

# The Ideal Form of IP Offices in a New Era

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The intersessional meeting for the second Arab-Asian dialogue  
on intellectual property  
between Japan and Selected Arab Countries

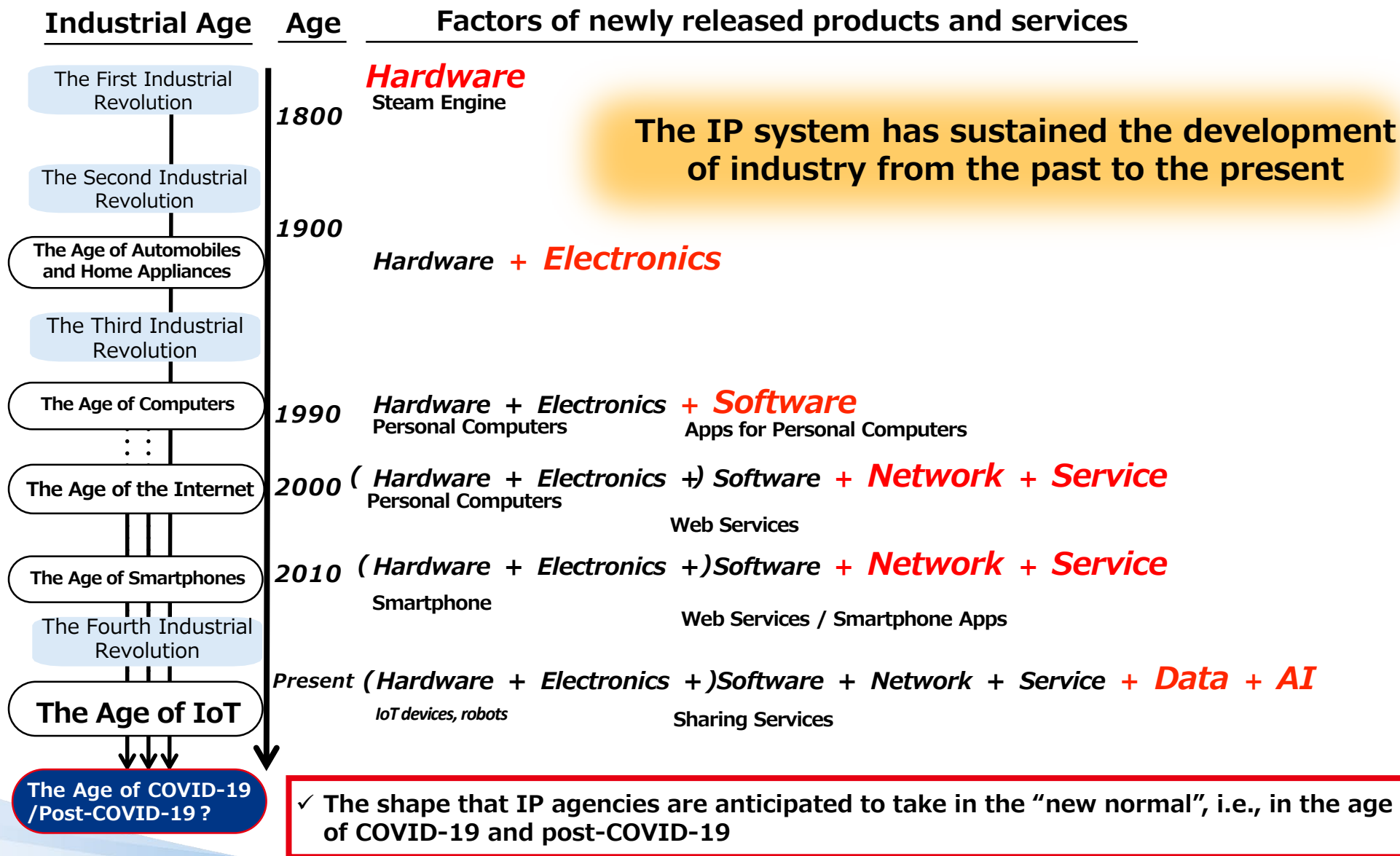
July 8, 2021

Susumu Iwasaki, Deputy Commissioner, The Japan Patent Office



