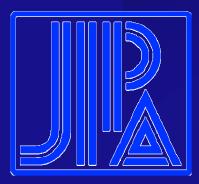


# Topic4 Effective Use of the PCT System: User's Perspective

May 16, 2012



Daisuke Nagano
Vice-Chairperson of International Committee #2
Japan Intellectual Property Association

Creating IP Vision for the World



- 1. Introduction
- 2. Trend of JP users' behavior as to PCT utilization
- 3. Advantageous points in PCT system
- 4. Limitations(?) in current PCT practice
- 5. Expectations for PCT and emerging countries in the future



#### 1. Introduction





JIPA (Japan Intellectual Property Association) is

Nongovernment,

Nonprofit and
Largest intellectual property rights (IPRs)

users' organization in the world

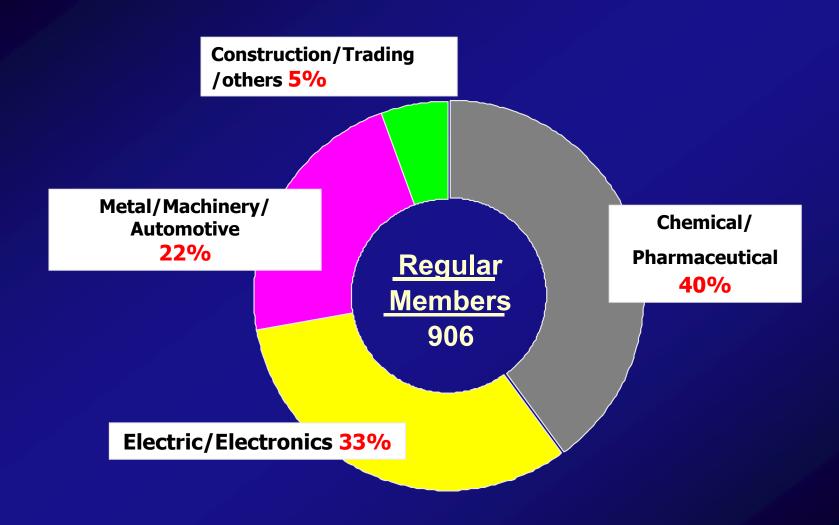


#### Transition of JIPA Membership





#### Composition of JIPA Regular Members







### 1. Policy & Strategy Project & Special Committee Activities (4 Projects & 3 Committees)

Strategic Studies and Researches on Offer of IP Policy

#### 2. Standing Committee Activities

(20 Committees, 701 Members - 10)

- Professional Studies and Researches → Feed-back to JIPA Members
- Offering JIPA's Opinions and Suggestions to Outside Communities.

#### 3. Training Activities

(78 Regular Courses, 12 Extraordinary Courses, 2 Overseas Courses, IP Leader Course, Strategic Staff Course & Junior Expert Course, Total: 13,002 Trainees -'09)

IP Education / Training to Employees of JIPA Members.

#### 4. Publication

Monthly Bulletin (3,850 Circulation), Investigation & Study Reports

#### 5. Others

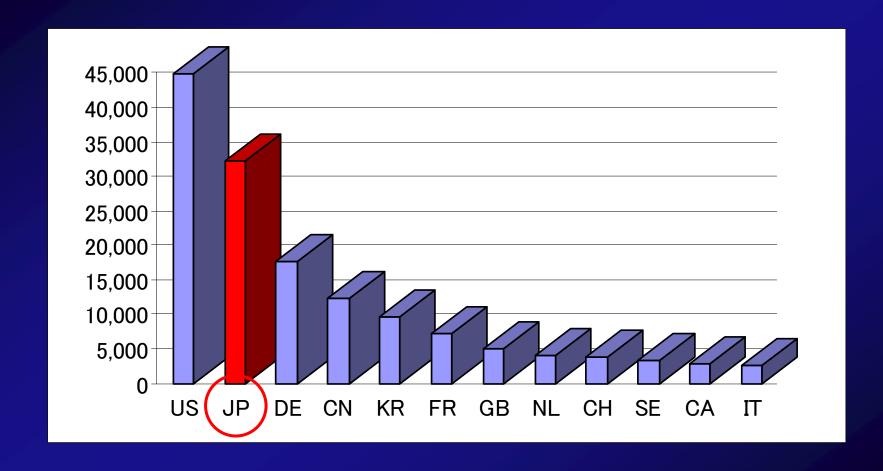
Communication/Coordination with various IP Related Institutions and Organizations.





