

JPO's Initiatives on Enhancing the Quality of Patent Examination

December 2018
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Japan Patent Office

1. Quality Policy and Manual

2. Measures on Enhancing Examination Quality

3. External Evaluation

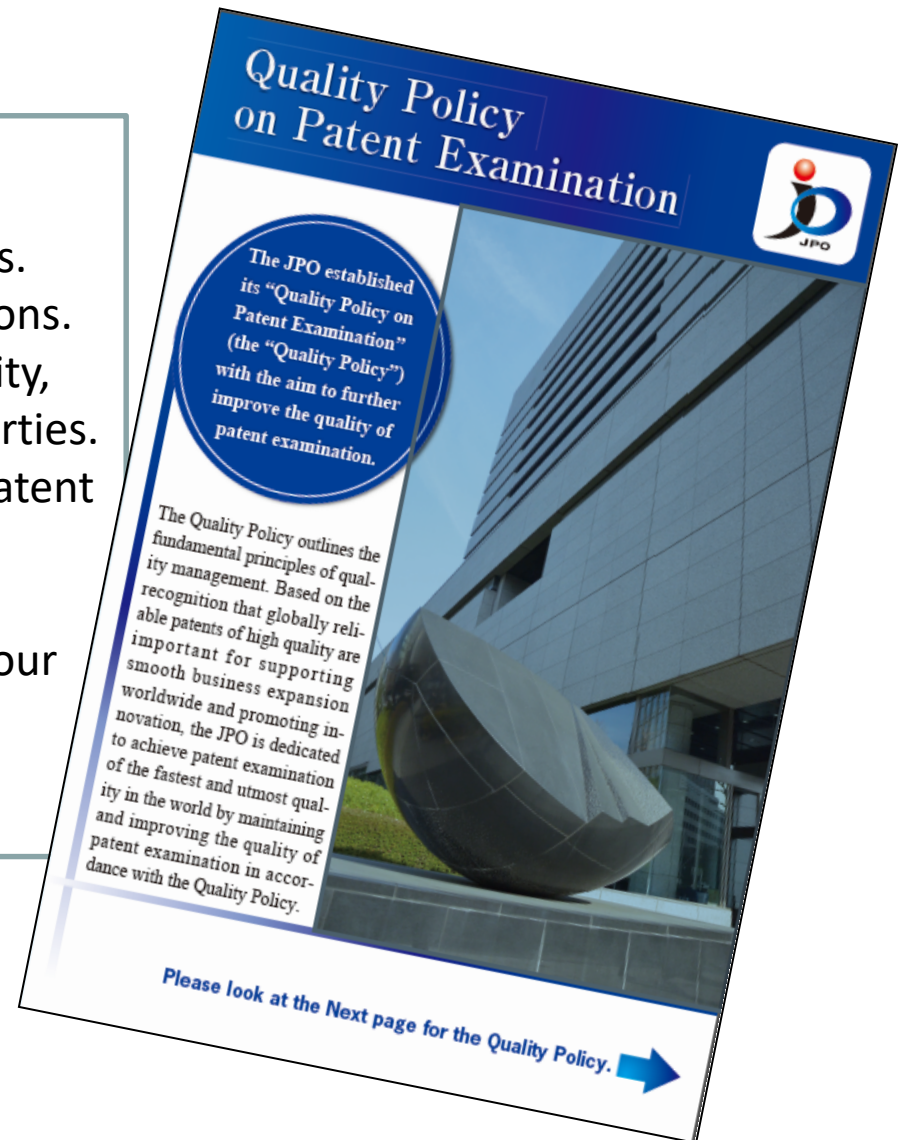
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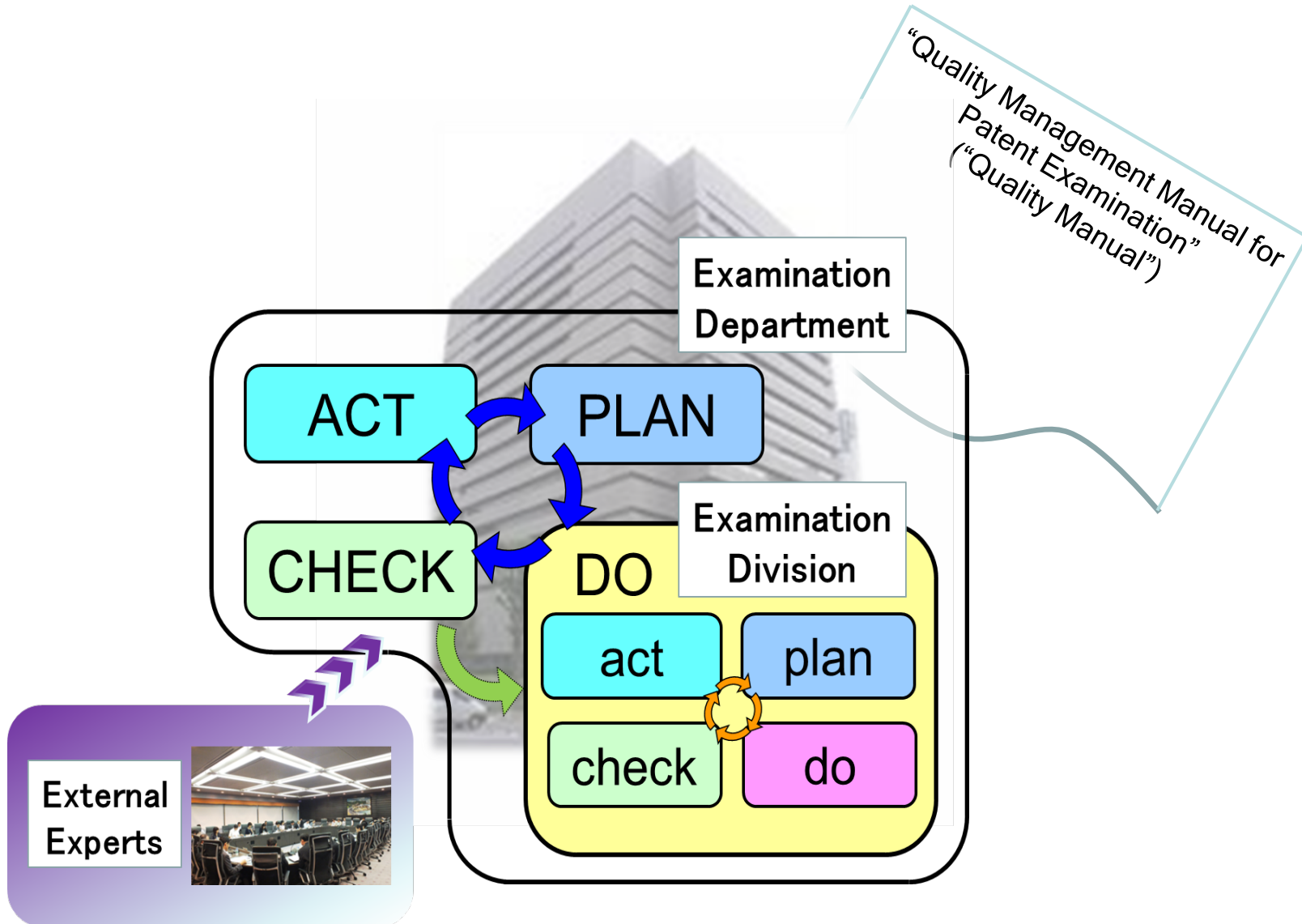
1-1. Quality Policy on Patent Examination