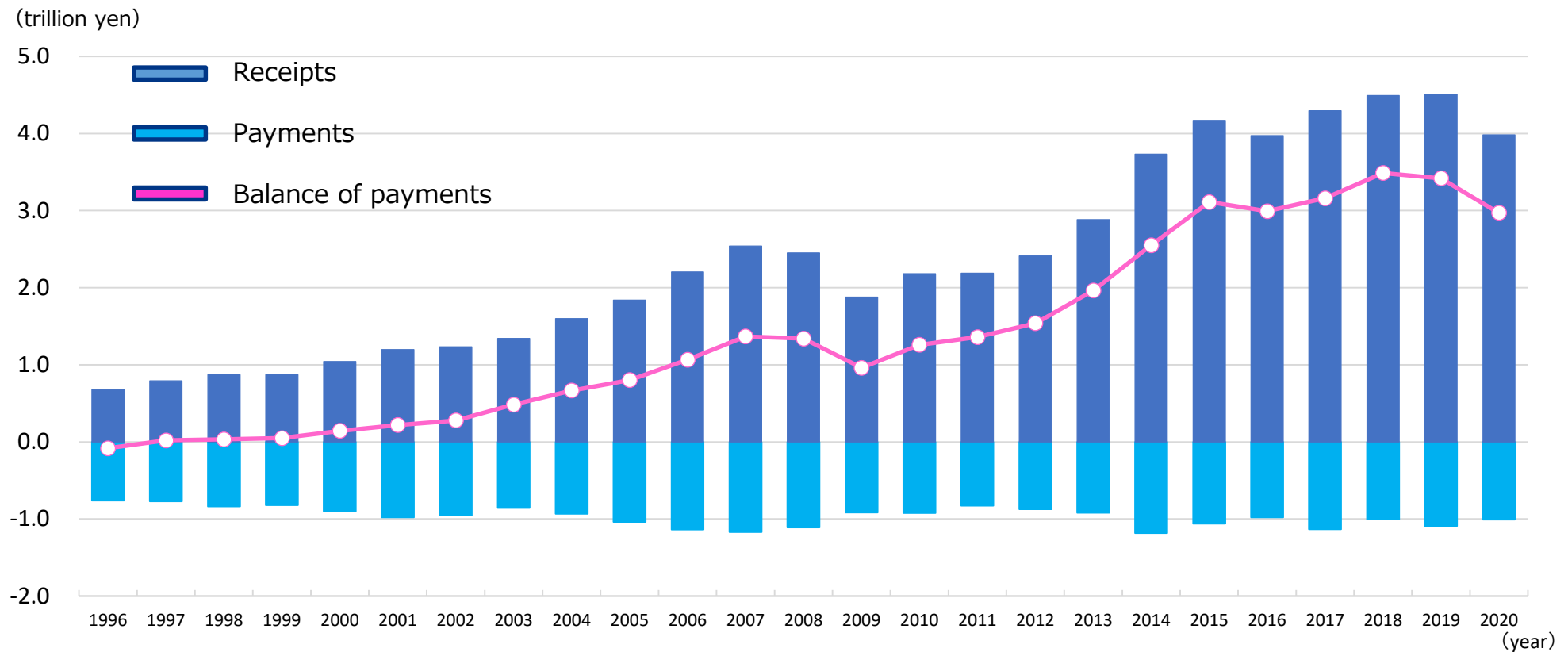
# Current State of IP Offices

# Changes in Social and Industrial Structures and the IP System



# IP rights generate national wealth.

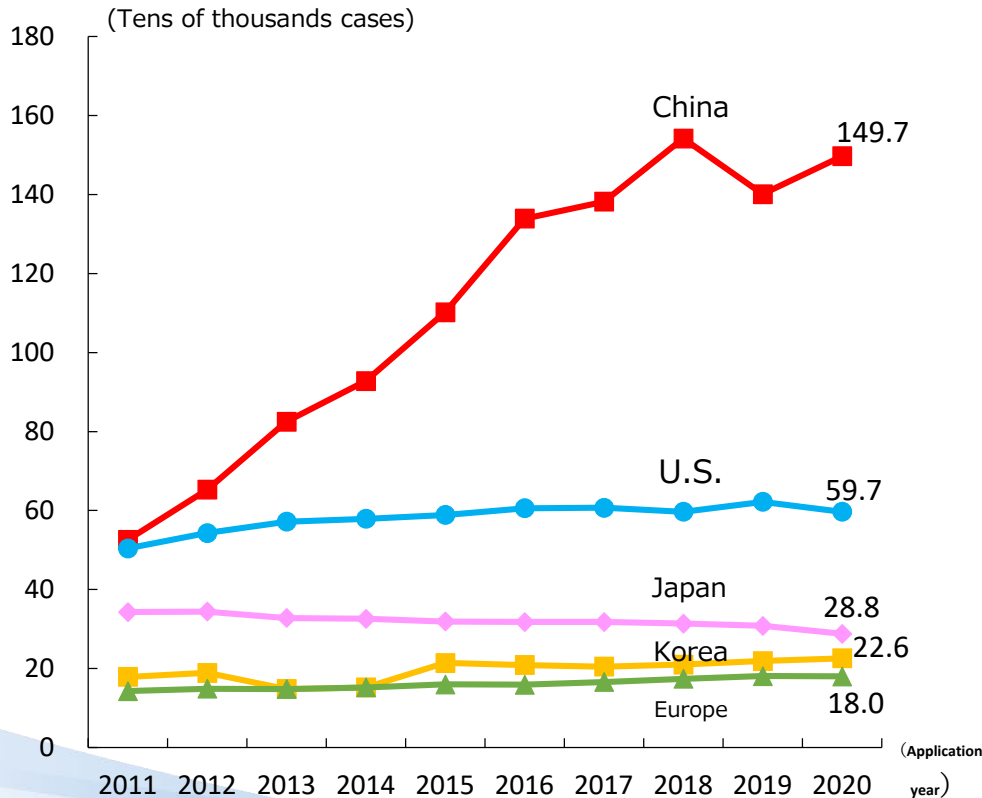
- The international balance of royalties in IP in Japan is a surplus of 3.0 trillion yen (27 billion USD)