### "What is present state of PCT and JP users?"

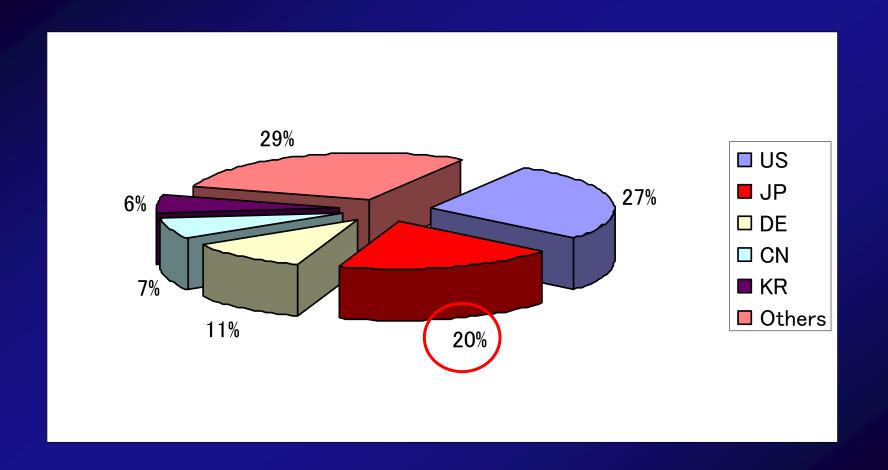




Source: WIPO



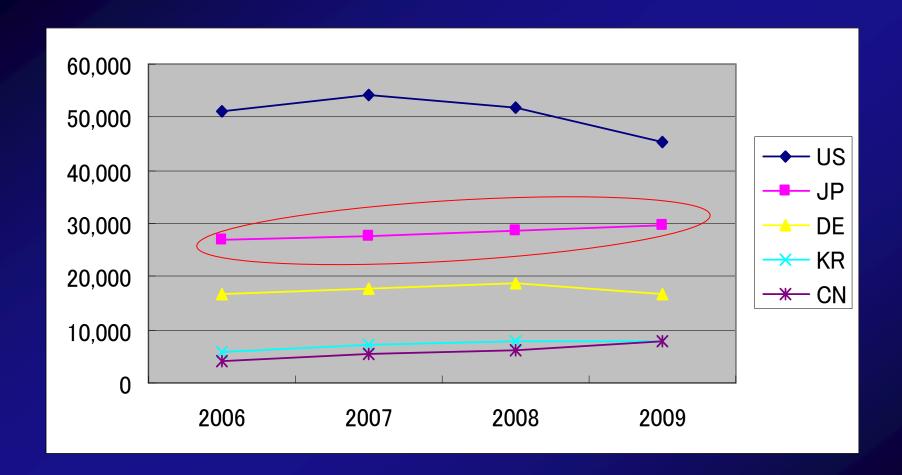
#### Distribution of PCT application by country of origin



**Source: WIPO** 







**Source: WIPO** 



### 2. Trend of JP users' behavior as to PCT utilization

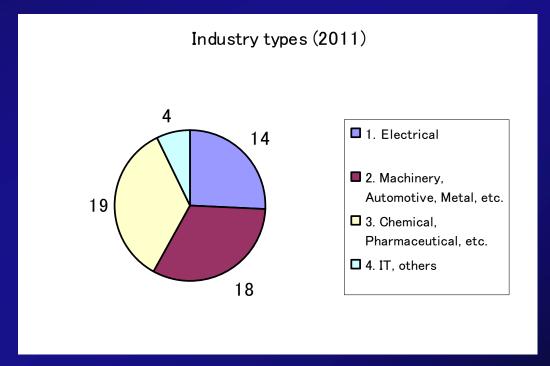


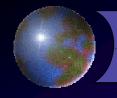
## "What do JP users actually consider on PCT utilization?"



#### Questionnaire Survey as to utilization of PCT (2011)

- Purpose of the survey:
  - ✓ To know how JIPA member companies use PCT
- # of companies which answered: 55 companies



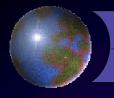


#### Questions to member companies (Category 1)

#### As to patent obtaining activity,

- Rate of foreign patent filings
- Rate of using PCT in the foreign patent filings
- Reasons for using PCT
- Reasons for NOT using PCT





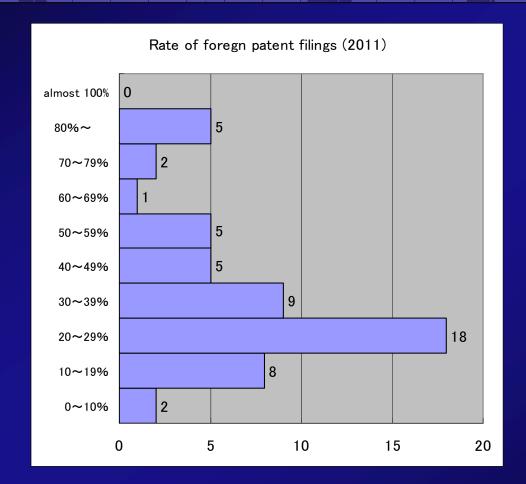
#### Questions to member companies (Category 2)

