



# **Regional / International Cooperation in Search and Examination of Patents and Growing Need for Work Sharing : Issues and Challenges**

**Akiyoshi Imaura**  
**Deputy-Director**  
**International Affairs Division**  
**Japan Patent Office**

**October 5, 2010**

*Japan Patent Office*

## **▪ Current Situation of Intellectual Property**

- Number of Patent Applications in the World
- Need for Global Work Sharing

## **▪ International Cooperation and Work Sharing**

- Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT)
- Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH)
- ASEAN Patent Examination Cooperation (ASPEC)
- JP-Fast Information Release Strategy (JP-FIRST)

## **▪ IP Information Service Through IT**

- Industrial Property Digital Library (IPDL)
- Advanced Industrial Property Network (AIPN)
- Measures to Enhance Accuracy of Machine Translation

## **▪ Latest Measures**

- APEC-IPEG(Intellectual Property Expert Group) Meeting
- Upcoming WIPO-FIT(Funds-In-Trust) Programmes in Japan

## ▪ Current Situation of Intellectual Property

- Number of Patent Applications in the World
- Need for Global Work Sharing

## ▪ International Cooperation and Work Sharing

- Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT)
- Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH)
- ASEAN Patent Examination Cooperation (ASPEC)
- JP-Fast Information Release Strategy (JP-FIRST)

## ▪ IP Information Service Through IT

- Industrial Property Digital Library (IPDL)
- Advanced Industrial Property Network (AIPN)
- Measures to Enhance Accuracy of Machine Translation

## ▪ Latest Measures

- APEC-IPEG(Intellectual Property Expert Group) Meeting
- Upcoming WIPO-FIT(Funds-In-Trust) Programmes in Japan

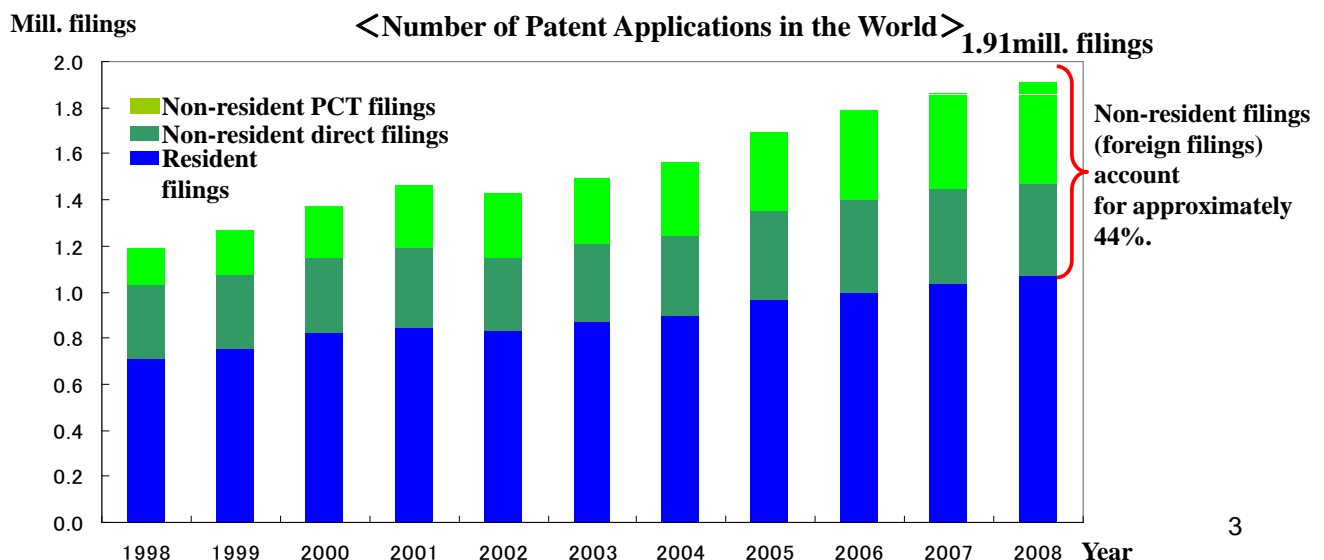
2

## Number of Patent Applications in the World

### Results of economic globalization:

- Rapid increase in the number of patent applications filed in the world, PCT route applications in particular
- Increase in multiple patent filings in countries

The number of foreign filings amounts to approx. 840 thousand (approx. 44%) out of approx. 1.91 million patent applications filed in the world (2008)



