

The Roles and Practices of National IP Offices to Promote the Strategic Use of the PCT System

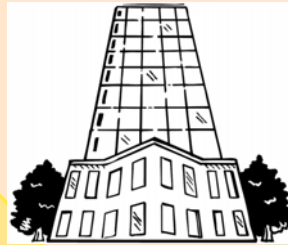
Fumio ENOMOTO
Coordinating Office for PCT system
International Application Division



1. Initiatives to Improve PCT Operations within the JPO



Applicants



JPO



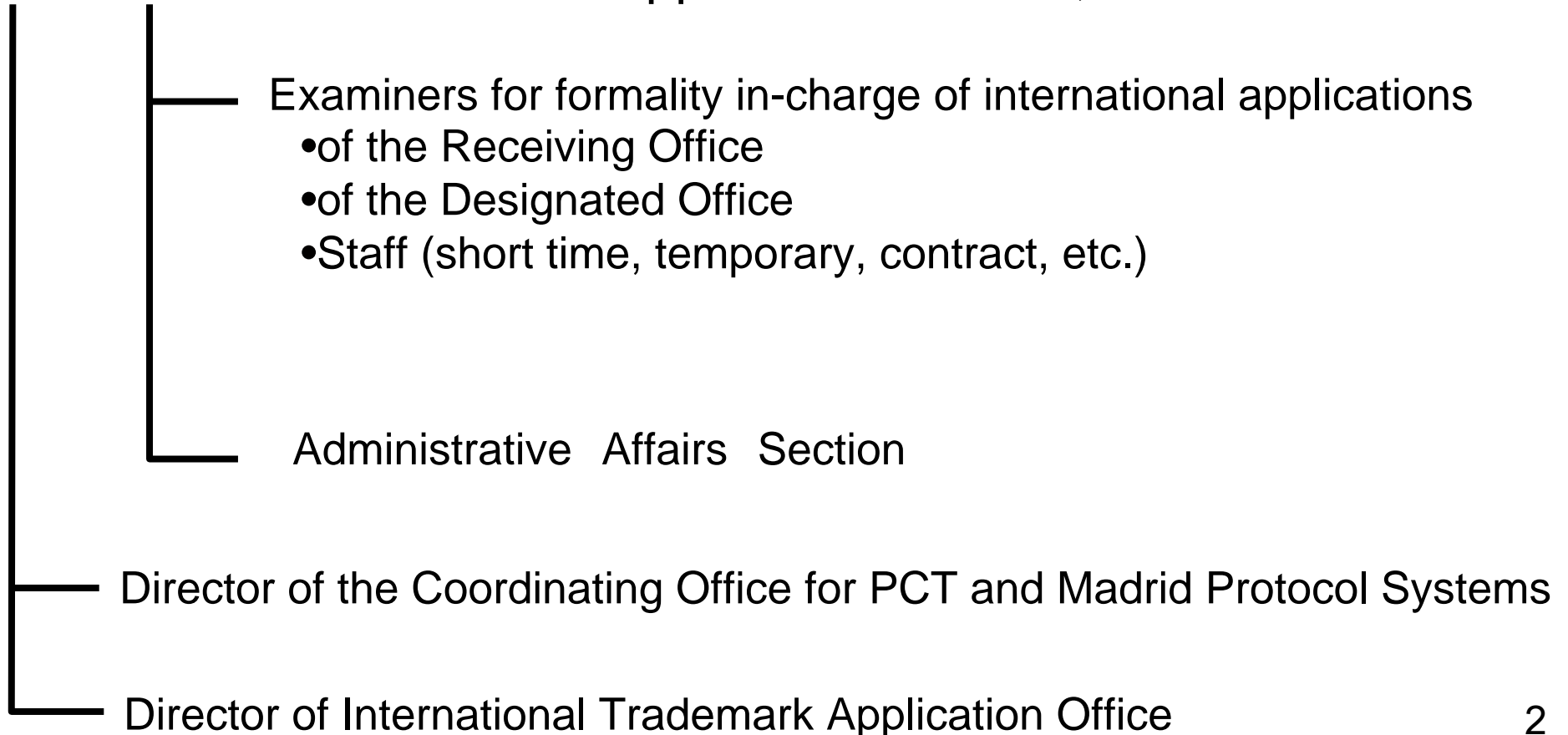
WIPO

2. Services for Applicants

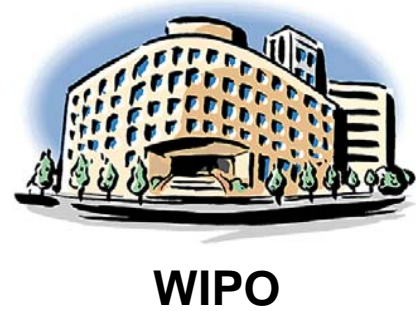
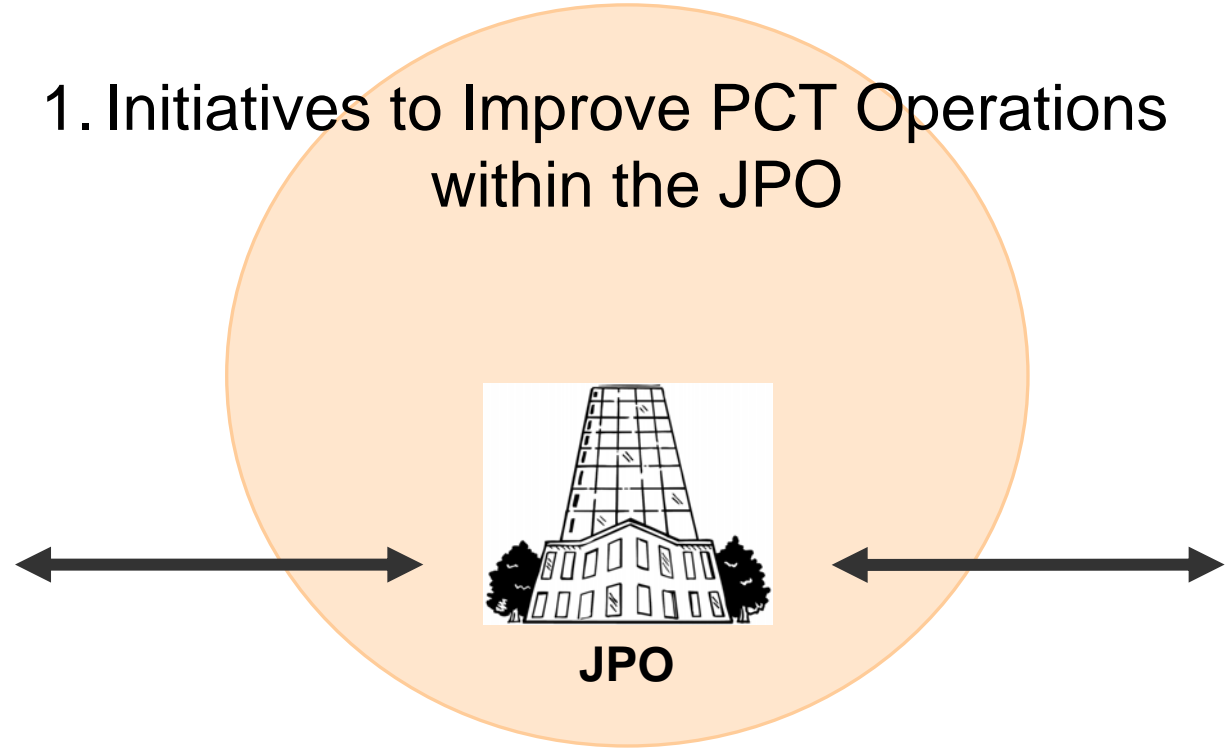
3. Collaboration with WIPO