#### As to patent obtaining activity in emerging countries,

- Major route for filing patent applications:
  - Paris or PCT?
- Reasons for using PCT
- Reasons for NOT using PCT
- ISR and national examination in emerging countries



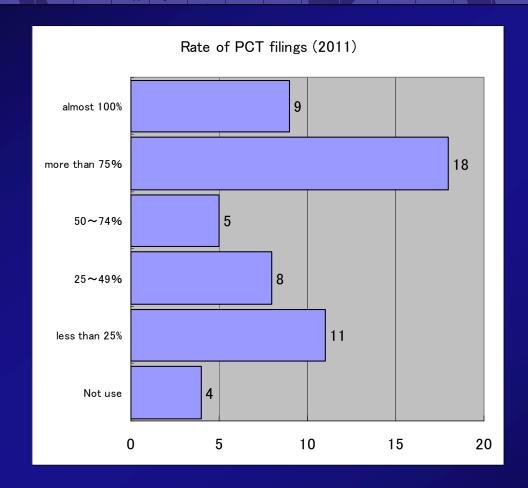
#### Rate of foreign patent filings



There are many companies filing foreign patent applications for 20-40% of the original inventions.



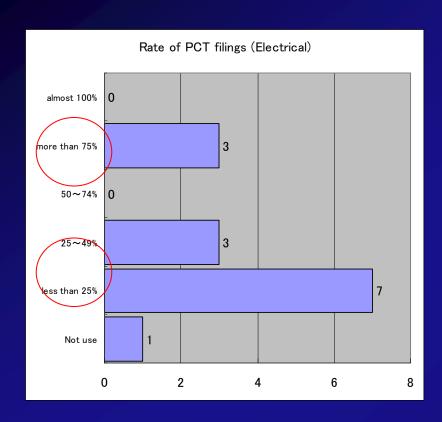
#### Rate of using PCT in the foreign patent filings

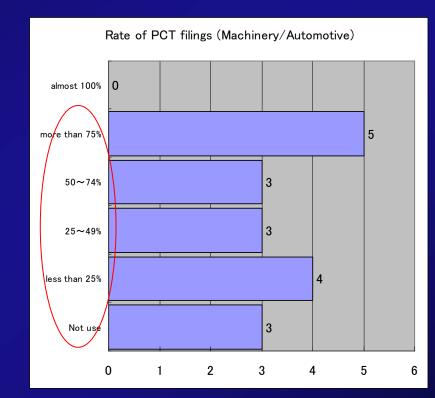


There is a wide range of variety in use of PCT.



#### Rate of using PCT (Electrical, Machinery/Automotive)



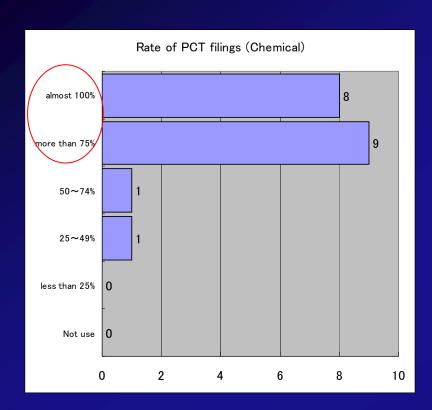


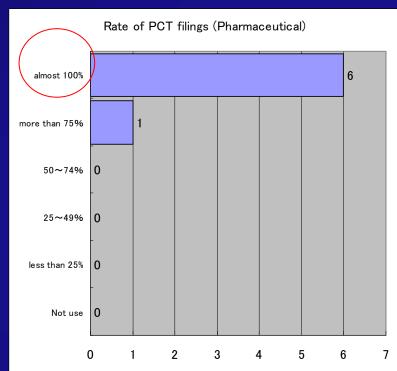
Electrical: "Bipolarization"

Machinery/Automotive: "Wide range of variety"



#### Rate of using PCT (Chemical, Pharmaceutical)





Chemical, Pharmaceutical: "Major route for obtaining patents"



### 3. Advantageous points in PCT utilization



"Why do JP users often use PCT?"