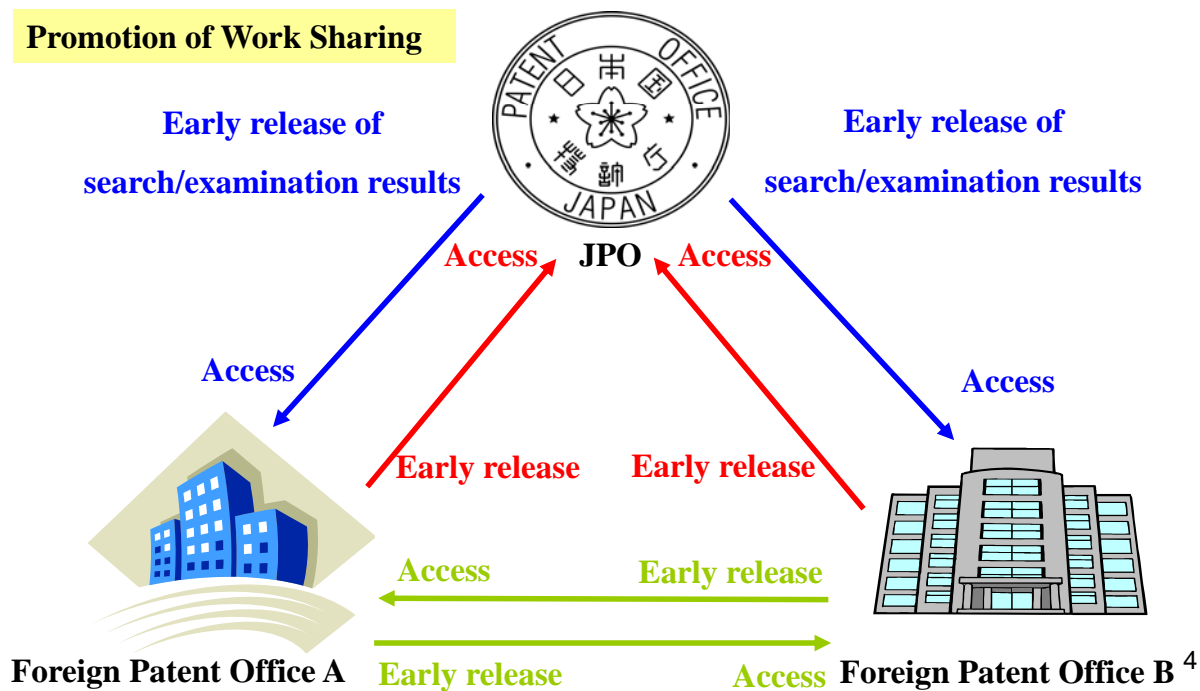
3

## Need for Global Work Sharing

### Advantages of work sharing:

Expeditious and homogeneous patent examinations, and decrease in the number of patent invalidation

### Promotion of Work Sharing



## ▪ Current Situation of Intellectual Property

- Number of Patent Applications in the World
- Need for Global Work Sharing

## ▪ International Cooperation and Work Sharing

- Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT)
- Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH)
- ASEAN Patent Examination Cooperation (ASPEC)
- JP-Fast Information Release Strategy (JP-FIRST)

## ▪ IP Information Service Through IT

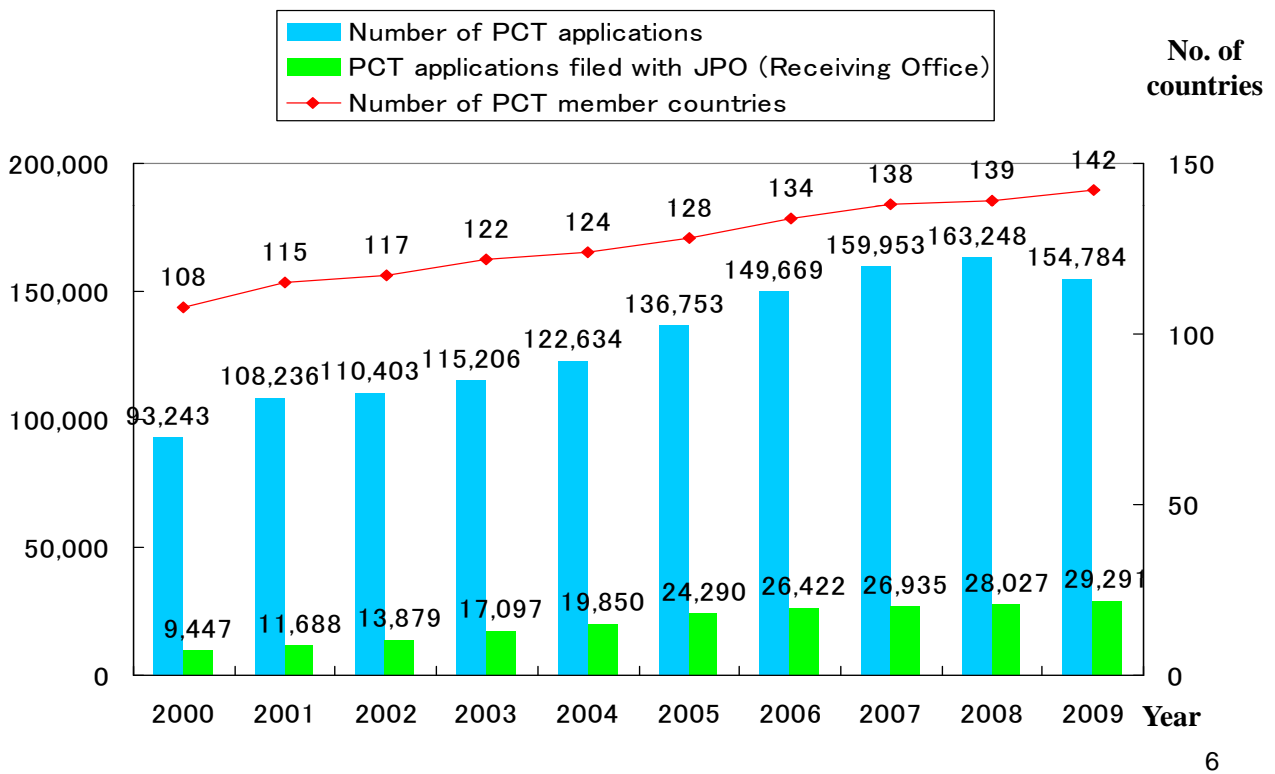
- Industrial Property Digital Library (IPDL)
- Advanced Industrial Property Network (AIPN)
- Measures to Enhance Accuracy of Machine Translation

## ▪ Latest Measures

- APEC-IPEG(Intellectual Property Expert Group) Meeting
- Upcoming WIPO-FIT(Funds-In-Trust) Programmes in Japan