- We grant robust, broad and valuable patents.
- We meet wide-ranging needs and expectations.
- We all dedicate ourselves to improving quality, cooperating with concerned persons and parties.
- We contribute to improving the quality of patent examination globally.
- We continually improve operations.
- We raise the knowledge and capabilities of our staff.



http://www.jpo.go.jp/seido_e/s_gaiyou_e/pdf/patent_policy/policy.pdf

1-2. Quality Manual / PDCA Cycle in QMS



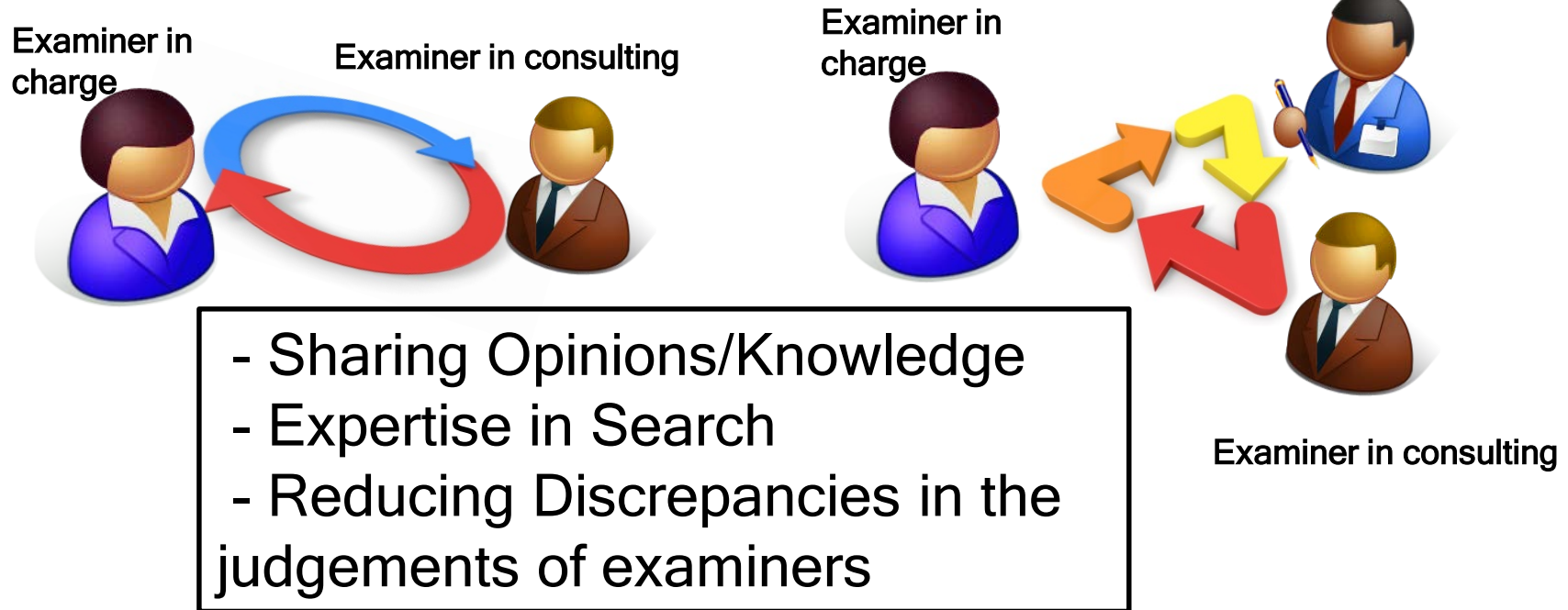
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2-1. Consultation

Around 50,000 cases (in FY 2017)

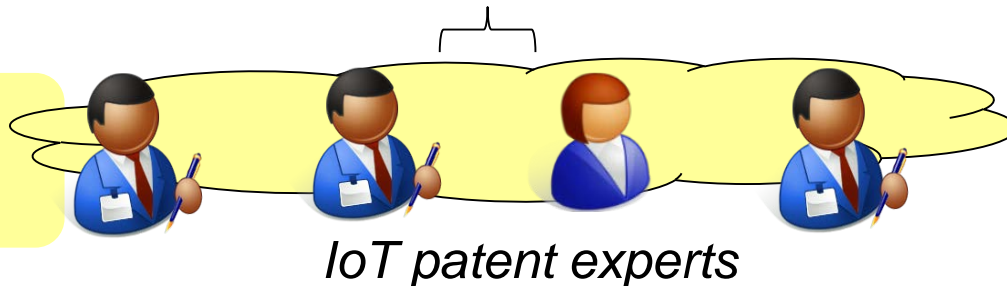


- Consultations are conducted not only with an examiner / examiners from the same Examination Division, but also with a Director or an examiner / examiners from different Examination Divisions.
- Examiners must conduct consultations in certain cases designated each year.
(Example) - Case where an examiner from a different Examination Division examines an application (for a certain period of time / for a certain number of applications)
 - IoT-related application