- By filing "one" application with "one" receiving office, the PCT application is treated as "national application" filed on the international filling date in each member country.
- User can file the PCT application with his/her familiar language requierd by the receiving office.
- User can get "International Search Report" and (optionally) get "International Preliminary Report on Patentability" to predict patentablity in each designating office.
- User can amend claims and specification during international phase, if necessary.
- Before the expiration date of 30 months from the priority date, user has to enter the national phase including submittion of necessary translation and fee.
- **•** -----



#### Basic demands of JP users for obtaining foreign patents

#### Cost

Less cost for obtaining patents

#### Quality

High quality
and
Same quality
among the
patent offices

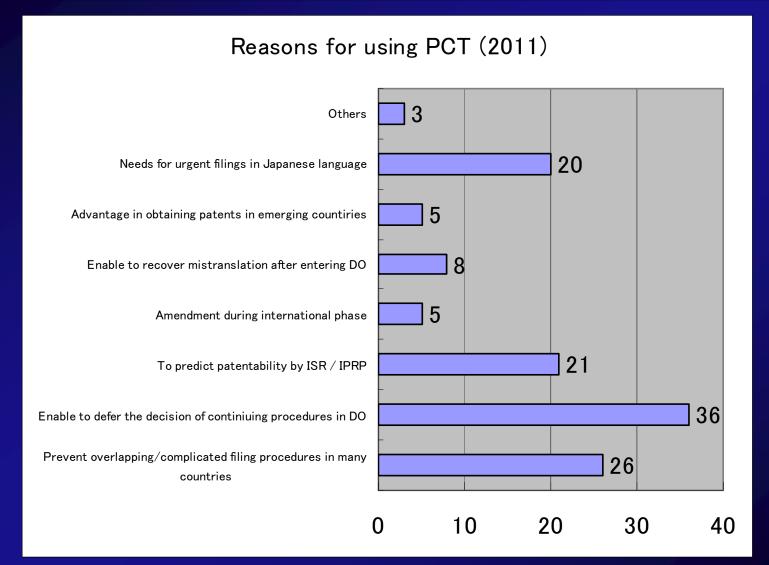
#### Demand

**Timeliness** 

Getting patents immediately when users need



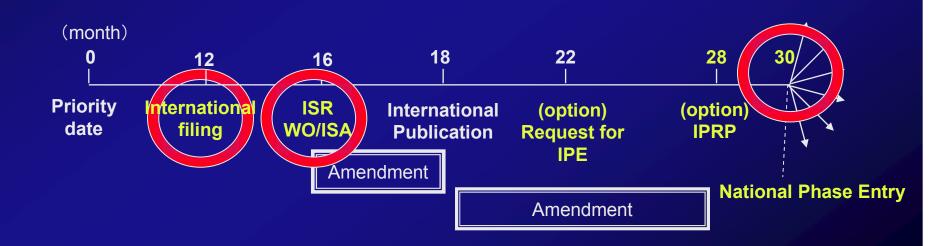
#### Why do JP users use PCT?







- 1. Term before entering National Phase (30 months)
- 2. Simplification of Filing Procedure
- 3. International Search Report (and IPRP)

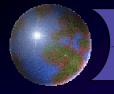




- 1. Term before entering National Phase (30 months)
- 2. Simplification of Filing Procedure
- 3. International Search Report (and IPRP)







#### 1. Term before entering National Phase (30 months)

- Assessing the value of invention
  - ✓ Business strategy / R&D strategy
    - Under "first to file" system, users can adjust their strategies in response to the changing situation after filing.
  - ✓ <u>Patentability</u>
    - Users ascertain it based on ISR (WO/ISA) & IPRP(II)





- Assessing the value of invention (cont.)
  - ✓ Users can also refine the strategies before entering National Phase

#### **International Phase**

Value of invention

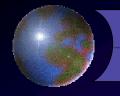


Patentability
Business R&D

Refine IP strategy in National Phase

- Which country entered into
- Timing for entry, request for exam, etc.
- Amendment in claims/spec.
- etc.



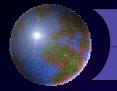


#### 1. Term before entering National Phase (30 months)

#### Preparation for translation

- ✓ Users have enough time to translate from Japanese to English or a third language (through English) in International Phase
- ✓ Users can save cost for translation, because they can select countries entered into based on the value of invention





#### Major 3 reasons for using PCT from the survey

- 1. Term for entering National Phase (30 months)
- 2. Simplification of Filing Procedure
- 3. International Search Report (and IPRP)







- Easy to file PCT application
  - ✓ Simplification of filing procedure under "first to file"
    - One set of documents
    - One Receiving Office, One Formality Examination
    - One Language : Japanese





✓ PCT International Filing Date = National Filing Date (§ 11(4))



- 1. Term for entering National Phase (30 months)
- 2. Simplification of Filing Procedure
- 3. International Search Report (and IPRP)





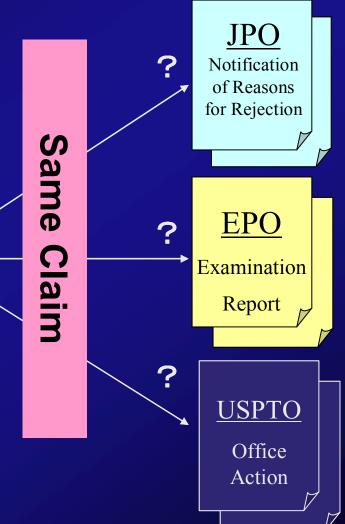


"How effective is ISR (and IPRP) as predicting tool for Patentability in DO?"