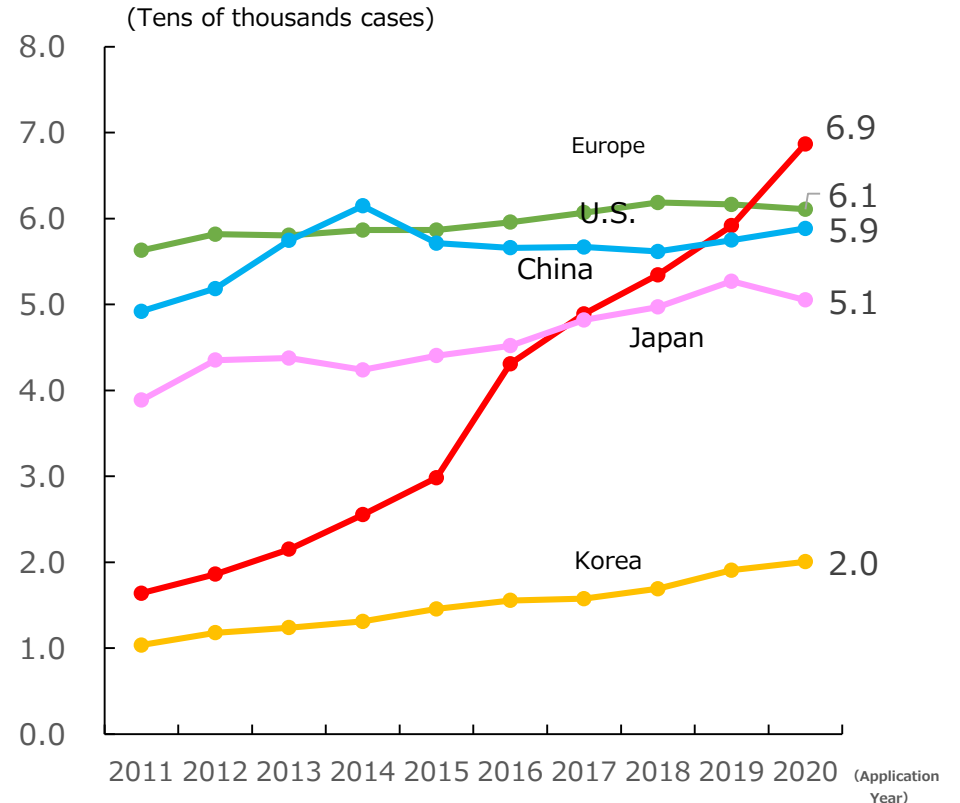
# Changes in the number of patent applications filed to the IP5

- The year in which the largest number of patent applications filed in Japan was in 2005. Japan currently receives the 3rd highest number of filings in the world.
- In contrast, PCT applications by Japanese companies are on the rise.