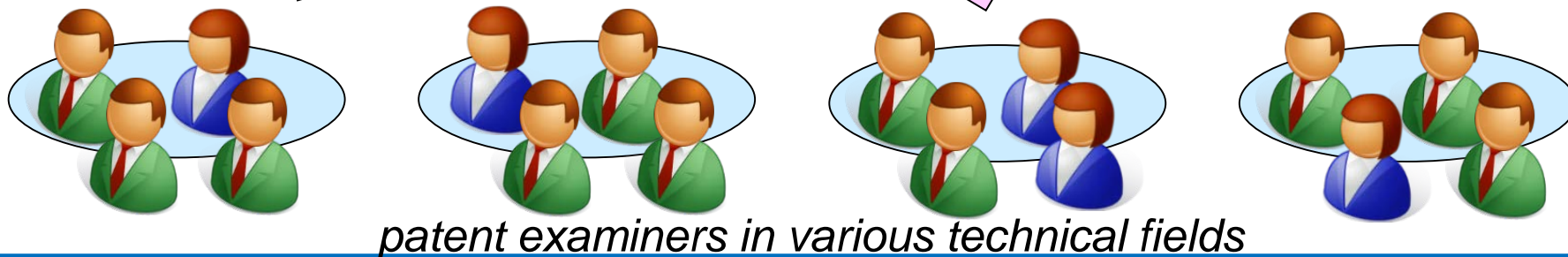
New framework on patent examination

Accumulate and share knowledge and expertise on IoT technologies

IoT
Examination
Team

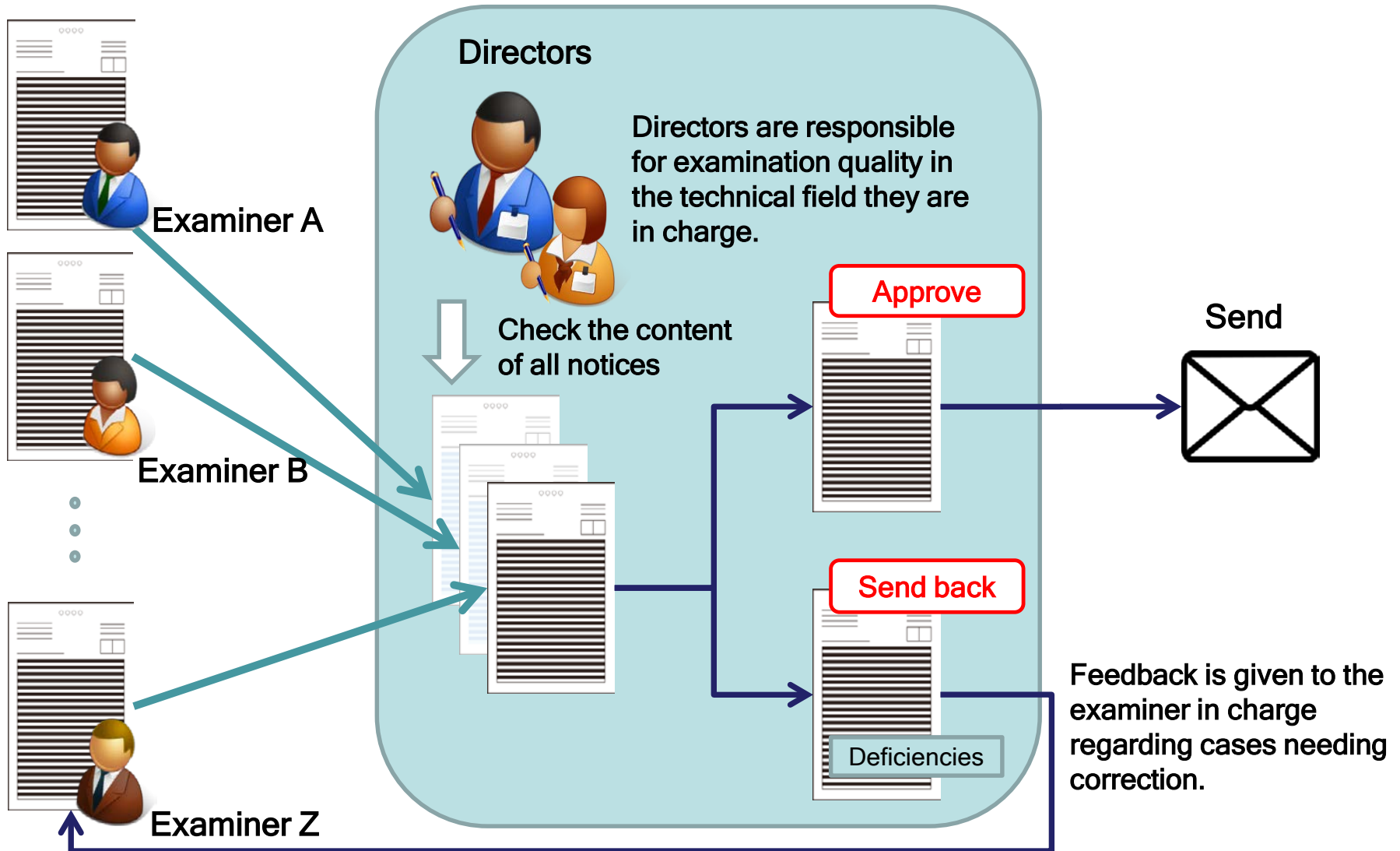