International Application Division, JPO

Director of the International Application Division, JPO

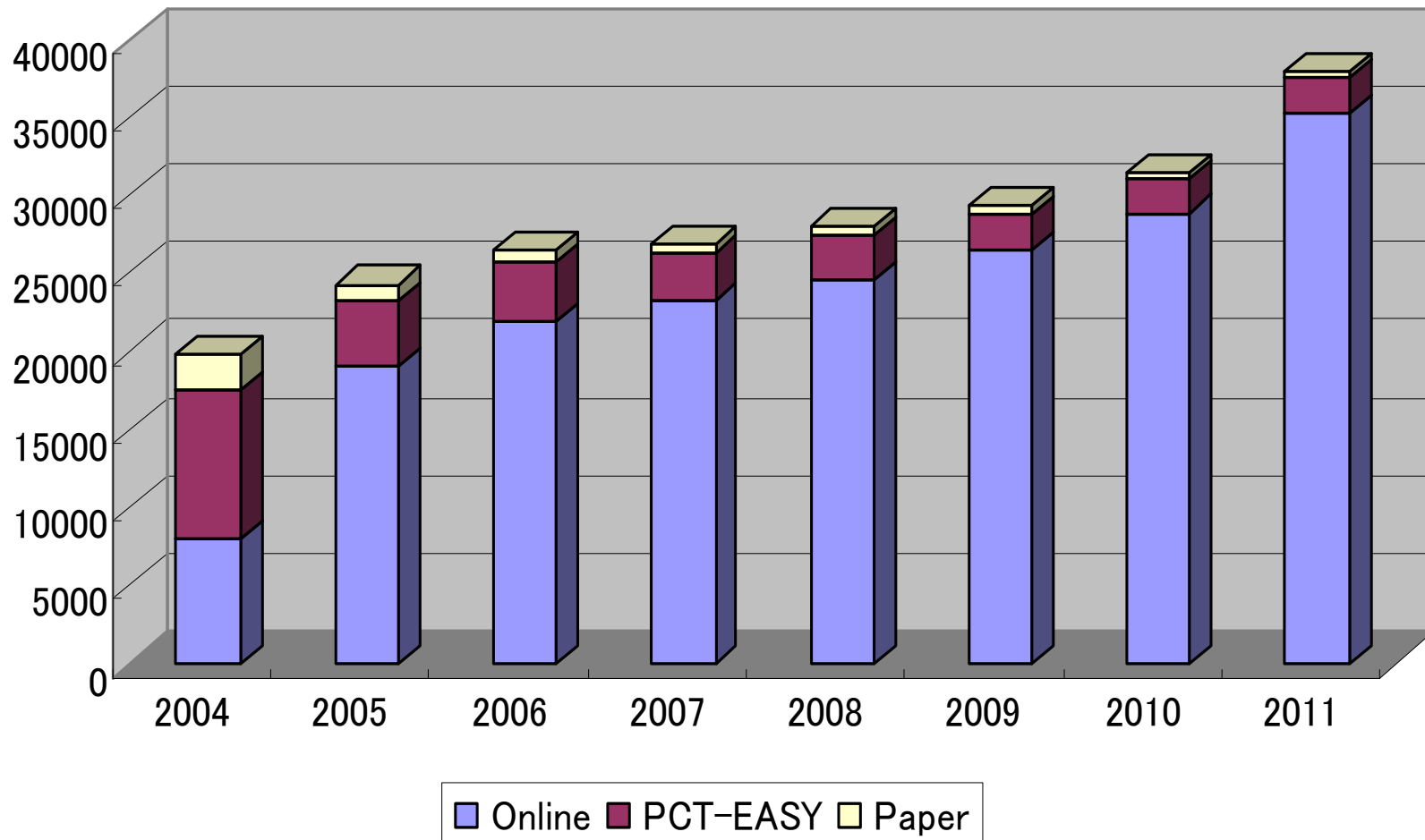