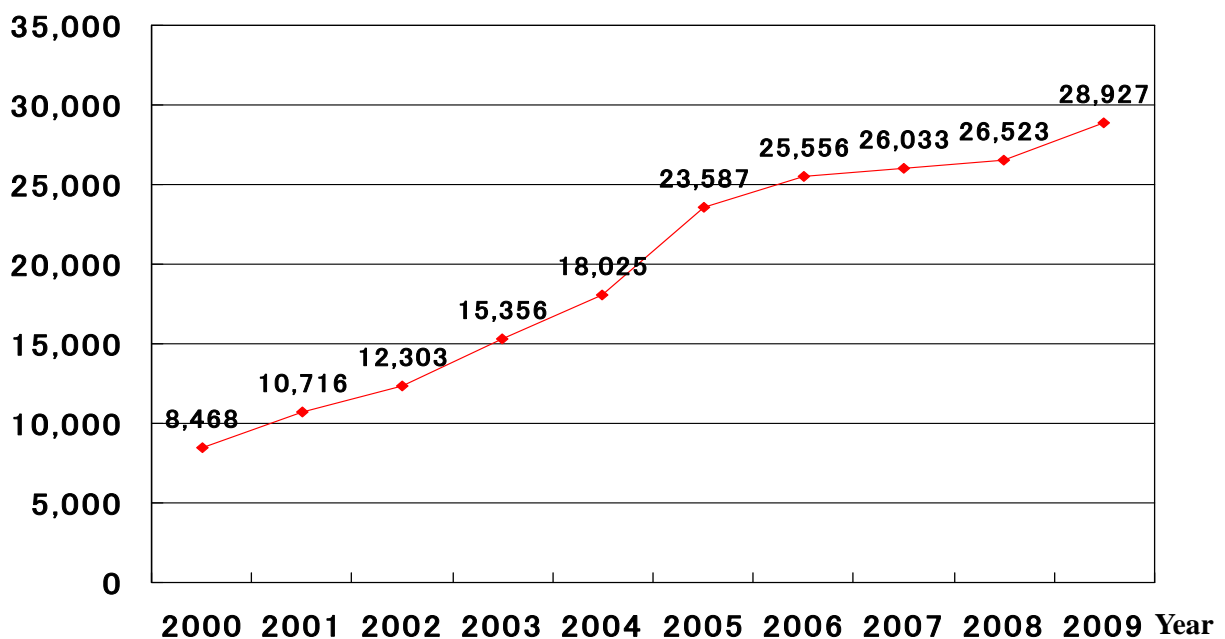
## Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT)

~Changes in the numbers of PCT member countries and PCT applications~



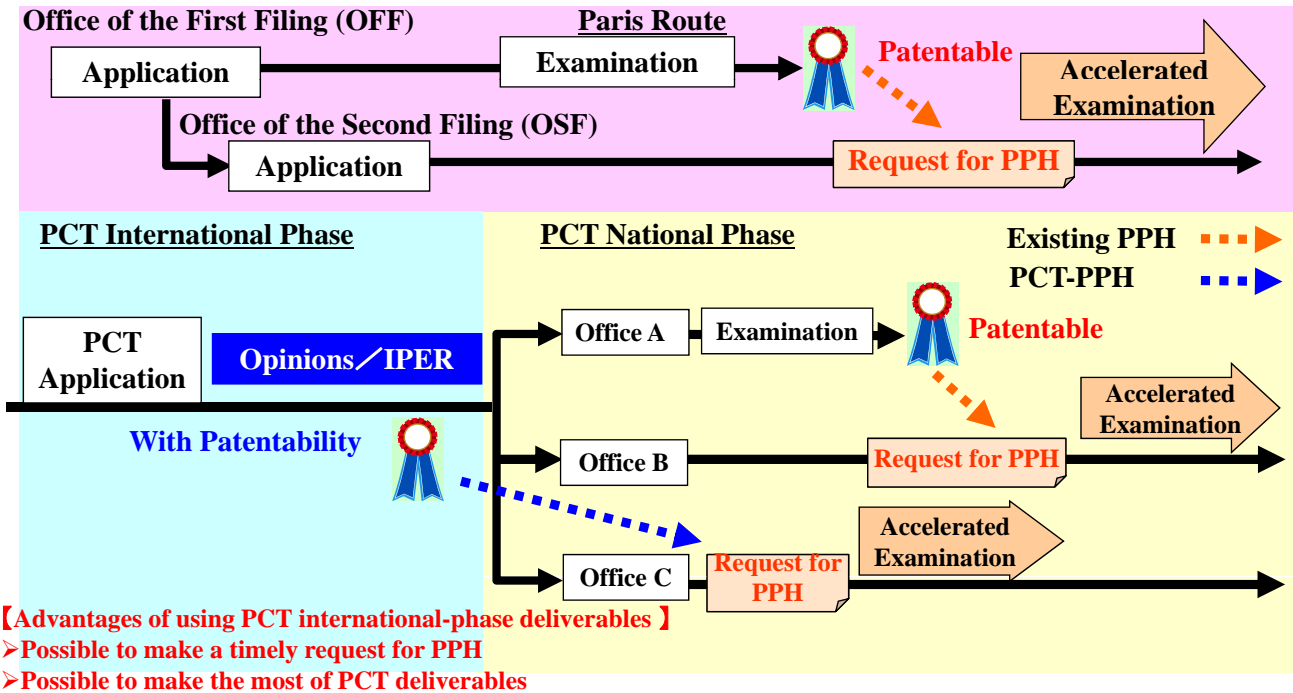
## Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT)