Consults with IoT patent experts

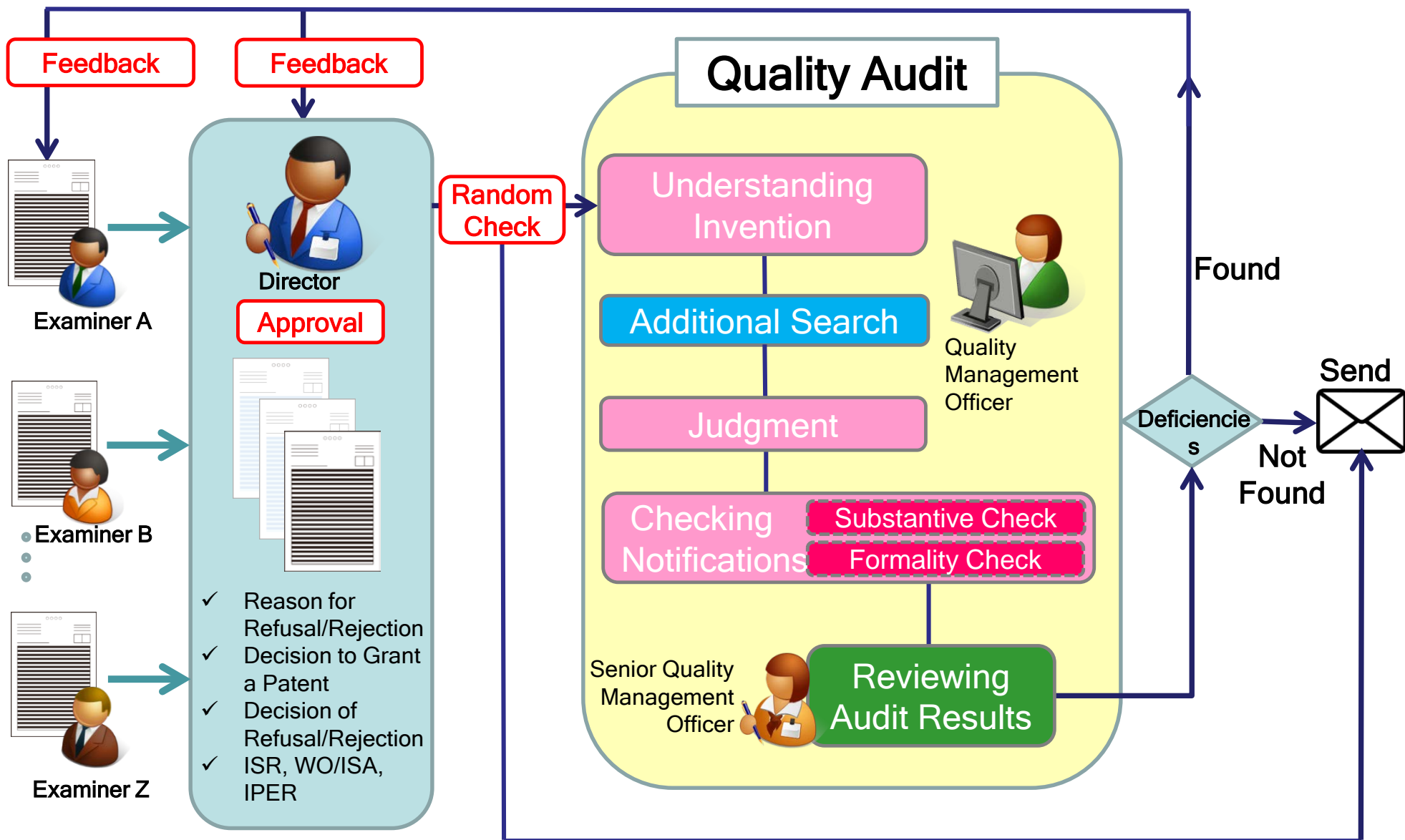


- All examination at same level of quality
- Support to acquire patents that contribute to innovation