1. Initiatives to Improve PCT Operations within the JPO

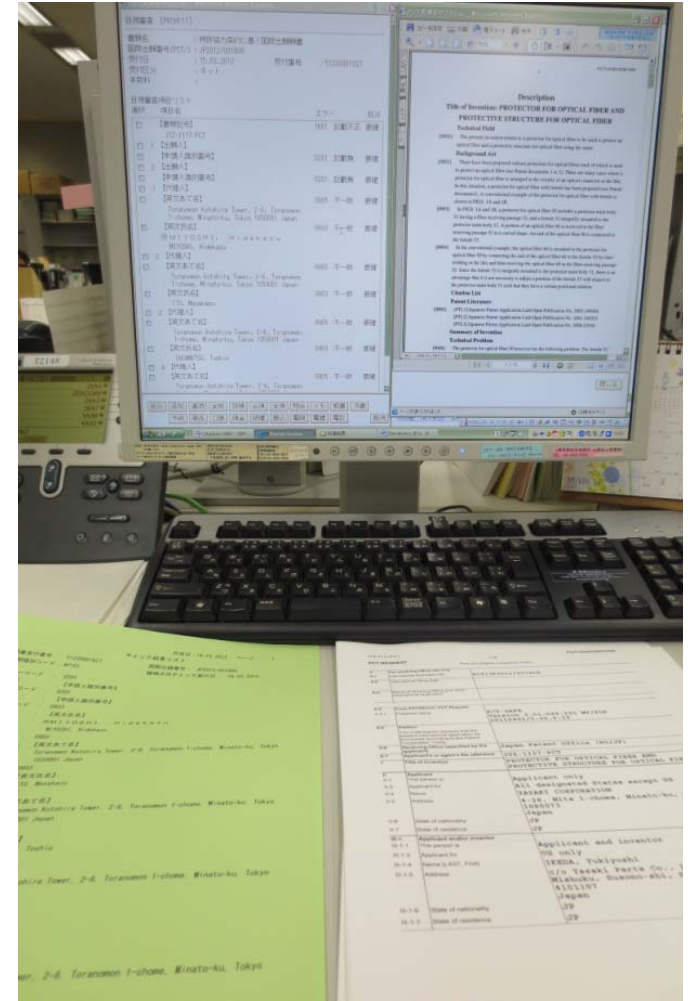
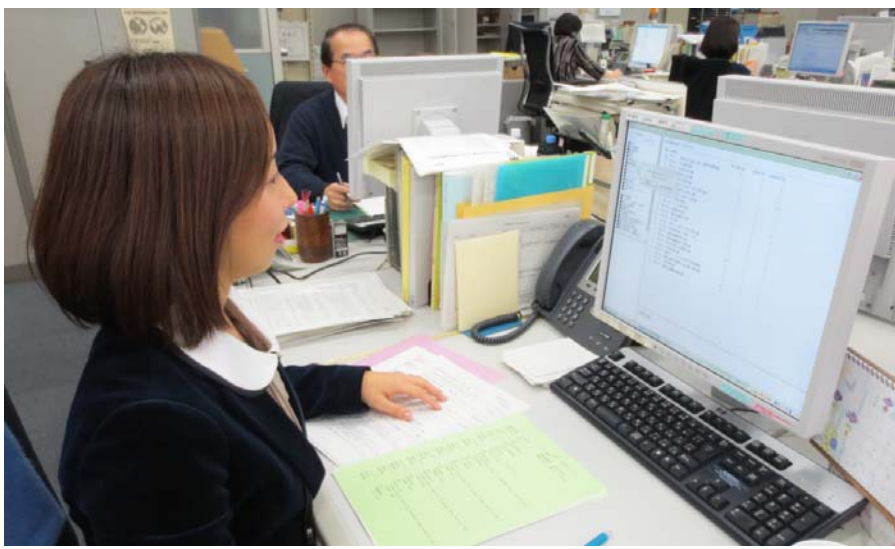
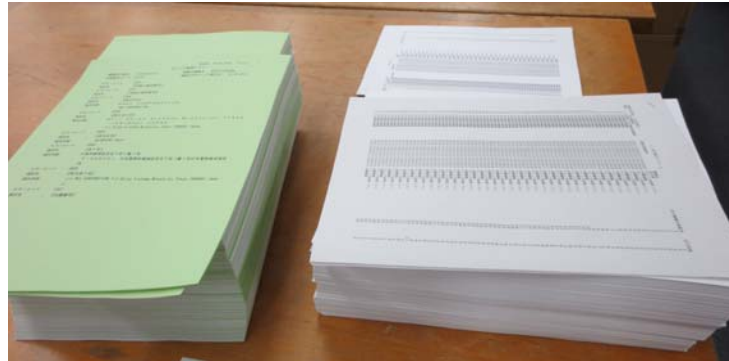