Number of patent applications filed to IP5



Number of PCT international applications by country of origin



## What is the role required of the JPO in the new era?

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- **Granting fast and high quality patent rights**
- **Implementing initiatives and providing support to promote innovation**
- **Flexibility adapting to the changing times**

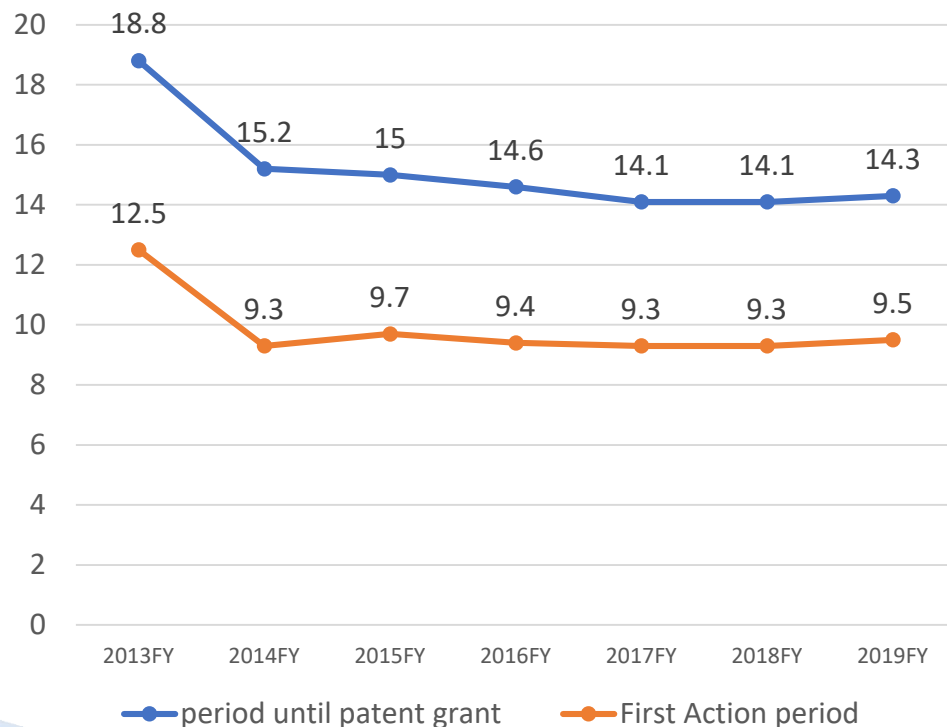
**Granting fast and high quality patent rights**

# Granting fast and high quality patent rights

## -Fast granting of rights-

- Speedy and high-quality patent examinations will improve companies' predictability of patent prosecution overseas.
- Highly transparency of examinations is crucial for the predictability.

**【Changes in period of first action and period until patents are granted】**



**【First action period and period until patents are granted by country】**

2018	First Action period	Period until patent grant
Japan	9.3 months	14.1 months
U.S.	15.6 months	23.8 months
Europe	4.4 months※	25.1 months
China	15.4 months	22.5 months
Korea	10.3 months	15.8 months

※The period of 1st stage examination at the European Patent Office is the median value from the filing date to the publication of the extended European search reports.