~Number of International Search Reports prepared by JPO~



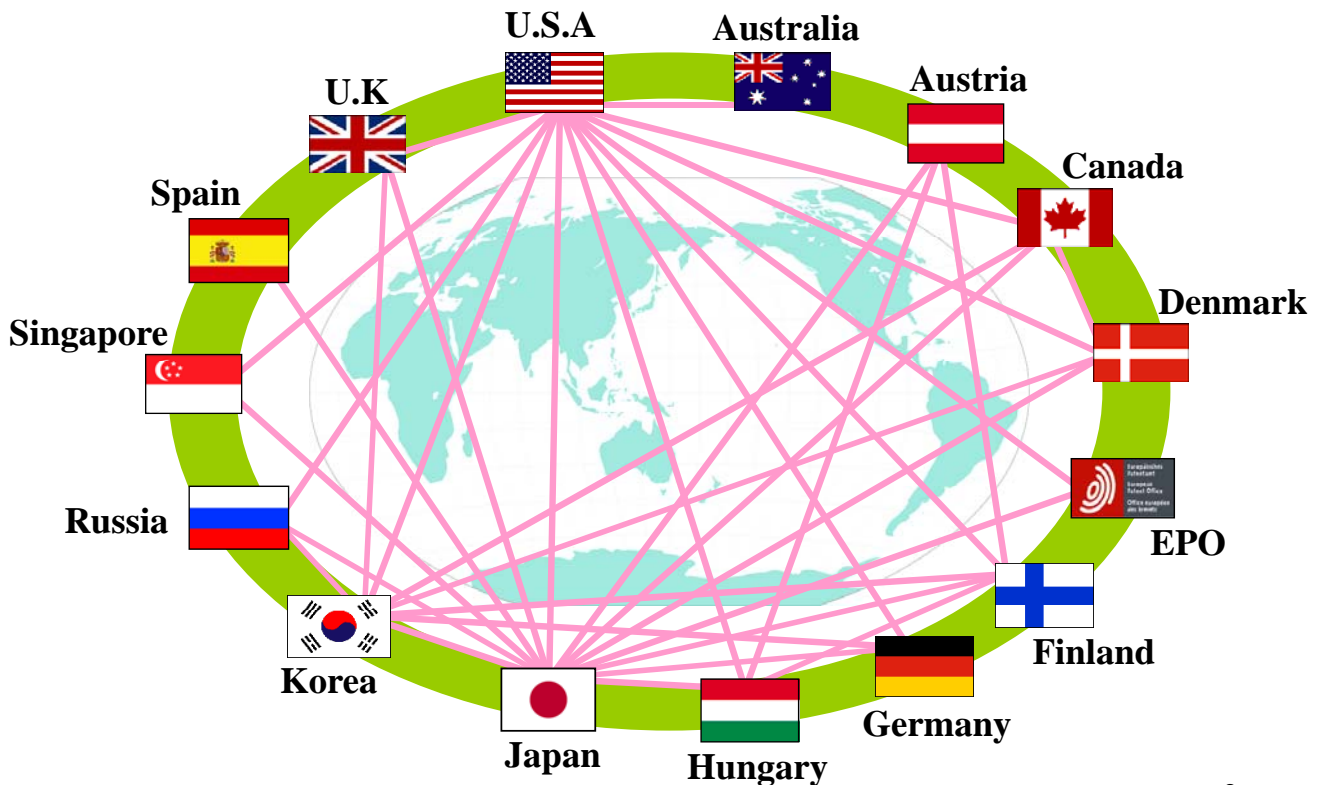
# Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH)

- An application determined to be patentable in its own country or in the PCT international phase is eligible to have an accelerated examination in a foreign country or in the PCT national phase upon an applicant's request
- Early acquisition of international patent rights / Reduced burden and improved quality of examination of the IP Office in each country



# Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH)

~Enlarging the PPH Network~



# Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH)

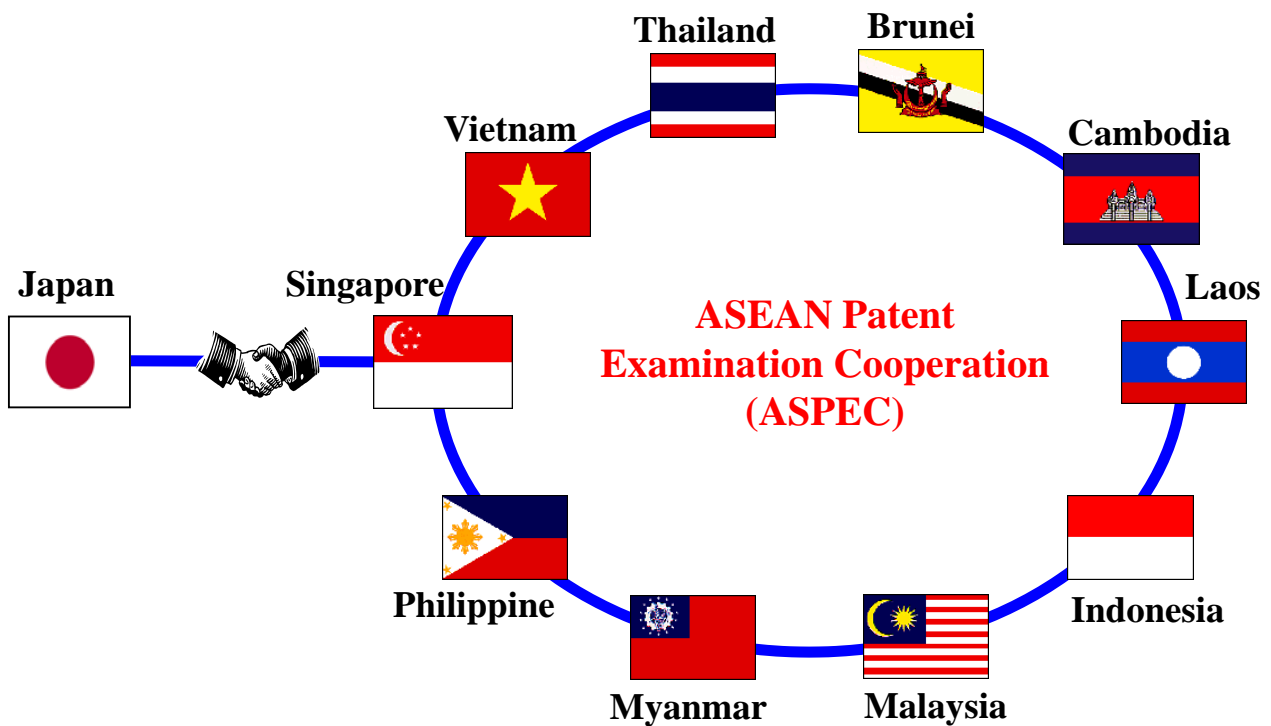
## ~Patent Prosecution Highway Portal Web Site~

The screenshot displays the PPH Portal Web Site interface with several callouts:

- Providing various statistical data:** Points to the 'Statistics' section on the left sidebar.
- Providing guide lines of each country:** Points to the 'Guidelines' section in the main content area.
- Providing application forms for PPH request of each country**  
**※Possible to use drafting tools for application format:** Points to the 'Request Forms' section.
- Providing PPH pamphlets of each country:** Points to the 'Booklet' section, which features a booklet cover titled 'Patent Prosecution Highway'.