Online PCT Applications

Formats Used to File PCT International Applications



Checking formality electronically

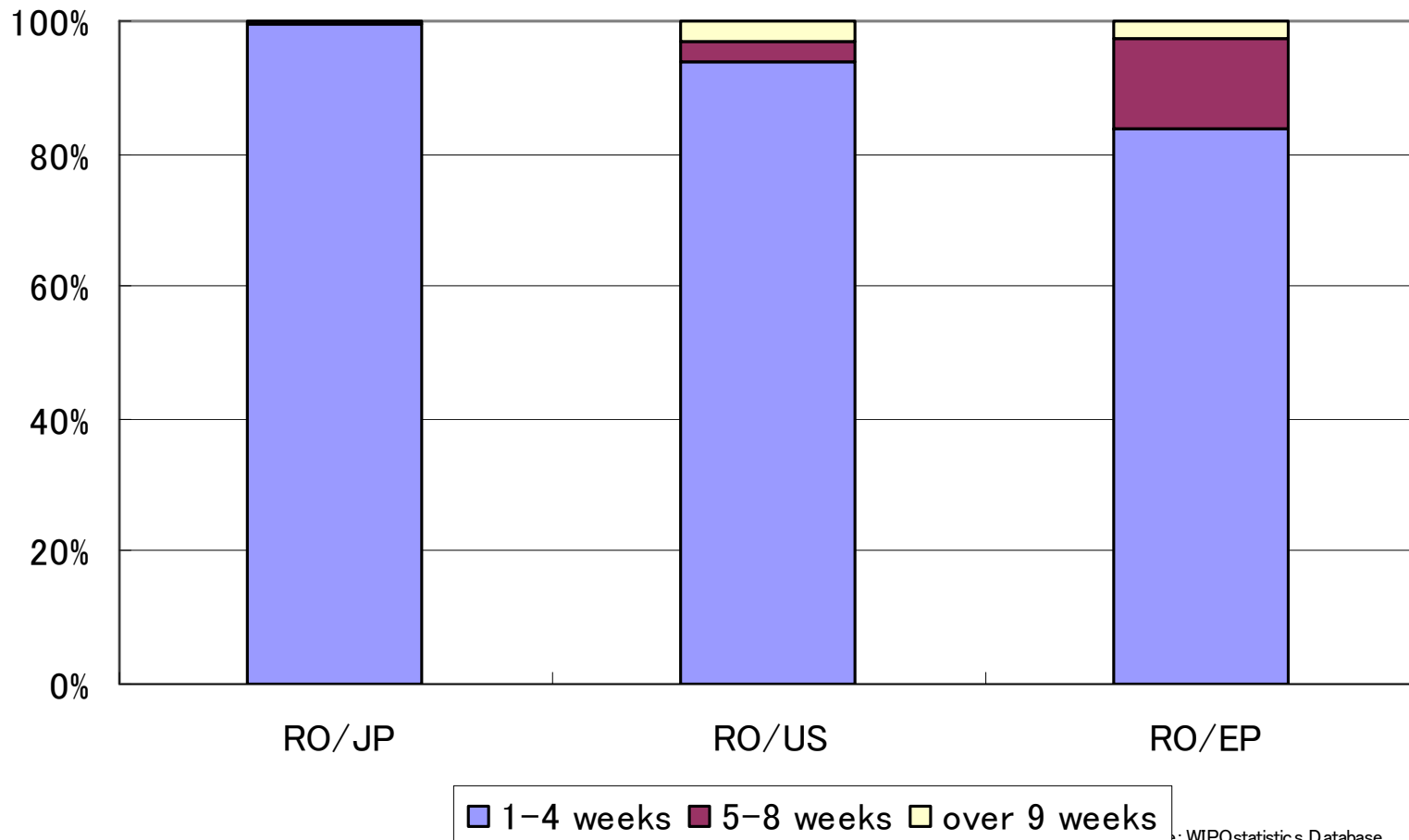


Online Formality Checks of the PCT Applications

1. Initiatives to Improve Operations within the JPO

Timeliness of RO/JP to transmit Copies of PCT Applications to IB

Calculated as the time difference between the international filing date and the date on which the IB received a copy of the PCT application from the RO



- JPO RO-Manual for Examiners of Formality
 - Covers all processes within the JPO:
(Receiving documents ~ formality examination ~ sending notifications and indications)
 - Advises which points should be checked
 - Provides detailed guidance on how to deal with each document
- Setting up meetings among formality examiners to gather and share information on particular cases

2. Services for Applicants



Applicants



JPO



WIPO

2. Services for Applicants

2. Services for Applicants

Face-to-face Communication with Users at the JPO Counter



- Accepting documents and doing quick formality checks
- Advising how to fill in forms and how to properly write letters to Offices and WIPO
- Providing guidance on the PCT system

2. Services for Applicants



Handbook providing hands-on knowledge about “How to file PCT applications”

Contents of Handbook (1)



“What happens next?” “When should I take action?”
- Illustrates time line of entire PCT process



“I don’t know how to complete the Request Form.”
“What will happen in the international and national phase if I check this box?”
- Shows examples of how to fill in all the necessary items on the Request Form and the Demand Form



“What kind of letter should I write to change applicants?”
- Providing templates of letters for each action

Contents of Handbook (2)



“What is the ISR exactly ?”

“How is patentability described in the Written Opinion of the ISA?”

- Showing examples of ISR, Written Opinion of the ISA and IPER



“The patentability of my application was denied in a written opinion by the ISA. What’s my next option?”

- Instructing how to respond to invitations and notifications from the Offices and WIPO



“I want to learn about and understand the PCT System.”

“I am considering filing a PCT application.”

- Textbook explaining why the PCT System is designed as it is:

Seminars for PCT users

JPO held PCT Seminars

- 2009: 6 locations, 1,922 participated in total
- 2010: 7 locations, 1,969 participated in total
- 2011: 5 locations, 1,480 participated in total

In 2012, the JPO plans to hold PCT seminars
in 13 places.

News Letters for PCT-SAFE Users

The JPO has just started to send newsletters by e-mail to PCT-SAFE Users, who subscribed to the service.

