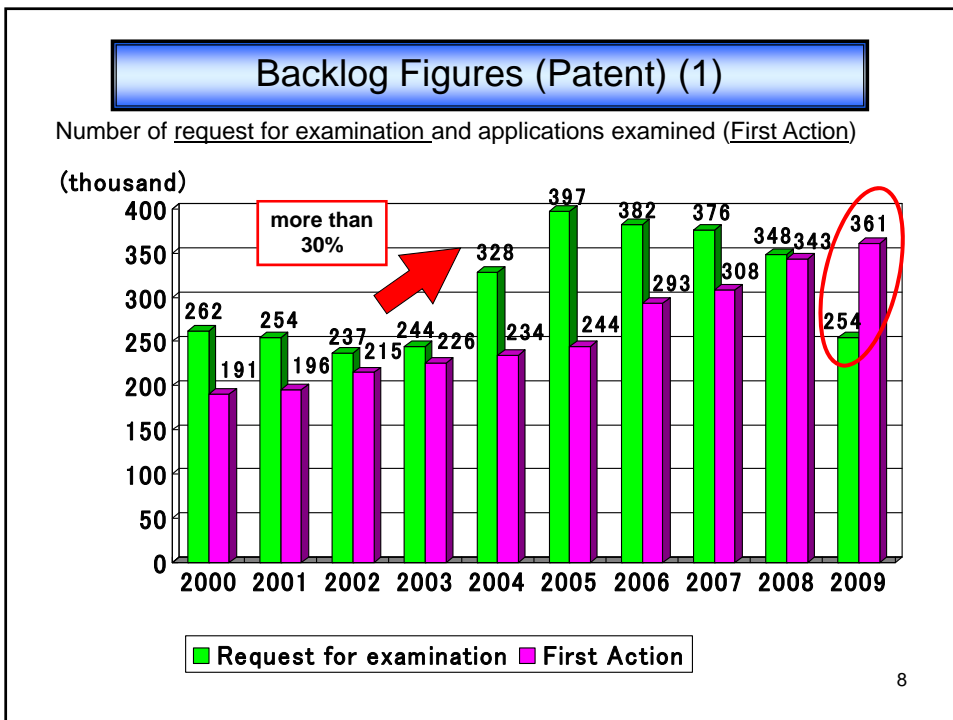
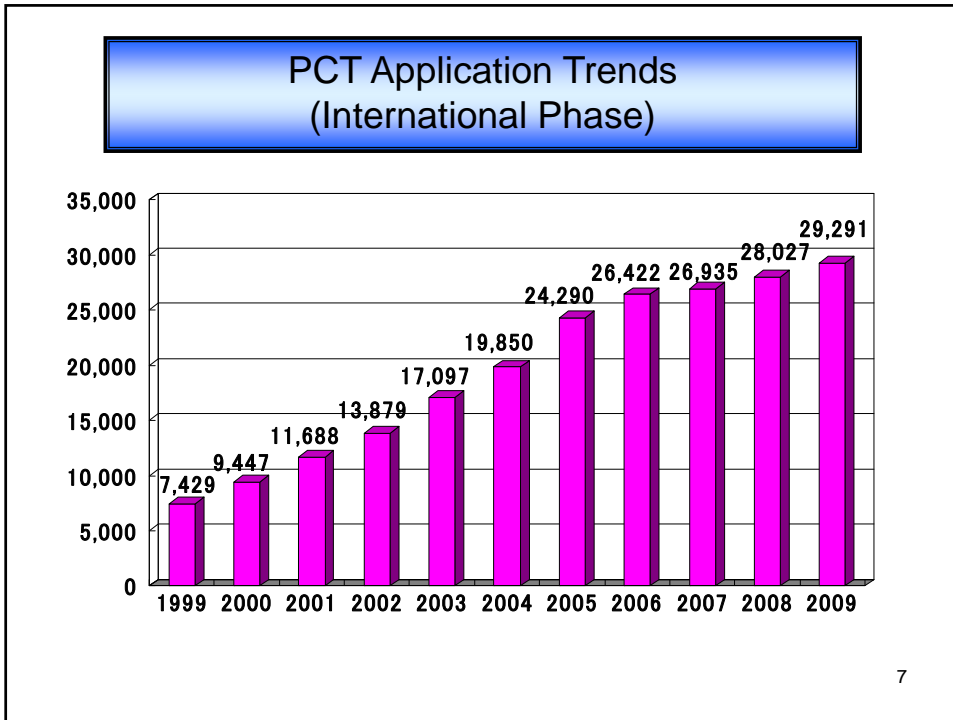