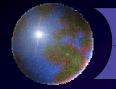


#### Prediction of patentability by ISR (from JIPA study in 2010)



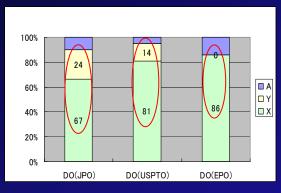




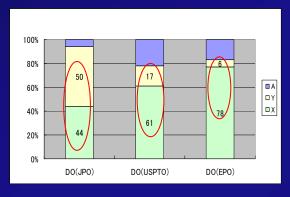


#### Prediction of patentability by ISR (Cont.)

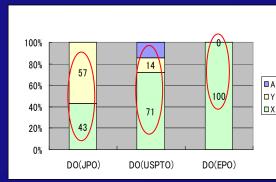
#### When the ISR indicated category "X"







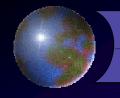
 $ISR(EPO):X\rightarrow JP,US,EP$ 



ISR(USPTO):X→JP,US,EP



When the ISR indicates category X, there is a high probability that each Designated Office will issue a rejection for lack of novelty and/or inventive step.



#### 3. International Search Report (and IPRP)

- Saving cost and Reducing workload for corresponding OA in national phase
  - ✓ISR is an effective tool to find/eliminate claims lacking novelty before processing in each countries.
  - ✓ Quit entering into national phase with unpatentable claims could eliminate wasting time and money.
  - ✓ Possibly, amendments can be useful in international phase (§ 19, § 34)

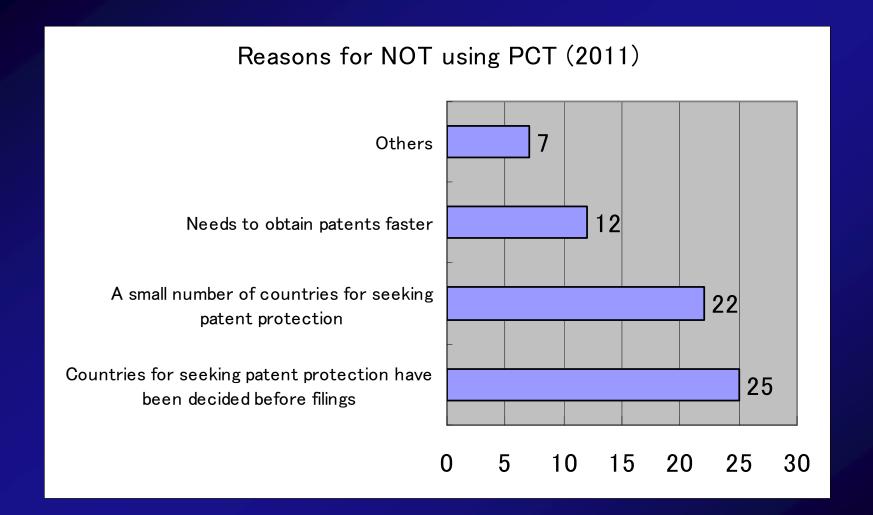


# 4. Limitations(?) in current PCT practice



"PCT seems to be an ideal vehicle for users to seek patents in many foreign countries in view of the system, but ..."

# Why do JP users not use PCT?







#### Cost

- ✓ It costs extra More than 1,000 USD in Official Fee compared to "Paris Convention Route"
- ✓ Furthermore it costs Attorneys Fee in International Phase
- ✓ Number of countries seems to be one of the keys(?)
- ✓ It is hard to evaluate the cost advantage in using PCT that much depends on various factors





#### Timeliness

- ✓ It takes extra time before starting examination in DOs because of procedures in international phase.
- ✓ Even after entering into DOs earlier, it sometimes takes extra time for taking different process from normal national applications.



# Limitations of PCT system (3)

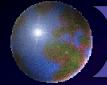
# • ISR (IPRP) indicating category "A"

- ✓ New prior arts found in national phase examination (Caused by the difference of Search and Examination process among ISAs and Dos)
- ✓ Users never know how each DO utilize ISR in its examination process.