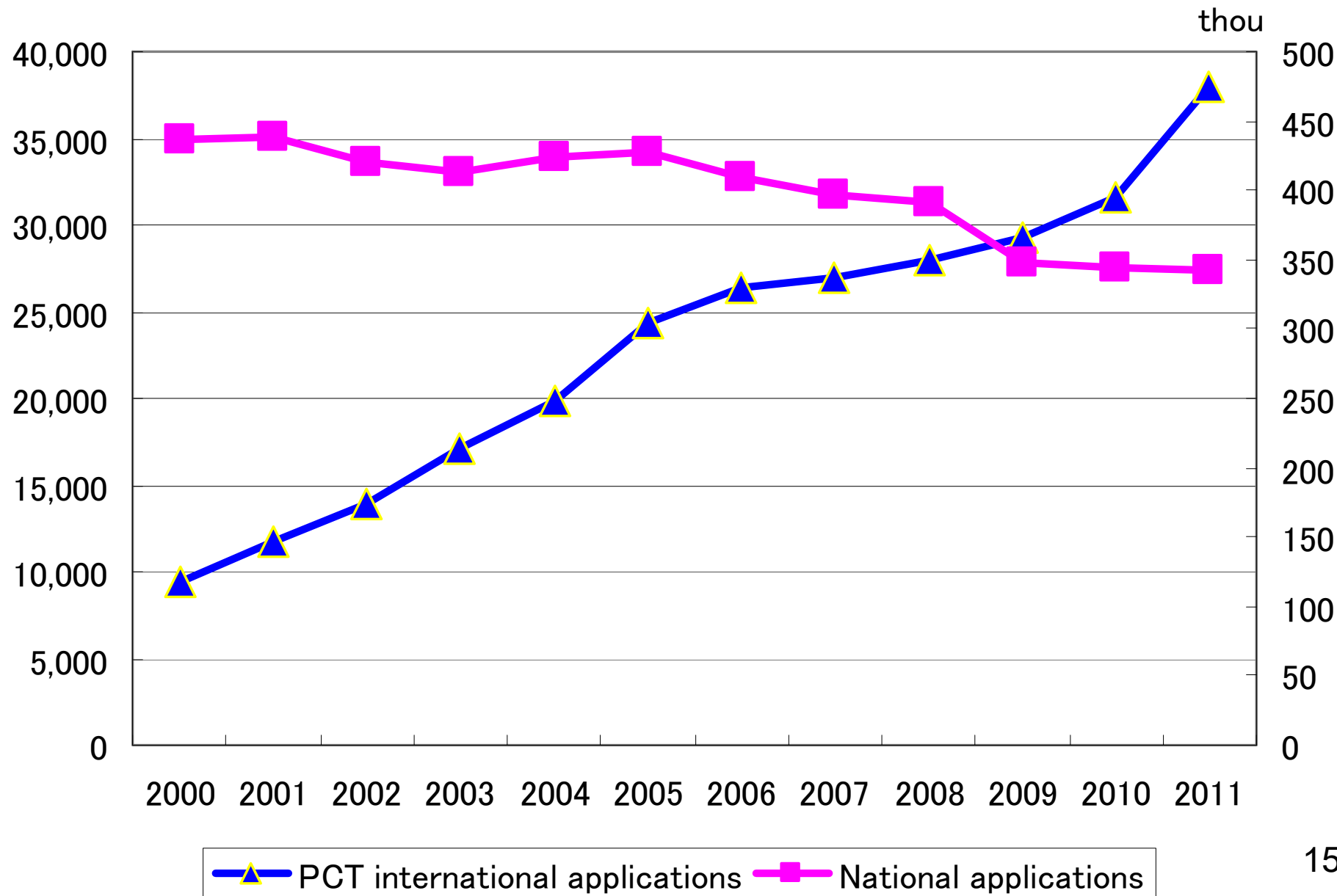
PCT-SAFE:

Software offering PCT users the means to prepare their international applications in electronic form and to file them online.