2-2. Approval



2-3. Quality Audit



1. Quality Policy and Manual

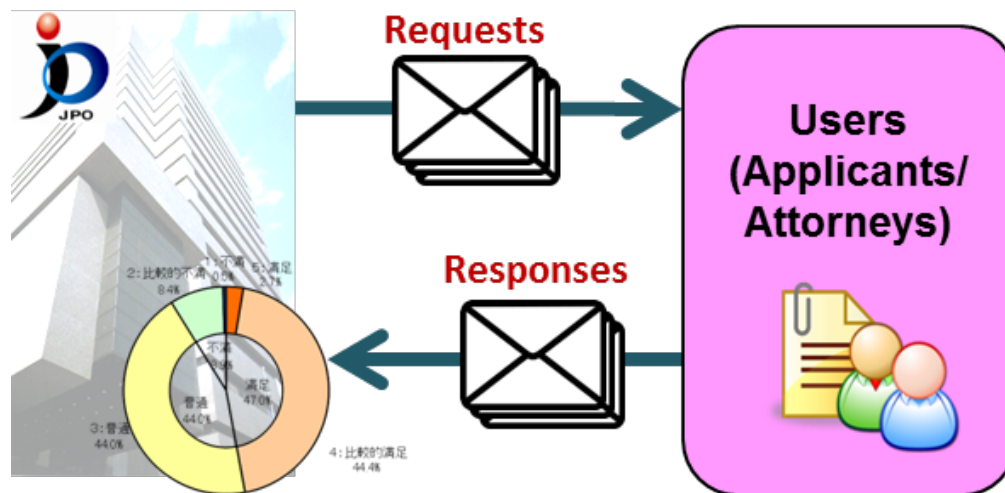
2. Measures on Enhancing Examination Quality

3. External Evaluation

3-1. User Satisfaction Survey (1)

Number of applicants and applications covered by the user satisfaction survey in FY2017

	Overall Quality in General	Quality on Specified Applications
National Applications	681 (Applicants)	1970 (Applications)
PCT Applications	336 (Applicants)	731 (Applications)



High response rates of around 90%!!

3-1. User Satisfaction Survey (2)

Examples of Question

- Are you satisfied with the overall quality of patent examination at the JPO during FY2017(1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018)?
- Thorough and easy-to-understand description in notifications of reasons for refusal
- Consistency of judgements among examiners
- Domestic patent literature searches
- Level of examiners' expertise in technical details
- Communication with examiners such as face-to-face interviews and telephone conversations
- Scope of patent that was granted after examination

5-grade Evaluation

5:Satisfied, 4:Somewhat Satisfied, 3:Neutral, 2:Somewhat Unsatisfied, 1:Unsatisfied

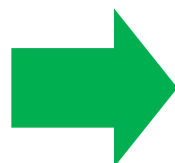
[Sheet A] Overall Quality of Patent Examination on National Applications

When responding to the questionnaire, please indicate by checking the box below if you wish your name to be known to us; or if you wish to remain anonymous.

* We would appreciate it if you would kindly answer all the questions in [1] and [2] below, according to your experience during FY2017(1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018)

[1] Overall Quality of Patent Examination

	Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Neutral	Somewhat Unsatisfied	Unsatisfied	
	5	4	3	2	1	
1) Are you satisfied with the overall quality of patent examination at the JPO during FY2017(1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2) Please evaluate the quality of JPO's patent examination regarding the following aspects 1-11 below.						Not Sure/ Have no experience
1. thorough and easy-to-understand description in notifications of reasons for refusal (except for any decisions of refusal)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. thorough and easy-to-understand description in decision of refusal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. proper application of the following legal wordings						
3-1. the main paragraph of Article 29 (1) (industrial applicability and judgement of whether the subject matter falls under the concept of "invention")	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3-2. items of Article 29 (1) (novelty)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3-3. Article 29 (2) (inventive step)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3-4. Article 36 (4) (i) and Article 36 (6) (descriptive requirements for description and claims)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. consistency of judgements among examiners	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
If you chose "2: somewhat unsatisfied" or "1: unsatisfied" in 4 above, please check the reasons which you are dissatisfied with among the choices provided below. (multiple choices allowed) Please comment in the space below why you are dissatisfied or somewhat unsatisfied with this case.						
<input type="checkbox"/> the main paragraph of Article 29 (1) (industrial applicability and judgement of whether the subject matter falls under the concept of "invention")						
<input type="checkbox"/> Article 29 (2) (inventive step)						
<input type="checkbox"/> Article 36 (4) (i) and Article 36 (6) (descriptive requirements for description and claims)						
<input type="checkbox"/> others (fill in the space below)						
comments for 4	<input type="text"/>					
5. appropriateness of searches						
5-1. domestic patent literature searches	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5-2. foreign patent literature searches	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5-3. non-patent literature searches	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. level of examiners' expertise in technical details	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. communication with examiners such as face-to-face interviews and telephone conversations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Feedback to Examination Divisions