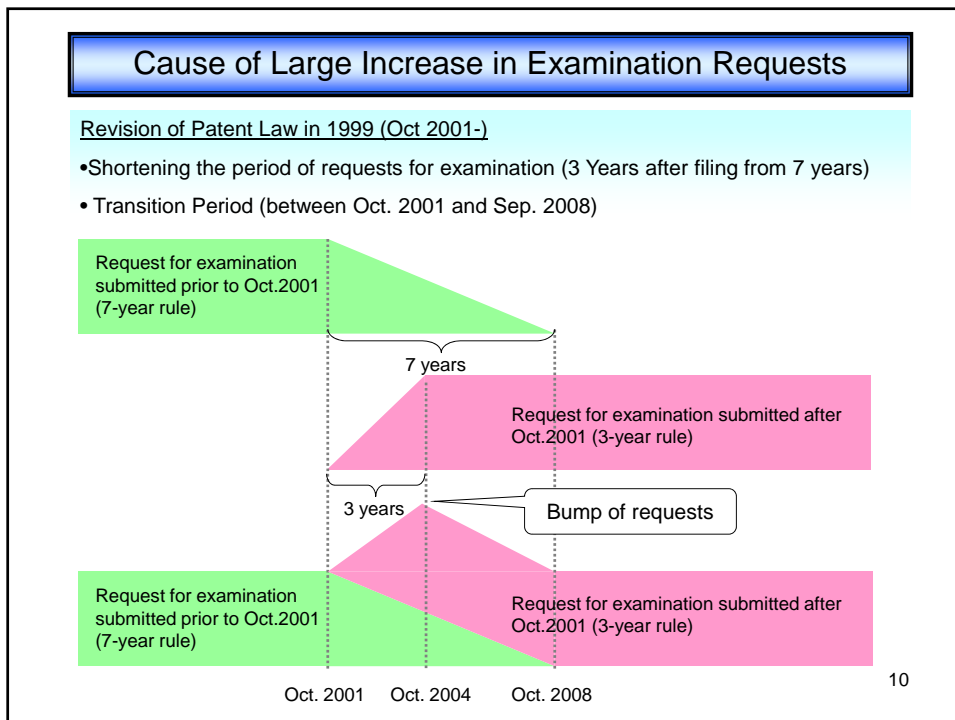
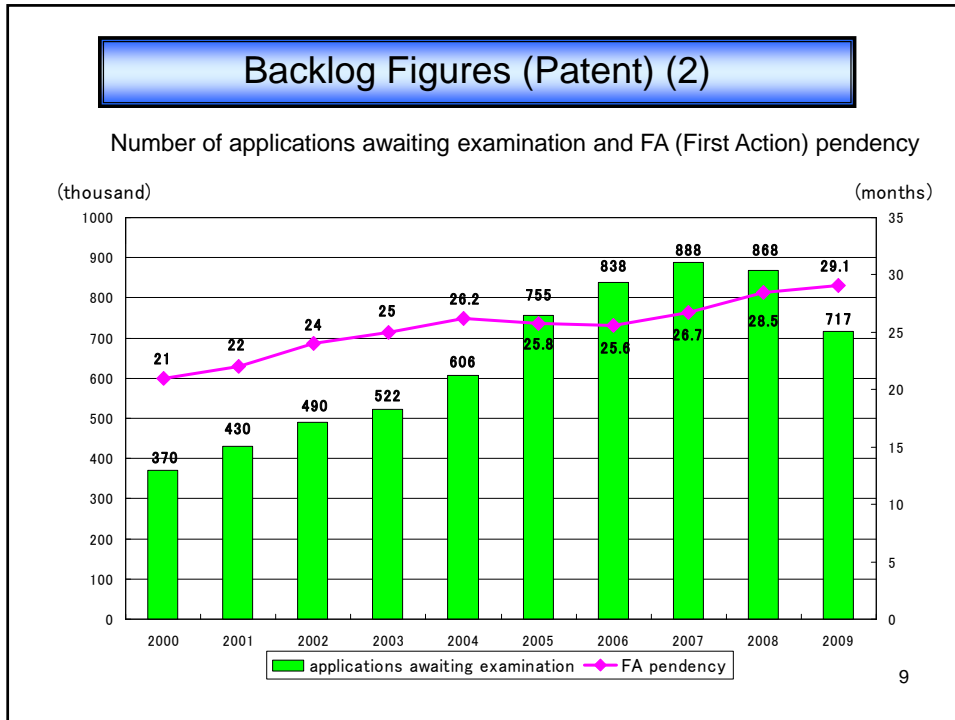
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Patent Application Trends