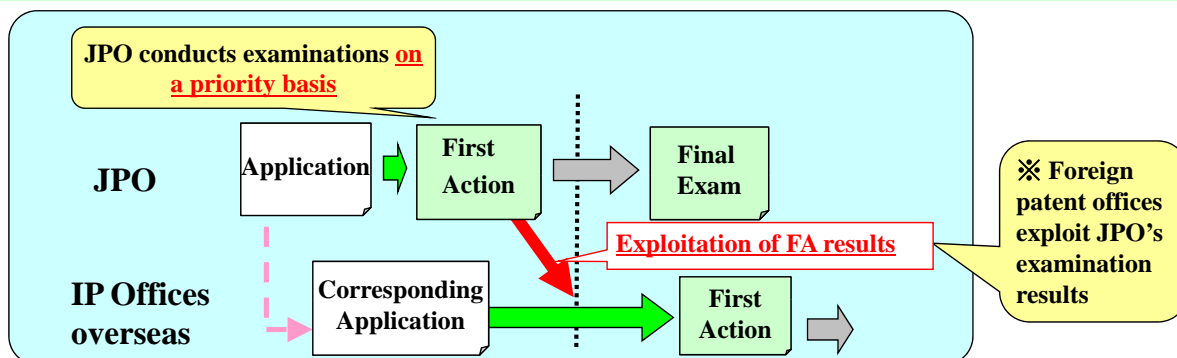
<http://www.jpo.go.jp/pph-portal/index.htm>

# ASEAN Patent Examination Cooperation (ASPEC)



## JP-Fast Information Release Strategy (JP-FIRST)

- As to major patent application filings from Japan to foreign countries, it is intended **to grant expedient and high-quality patents** and **to reduce workload and cost for examination** while timely providing applicants with JPO's search/examination results as well as enhancing mutual utilization among IP offices worldwide
- As to patent applications based on which a Paris convention priority is to be claimed and whose examinations were requested within 2 years from the JPO filing date, an examination is conducted after publication within 30 months or less from the JPO filing date (Conducted from April 2008)
- Search/examination results of JPO are provided in real time to foreign countries via the Dossier Access System(DAS) and AIPN through machine translation



※JPO examinations of 92% of basic applications filed with USPTO are conducted earlier than at USPTO. As to 86% of those filed with EPO, examinations are conducted before substantive examinations at EPO, and as to 55% before EPO's search report. (Based on the number of JP-FIRST applications (13,103) whose examinations were conducted at JPO during the period between April 2008 and July 2009) <sup>12</sup>

## ▪ Current Situation of Intellectual Property

- Number of Patent Applications in the World
- Need for Global Work Sharing

## ▪ International Cooperation and Work Sharing

- Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT)
- Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH)
- ASEAN Patent Examination Cooperation (ASPEC)
- JP-Fast Information Release Strategy (JP-FIRST)

## ▪ IP Information Service Through IT

- Industrial Property Digital Library (IPDL)
- Advanced Industrial Property Network (AIPN)
- Measures to Enhance Accuracy of Machine Translation

## ▪ Latest Measures

- APEC-IPEG(Intellectual Property Expert Group) Meeting
- Upcoming WIPO-FIT(Funds-In-Trust) Programmes in Japan

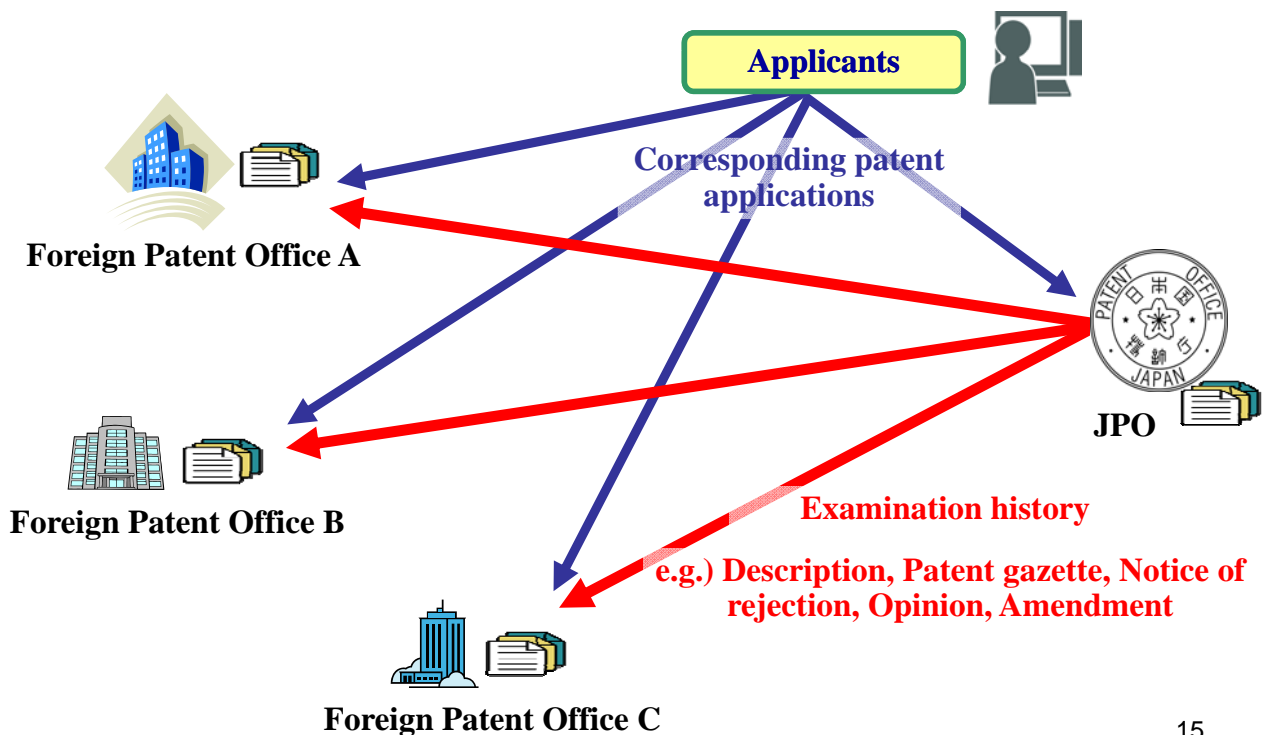
# Industrial Property Digital Library (IPDL)