(Some applicants think the product of ISA or IPEA is not

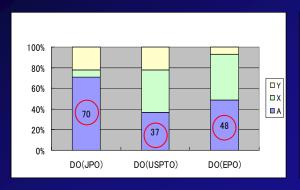
always helpful for them)



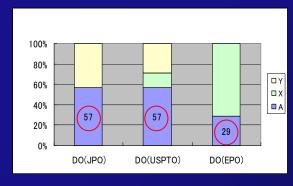


#### Limitations of PCT system (from JIPA study in 2010)

#### When the ISR indicated category "A"







 $ISR(JPO):A \rightarrow JP,US,EP$ 

 $ISR(EPO):A \rightarrow JP,US,EP$ 

ISR(USPTO):A→JP,US,EP



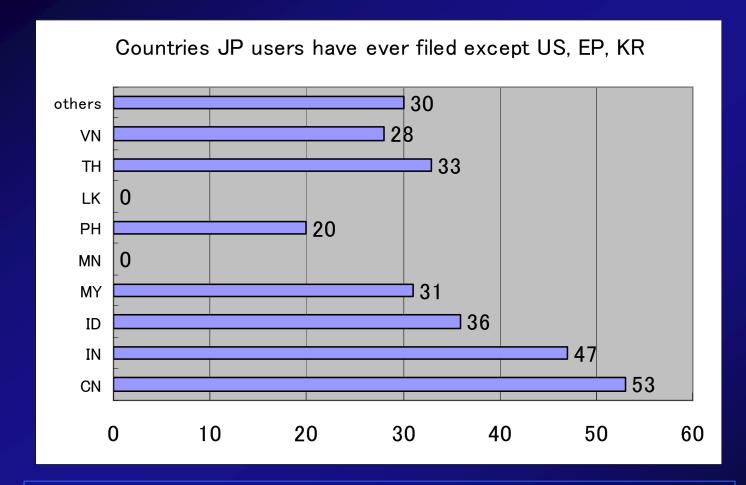
When the ISR indicates category A, it does not always mean that those claims will be patentable in the National Phase examination.

(Remark: JPO showed the similar study and results in Japan this year.)



# 5. Expectations for PCT and emerging countries in the future

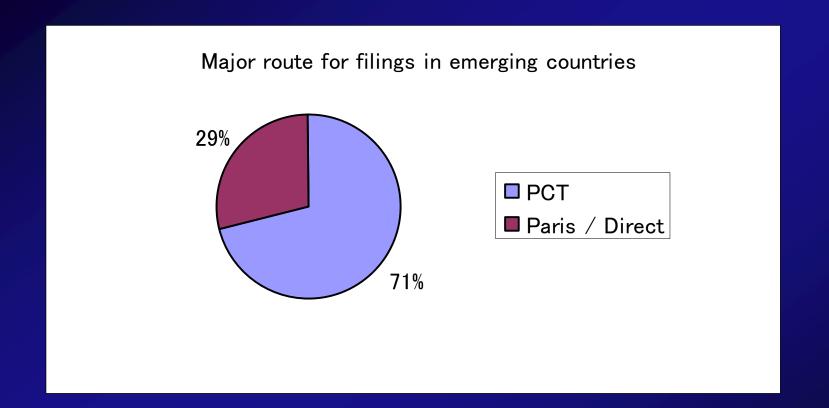
# Patent filings in emerging countries by JP users



Obtaining patents in emerging countries is becoming more important for JP users

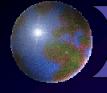


# PCT use in emerging countries by JP users



"PCT" is a major route for obtaining patents in emerging countries.





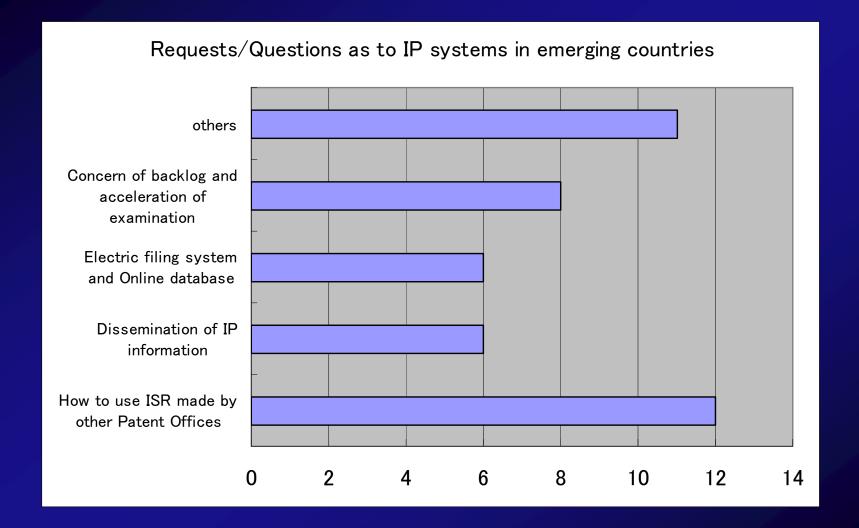
## Question to JIPA member companies in the survey