6



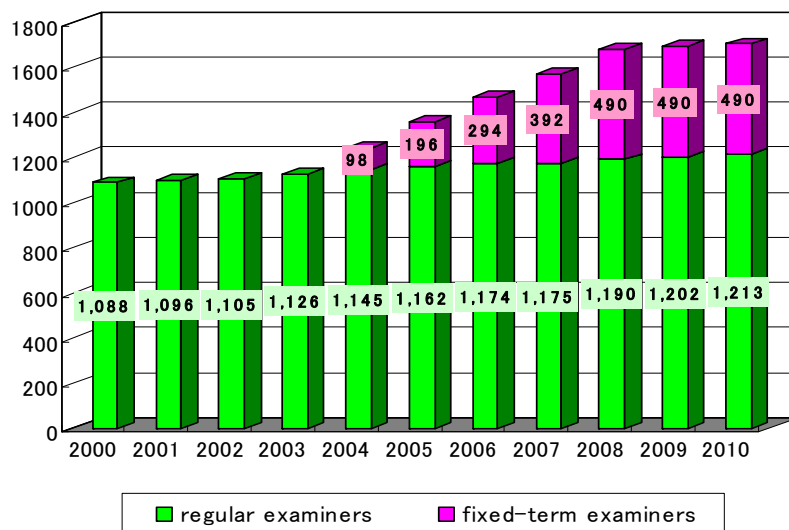


3. Promotion of Acceleration of Patent Examination



11

Increase number of examiners (1)

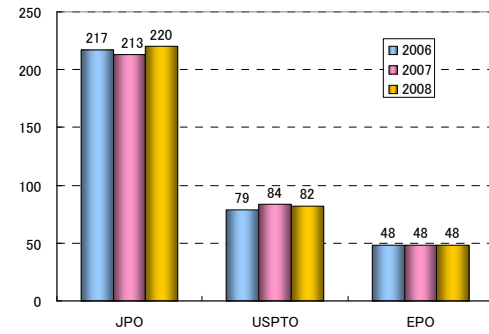


Increase number of examiners (2)

Increase in the Number of Patent Examiners

FY	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Regular examiners	1174(+12)	1175(+1)	1190(+15)	1202(+12)	1213(+11)
Fixed-term examiners	294(+98)	392(+98)	490(+98)	490	490
Total	1468(+110)	1567(+99)	1680(+113)	1692(+12)	1703(+11)

Note: The numbers in the brackets indicate the increase and decrease from a previous year.