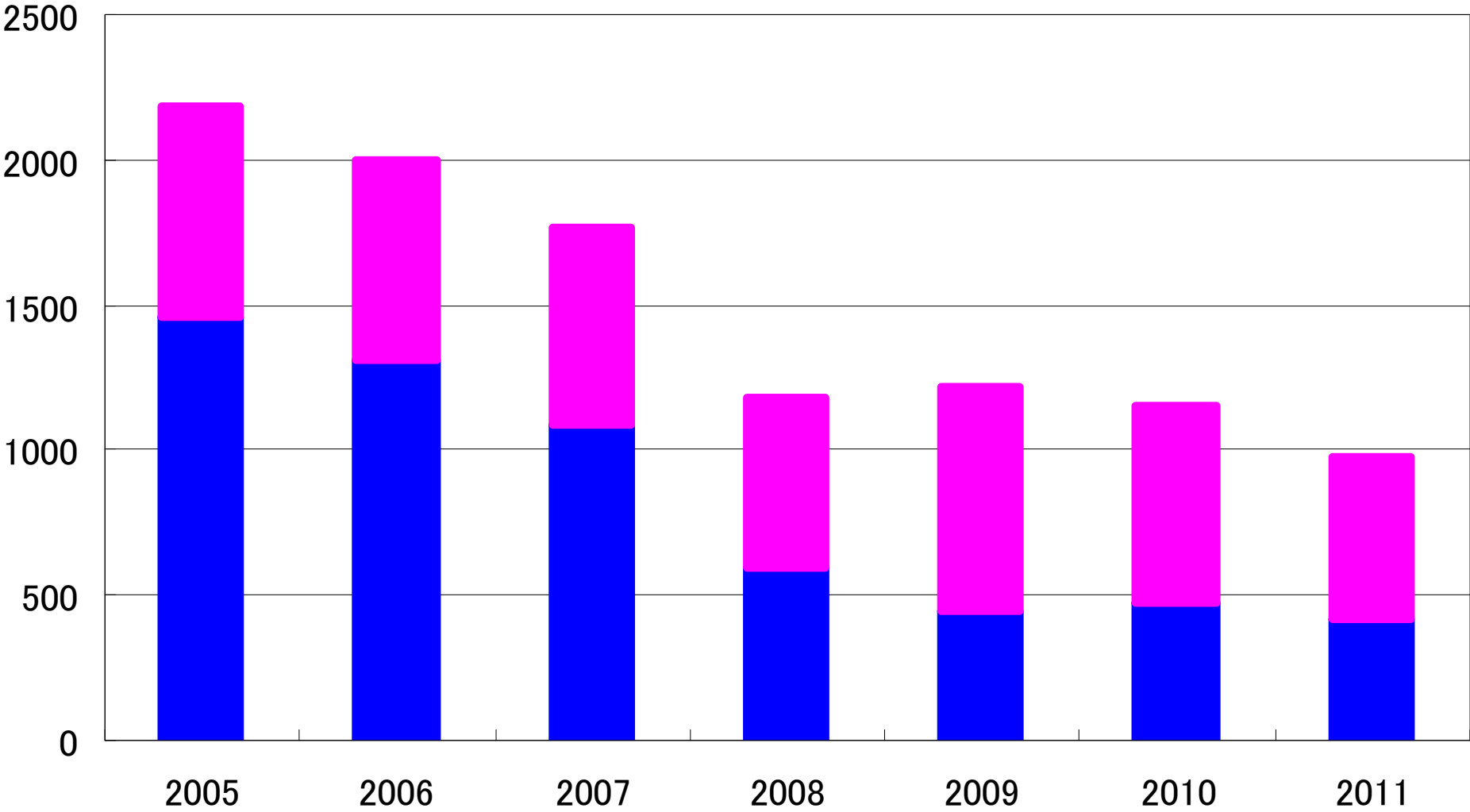
Contents of the newsletters

- Fee revisions relating to PCT filings
- Amendments to PCT regulations
- Urgent notices such as server down-time, systems maintenance
- Other matters related to PCT-SAFE

Number of Patent applications



Number of invitations to PCT Applicants from RO/JP



■ Invitations of Correction ■ Invitations of Payment

3. Collaboration with WIPO



Applicants



JPO



WIPO

3. Collaboration with WIPO

3. Collaboration with WIPO

- Keeping communication channels open with WIPO to review and solve PCT operational issues
- Communication between the RO/JP and Processing Team of WIPO using a common format when procedures and operations are needed to be clarified and revised
- Consulting with WIPO about legal interpretation and the best solutions for filling gaps between PCT regulations and practical operations
- Holding meetings at WIPO regularly to exchange views and opinions about PCT operational issues

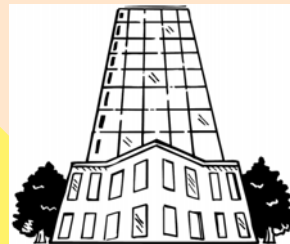


1. Initiatives to Improve PCT Operations within the JPO

- Encourage of filing via online
- JPO RO-Manual for Examiners of Formality and Procedures
- Setting up meetings among formality examiners to gather and share information on particular cases



Applicants



JPO



WIPO

2. Services for Applicants

- Face-to-face communication with users at the JPO Counter
- Handbook and Seminars providing hands-on knowledge about “How to file PCT applications”
- Seminars & News letter

3. Collaboration with WIPO

- Keeping communication channels open with WIPO to review and solve PCT operational issues

Thank you