- IPDL top page has three database menus, 'Patents & Utility Model', 'Design', 'Trademark' and one references menu, 'Database Contents'
- Each item in 'Database contents' references shows scope of the gazettes which are stored in IPDL or some information which would be needed or could help you to search IP related documents and information in IPDL

The screenshot shows the IPDL website with a navigation bar at the top. The main content area is divided into several sections. A red circle highlights the 'Patents & Utility Model' link in the 'Database Contents' section. A blue arrow points to this link with the text 'Click!'. Below this, another red circle highlights the 'Patent & Utility Model Gazette DB' link, with another blue arrow and 'Click!' text. The bottom part of the screenshot shows a search form with various input fields and a 'Search' button.

# Advanced Industrial Property Network (AIPN)

The JPO provides examination-related information in Japan to IP Offices overseas so as to reduce the duplication of workload at IP Offices overseas

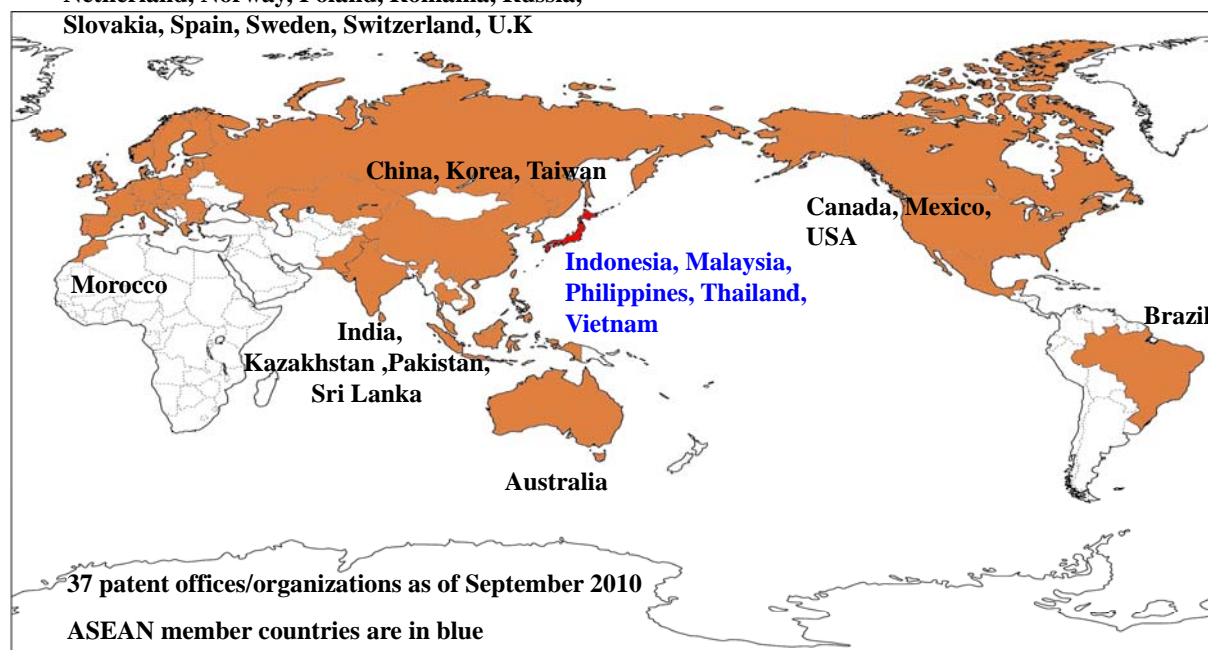




# Advanced Industrial Property Network (AIPN)

~Enlarging the AIPN~

Austria, Czech, Denmark, EPO, Finland,  
France, Germany, Greece, Hungary,  
Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Russia,  
Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, U.K



16

## Measures to Enhance Accuracy of Machine Translation

- Collection and registration of untranslated words

Log of untranslatable words in IPDL and AIPN are collected and additionally registered in the user dictionary (5,000 words/year)

- Feedback from overseas IP offices

### Mistranslation feedback

Mistranslation feedback from AIPN users (Examiners of overseas IP offices including EPO, USPTO and Asian countries) is analyzed and registered in the dictionary

### User feedback

Using situation of examination results is grasped based on user questionnaire

- Preprocessing of documents before translation

Shaping documents before translation / Replacement of character references (Preprocessing of tags) etc.