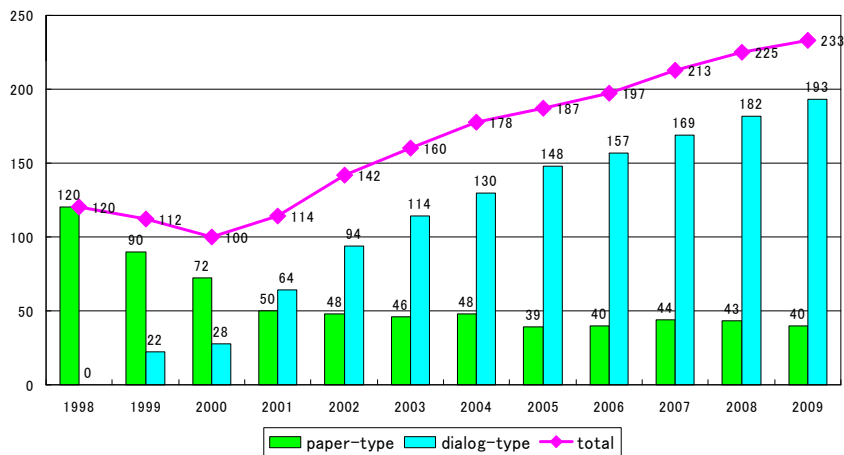


Note:
Number of applications examined is equal to the number of first actions (the number of search reports in the case of the EPO) plus the number of international search reports.
Sources:
Trilateral Statistical Report and Four Offices Statistical Report 13

GAICHU ~ Outsourcing of Prior Art Search (1)

Number of Outsourcing of Prior Art Search

(Thousand)



GAICHU ~ Outsourcing of Prior Art Search (2)

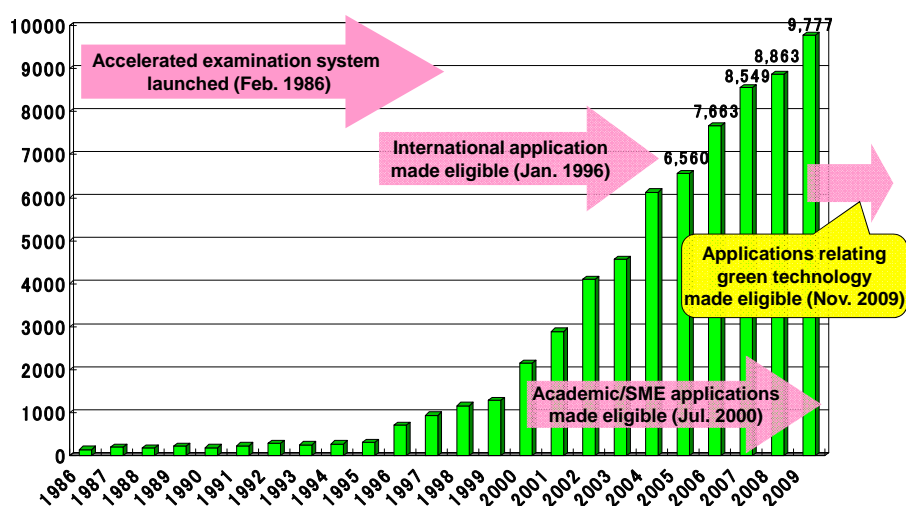
Registered search organization list (as of April 2010)

Name of registered search organization	Registered technical field	Number of searchers
(General incorporated foundation) Industrial Property Cooperation Center	All fields	1,635
Techno Search, Inc.	10 (power machinery), 11(motive machinery), 12 (transportation), 13 (general machinery), 14 (production machinery), 15 (conveyance and assembly), 18 (thermal component)	100
(Aggregate corporation) Japan Association for International Chemical Information	30 (organic compound)	23
Technology Transfer Service Corp.	3(material analysis),8(amusement),19(welfare and service apparatus)	39
Advanced Intellectual Property Research Institute Co., Ltd.	4(applied optics),5 (opto device),6(business machinery)	45
Patent Online Search Corp.	8 (amusement)	26
Pasona Group Inc.	3(material analysis),10(automatic control),29(plastic engineering)	59
Koga Research Institute Inc.	23 (semiconductor device)	15

15

Accelerated Examination (1)

Expanding Utilization of Accelerated Examination System



16

Accelerated Examination (2)

An application will undergo an accelerated examination (will be advanced out of turn for examination) upon receipt of applicant's request.



Eligible Applications

(1) Application of which invention has already been put into practice or is planned to be put into practice within two years

AND/OR

(2) Application which applied internationally.

AND/OR

(3) Application filed by small and medium enterprises (SMEs), individual, university or national research institute etc.

AND/OR

(4) Application regarding green technology (energy conservation, reduction of CO₂, etc) (Pilot program started from [Nov 1st, 2009](#))

Accelerated Examination (3)

Procedural Requirement for applicants

An applicant has to

- conduct prior art search*
- disclose prior arts
- make a comparison between the claimed invention and prior arts

* In the case of SME-related application, an applicant is not required to conduct prior art search, but just to disclose prior arts which the applicant knows.