Question (to JIPA member companies):

"Any requests or questions as to
IP systems in emerging countries
which attend this workshop meeting

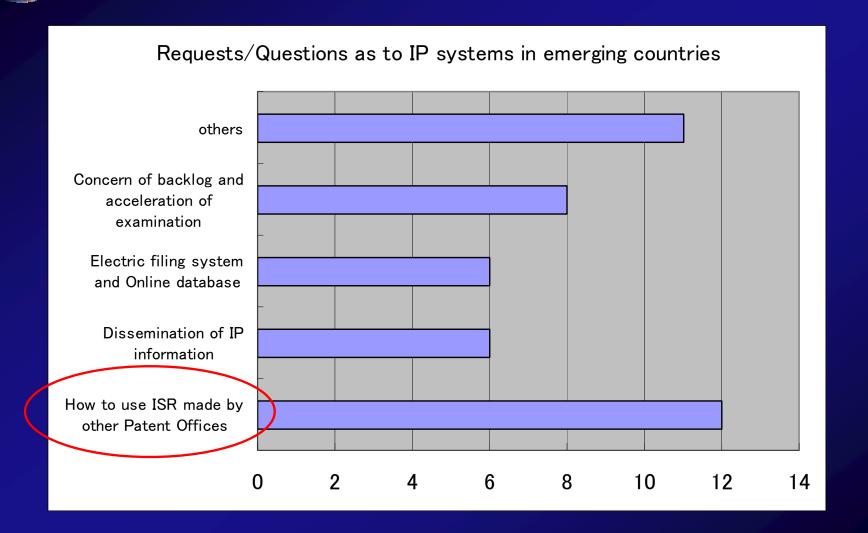
- China, India, Indonesia,
Malaysia, Mongol, Philippine, Sri
Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam?"

### (Answers to the question in the previous page)



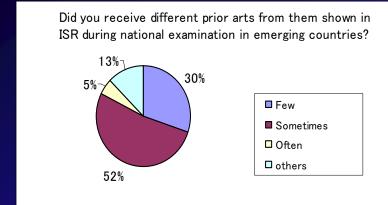


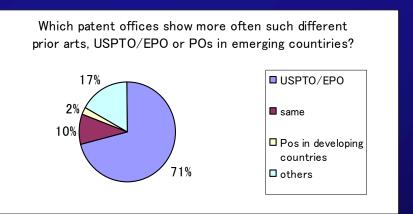
# How to use ISR made by other patent offices





# How to use ISR made by other patent offices



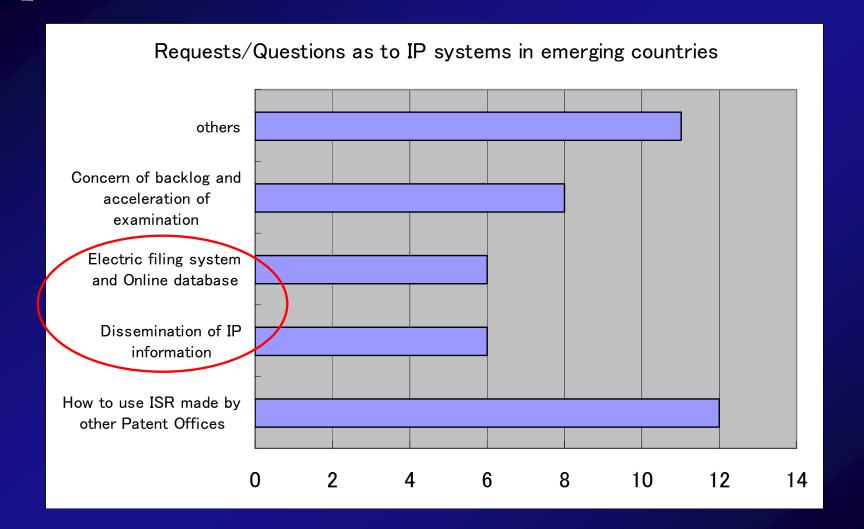


#### JP users' big interest

- •How does each DO reflect ISR in the examination process?
- •Any difference in dealing with ISR depending on which ISA made it?