17

## ▪ Current Situation of Intellectual Property

- Number of Patent Applications in the World
- Need for Global Work Sharing

## ▪ International Cooperation and Work Sharing

- Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT)
- Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH)
- ASEAN Patent Examination Cooperation (ASPEC)
- JP-Fast Information Release Strategy (JP-FIRST)

## ▪ IP Information Service Through IT

- Industrial Property Digital Library (IPDL)
- Advanced Industrial Property Network (AIPN)
- Measures to Enhance Accuracy of Machine Translation

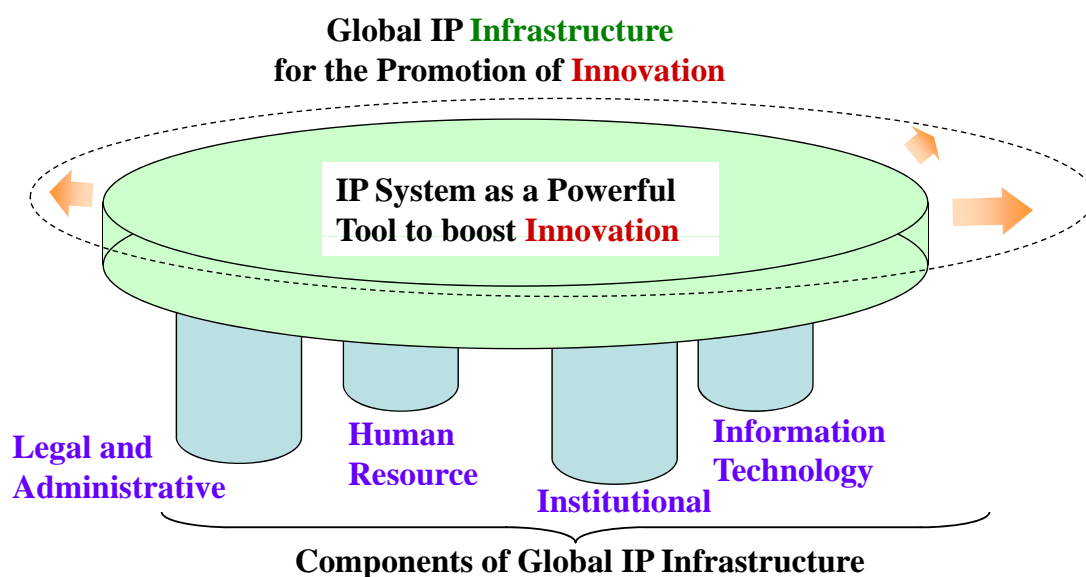
## ▪ Latest Measures

- APEC-IPEG(Intellectual Property Expert Group) Meeting
- Upcoming WIPO-FIT(Funds-In-Trust) Programmes in Japan

18

## APEC-IPEG (Intellectual Property Expert Group) Meeting

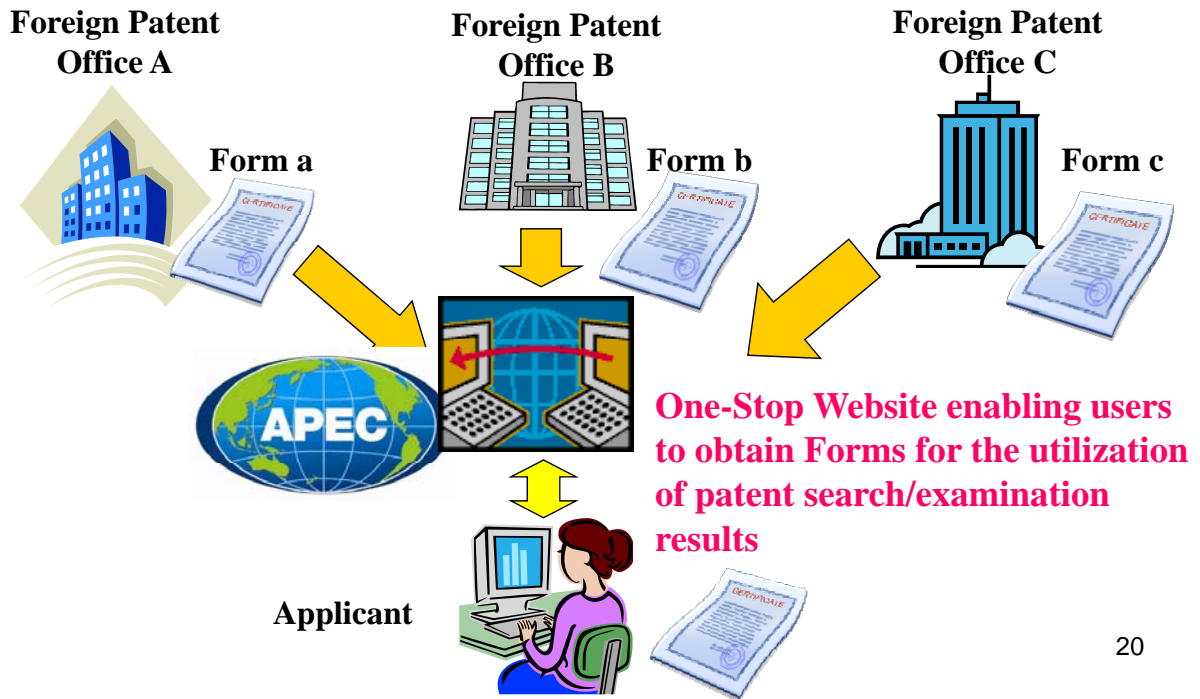
Japan has set forth its view on the “Global IP Infrastructure for the Promotion of Innovation”, whose importance was confirmed in the 2009 joint statement of the APEC Ministers’ Meeting. In the future, concrete measures for expanding infrastructure elements in a well-balanced manner are to be proposed and realized



- In 2010, Japan hosted APEC meetings (for the first time in 15 years since 1995)
- APEC-IPEG meetings were held in Hiroshima (in March) and in Sendai (in September)