Under the accelerated examinations

In 2009, the average pendency from a request for the accelerated examination to a first office action was approximately **1.8 months** in the JPO.

Super Accelerated Examination

The fastest way for patent applications to be examined.

- Pilot program.
- Launched in October 2008.
- PCT national phase applications have been added since October 2009.

Outlines of Super Accelerated Examination

- Upon receipt of applicant's request.
- First Action will be finished within one month from the request.
- Subsequent actions also will be finished within one month from applicant's submission of written opinion / amendment.

Qualifications

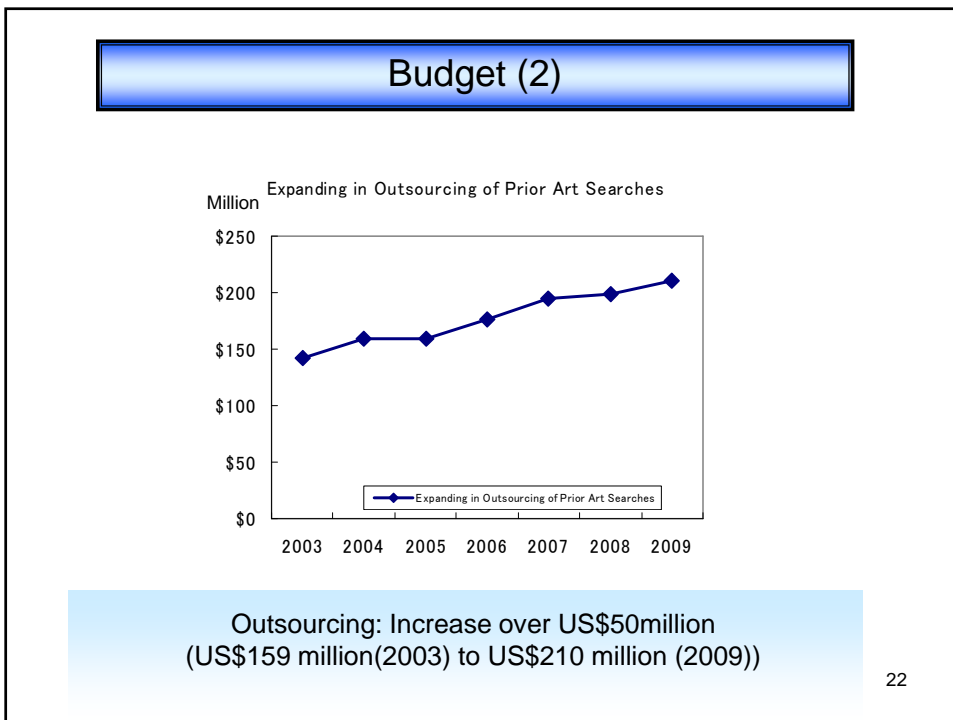
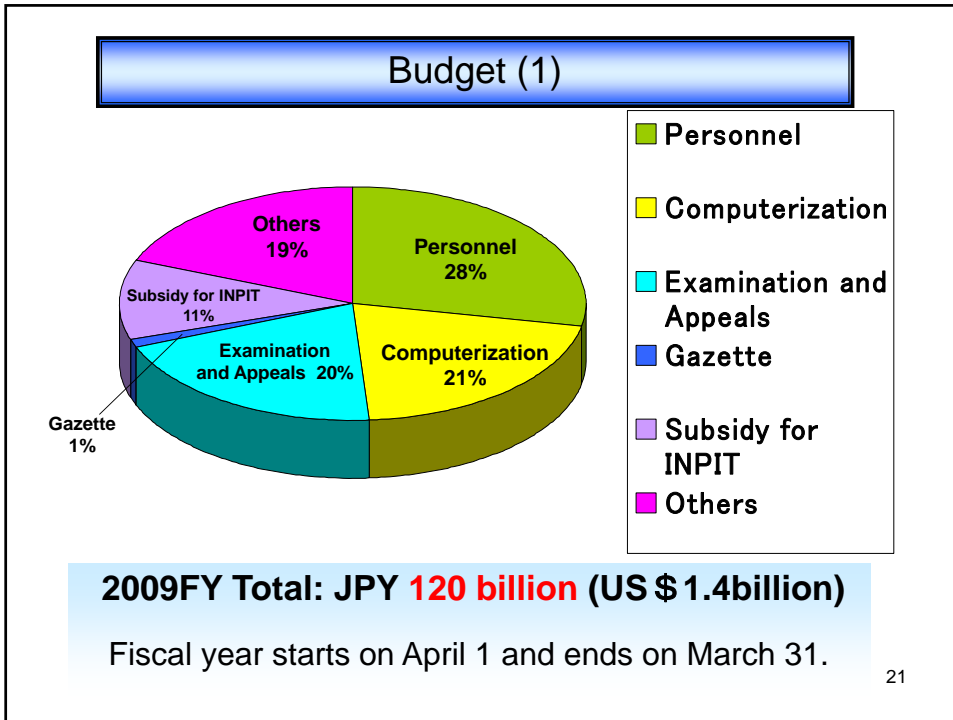
- Inventions which have been practiced or is planed to be practiced.
- AND
- Inventions which families were applied internationally.