# Dissemination of IP information / Electric filing

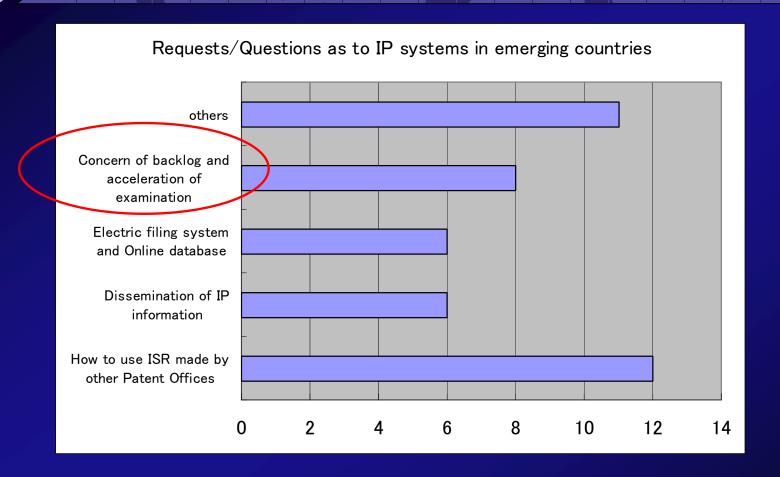






- Dissemination of IP information (preferably on the WEB)
  - ✓ National Patent Law, Rule, etc.
  - ✓ Statistics about the national application via PCT
  - ✓ Internal operation guideline for dealing with ISR made by other offices
- E-Filing (XML) and Online DB
  - ✓ Prosecution in National phase (after PCT filing in International phase)
  - ✓ Status information (ex. PAIR, IPDL, PatentScope, etc)

#### Concerns of backlog and acceleration of examination



Some JP users have concerns about existing and future delay in examination



#### Concerns of backlog and acceleration of examination (cont)

- More importance of business in emerging countries
- More demand for obtaining patents in the countries from "Foreign users"
- More patent applications to be examined in each of the countries





• Effective use of ISR is one possible solution

#### (for users:)

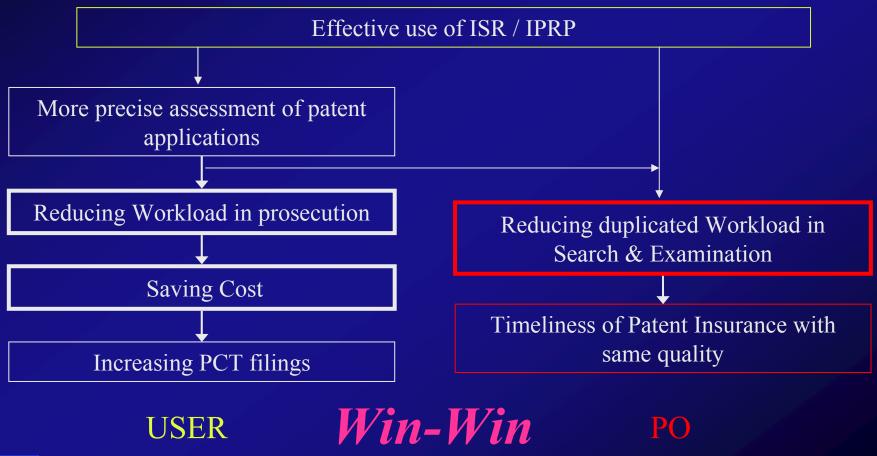
- ✓ More efficient patent obtaining with patentability assessment by ISR
  - → Saving cost and more patents

#### (for offices:)

- ✓ More collaborate closely with other patent offices to keep quality
- ✓ More effective use of ISR and IPRP in National Phase
- ✓ Possibly expanding use of affirmative ISR as well as IPRP
  - → Timely patent issuance with quality

# Aim to reach the 'win-win' goal

• Effective use of ISR is one of the Keys to reach "win-win" goal for the both of users and patent offices

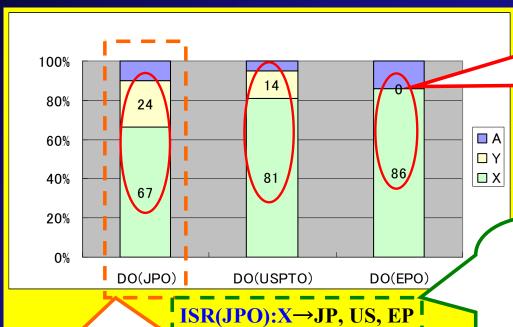




"PCT has a possibility to reach the 'win-win' goal for the both of users and patent offices"



### Appendix: What each figure in the graph means?



Percentage% of DO "X" vs. "Y" vs. "A" determinations

Relative proportion of DO(JPO) X, Y, or A patentability determinations when the ISR indicated category "X"

"ISR(JPO):X→JP,US,EP"
indicates what kind of
patentability determination
(X,Y,A) was made in each
Designated Office when ISR
cited category "X" and JPO
was the ISA





Several data regarding JP users shown in this presentation today are based on the results of studies and surveys conducted by JIPA through its committee activities in the past.