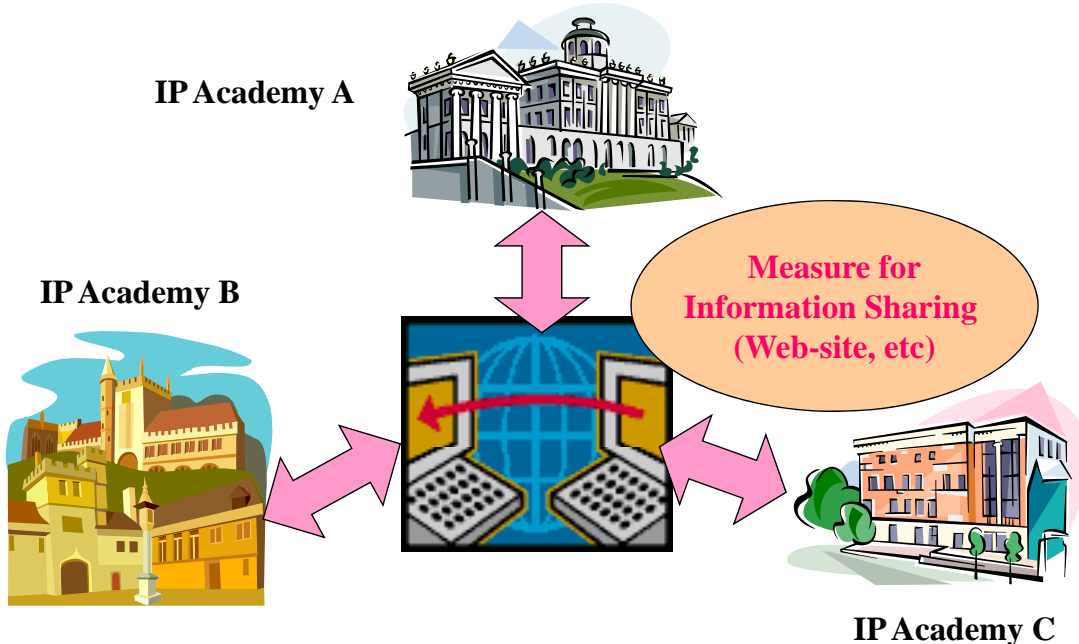
**APEC-IPEG (Intellectual Property Expert Group) Meeting**  
 ~Japanese Proposals in APEC IPEG 2010 (1)~

**Facilitation of Exploitation of Examination Results**  
 ~ Cooperation initiative on Patent Acquisition Procedures ~  
 Japanese proposal agreed in APEC-IPEG 2010



**APEC-IPEG (Intellectual Property Expert Group) Meeting**  
 ~Japanese Proposals in APEC IPEG 2010 (2)~

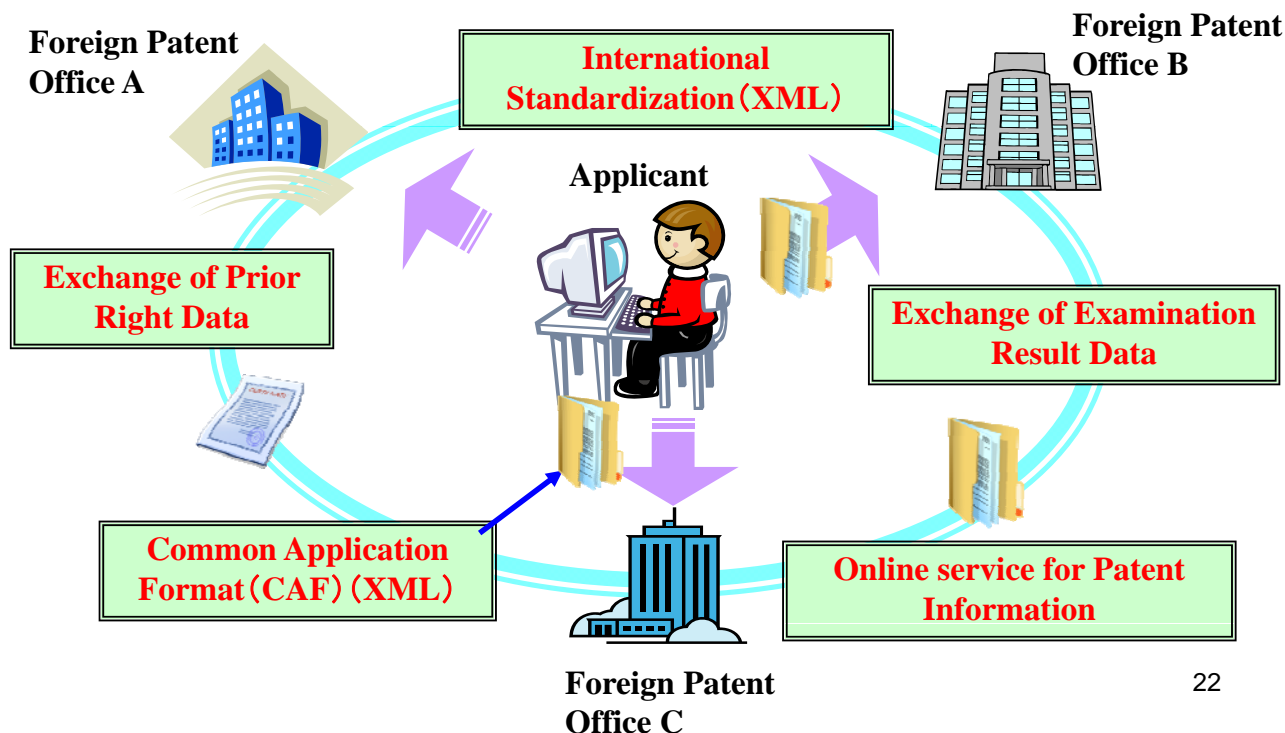
**Collaboration of Human Resource Institutes**  
 ~ intellectual Property Academy Collaboration initiative (iPAC initiative) ~  
 Japanese proposal agreed in APEC-IPEG 2010



# APEC-IPEG (Intellectual Property Expert Group) Meeting ~Japanese Proposals in APEC IPEG 2010 (3)~

## Development of IT-based Network

### Possible Future Image of IT Infrastructure



## Upcoming WIPO-FIT (Funds-In-Trust) Programmes in JAPAN

- **Study Programme on the Global IP Protection Systems**

**Objectives :** To promote understanding on the significance of the systems

**Date:** November 11 to 12, 2010

**Venue:** Japan (Japan Patent Office)

- **Study Programme on Human Resource Development (HRD) in the Field of Industrial Property**

**Objectives:** To learn about the policy and strategic approaches to HRD

**Date:** February, 2011

**Venue:** Japan (Japan Patent Office)

# Thank you!