3-1. User Satisfaction Survey (3)

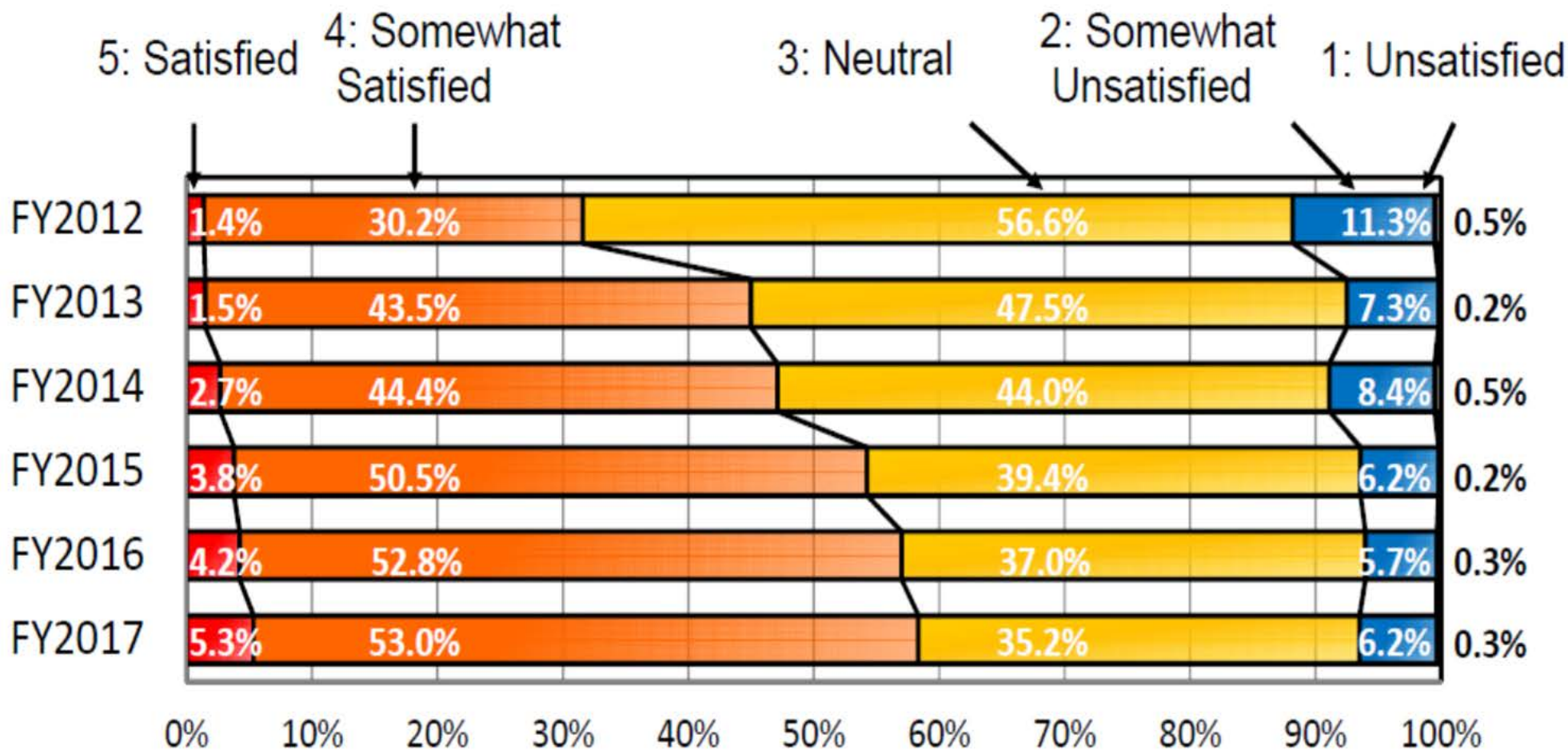


Figure 1 : Level of User Satisfaction on Overall Quality of Patent Examinations for Domestic Applications