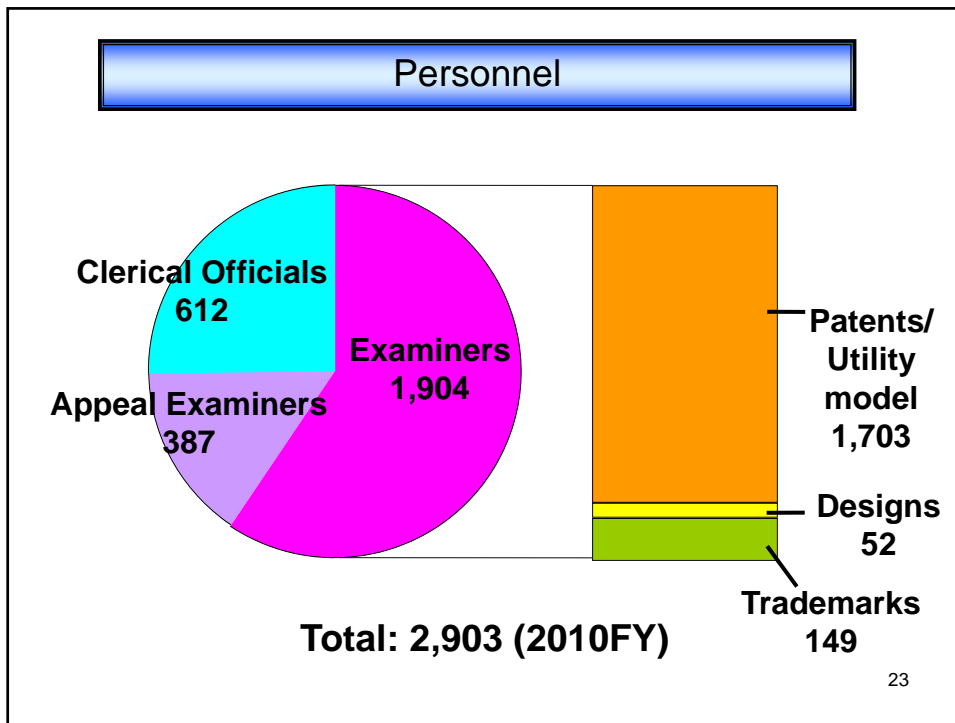
Facts

- Number of applications **310** applications in 2009.
- Average pendency time (First Action) **25** days from request.

4. Budget and Personnel of JPO







5.Summary

24

Summary

- The number of patent applications has gradually decreased after 2006.
- The number of PCT applications filed to the JPO as the receiving office has increased.
- The number of First Actions exceeds the number of request for examination in 2009.
- To accelerate patent examination, the JPO had hired 500 Fixed-term examiners totally from 2004 to 2008 (Fixed-term examiners continue to work by the end of 2018).
- To achieve high examination efficiency, we have outsourced prior art searches to 8 organizations.
- To meet applicants needs, we promote and expand accelerated examination system and super accelerated examination.

25

Thank you!



26