◆ Subcommittee on Examination Quality Management

- The committee members include a wide range of specialists including business persons, legal experts, and others with relevant knowledge and experience.
- Committee meetings are open to the public. Anyone who wants to listen to the meeting discussions should file a request in advance. In FY2017, meetings were held twice.
- A report is issued every year (in Japanese and English).



Thank you !

JP 2900001 B2 2009.12.1

(19)日本国特許庁 (JP) (12)特許公報(B2) (11)特許番号
特許第2900001号
(P2900001)

(45)発行日 平成21年12月1日(2009.12.1) (24)登録日 平成21年10月1日(2009.10.1)

(51) Int. Cl. F 1

G 0 1 B 12/345 (2006.01)	G 0 1 B 12/34 1 0 1 B
G 0 2 C 9/87 (2006.01)	G 0 2 C 9/87 Z N A
G 0 1 B 67/89 (2006.03)	G 0 1 B 67/89 Z
G 0 1 B 12/345 (2006.03)	G 0 1 B 12/345 U
G 0 1 B 34/56 (2007.01)	G 0 1 B 34:56

請求項の数 2 (全 6 頁) 最終頁に続く

(21)出願番号 特願平11-123456	(73)特許権者 390000011 特実 花子 東京都千代田区霞が関4-2-1
(22)出願日 平成11年12月20日(1999.12.20)	(74)代理人 123456789 弁理士 代理 太郎
(65)公開番号 特開2000-123456(P2000-123456A)	(72)発明者 発明 太郎 神奈川県横浜須賀町1丁目220番地
(43)公開日 平成12年6月20日(2000.6.20)	審査官 審査 太郎
審査請求日 平成12年8月18日(2000.8.18)	
(31)優先権主張番号 83304359.9	
(32)優先日 平成10年11月12日(1998.11.12)	
(33)優先権主張国 フランス(FR)	
(31)優先権主張番号 96/12583	
(32)優先日 平成8年12月4日(1996.12.4)	
(33)優先権主張国 米国(US)	

微生物の受託番号 FERM BP-3235
微生物の受託番号 NRRL B-18292
微生物の受託番号 NRRL B-18222

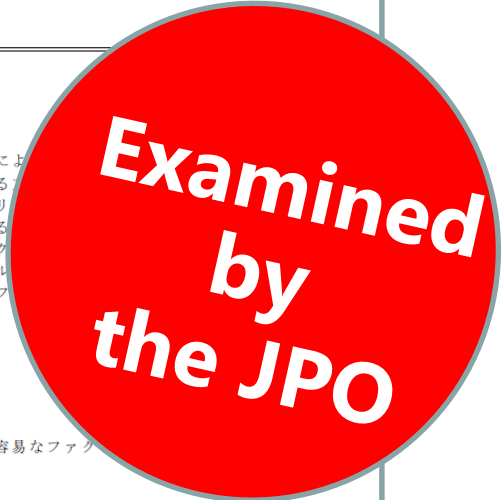
(54)【発明の名称】ファクシミリ走査装置

(57)【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】
電話回線を用いて相互通信を行うファクシミリ端末等によ
ラメータを通知し、通信時の端末パラメータを識別する
含む制御信号の送信側端末は該制御信号のファクシミリ
フィールドに分離し、各サブフィールドの情報を分離する
ータ中には現れない特定の識別コードを挿入してファク
定の識別コードを検出し、該ファクシミリ情報フィール
の端末パラメータの内容を検出することを特徴とするフ
式。

【請求項2】
請求項1の装置を用いる方法……………。

【発明の詳細な説明】
【技術分野】
【0001】
本発明は簡単にして、装置機能のパラメータの拡張が容易なファク
識別方式に関するものである。



Overall information
on Quality Management at the JPO:

https://www.jpo.go.jp/seido_e/quality_mgt/patent.htm