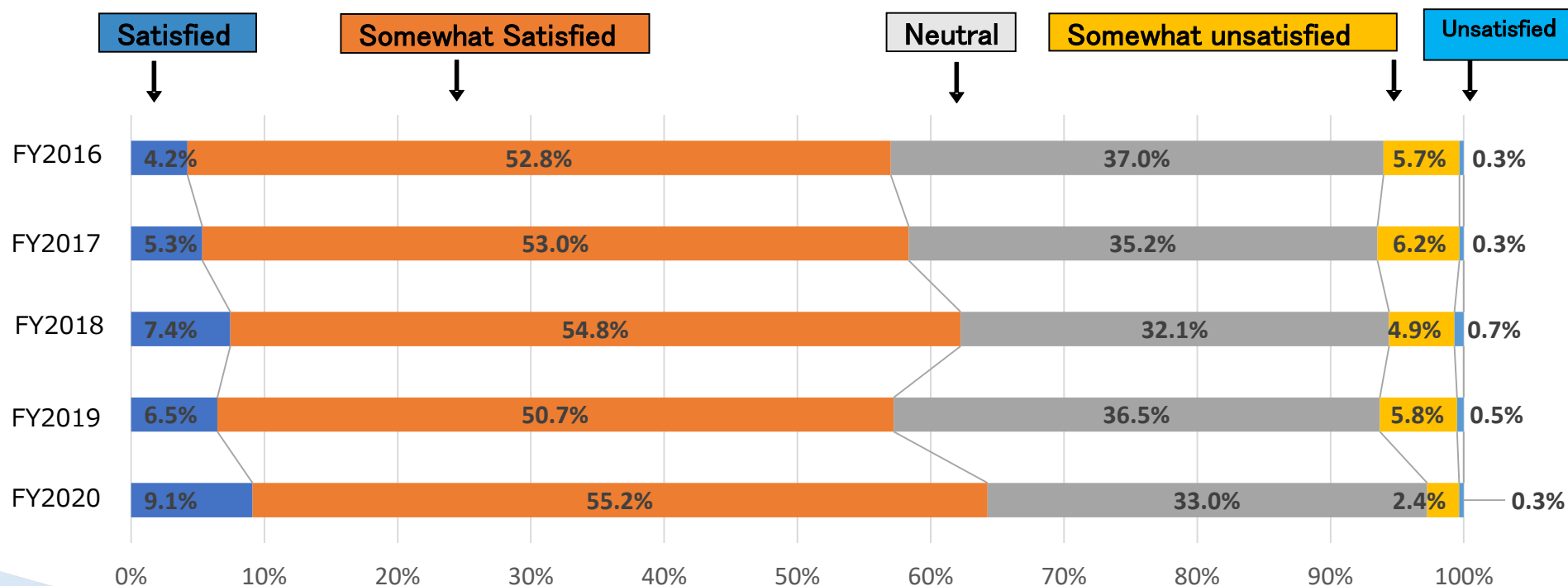


# Granting fast and high quality patent rights

## -Granting high quality patent rights-

- Conduct a detailed questionnaire on JPO's patent examination every year.
- The results of the questionnaire are published in order to improve transparency.
- The results are reported to and approved by an external committee

### Satisfaction level with overall quality of patent examinations



# Granting fast and high quality patent rights

## - Patent Examination Innovation -

- User's voice should be considered to provide the true "world's fastest and highest quality" examination required by users.
- "Patent Examination Innovation" further improvement of the efficiency and quality of examination work to meet user needs is implemented.

### Promoting innovation in patent examination

"Innovation" in prior art search

"Innovation" in drafting

Co-creation of patent rights with users



"Innovation" in search outsourcing

"Innovation" in quality control

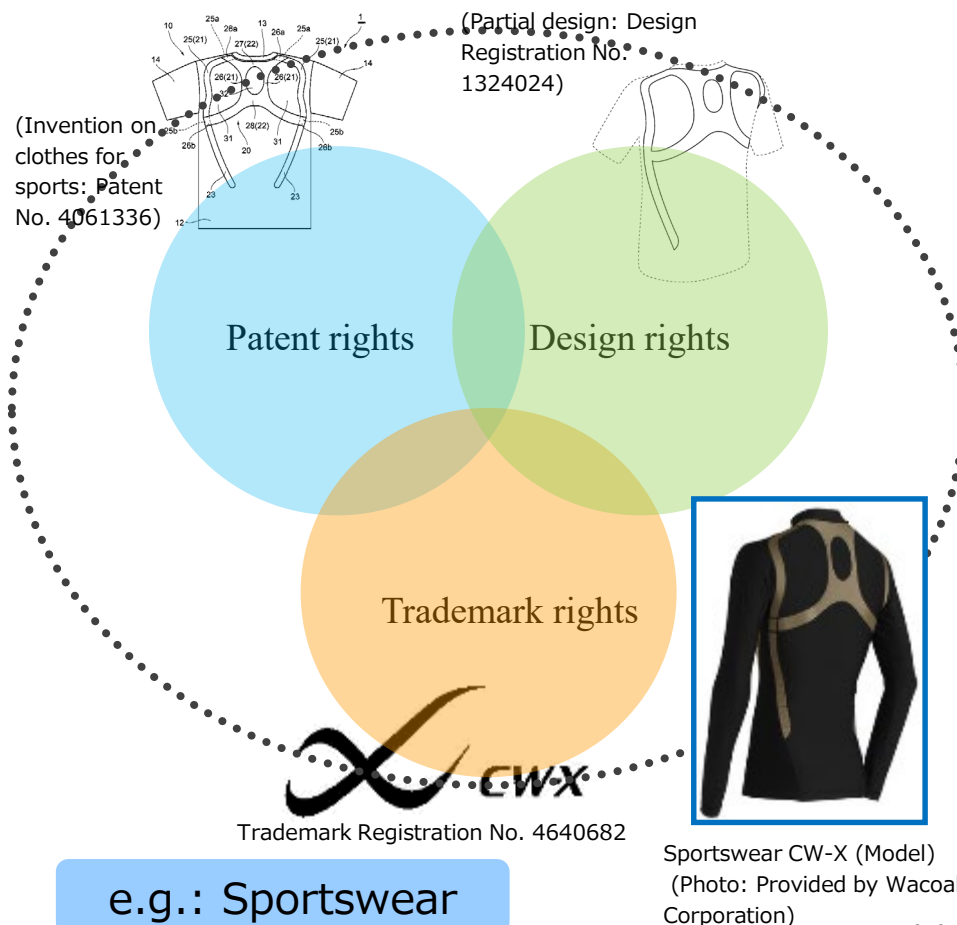
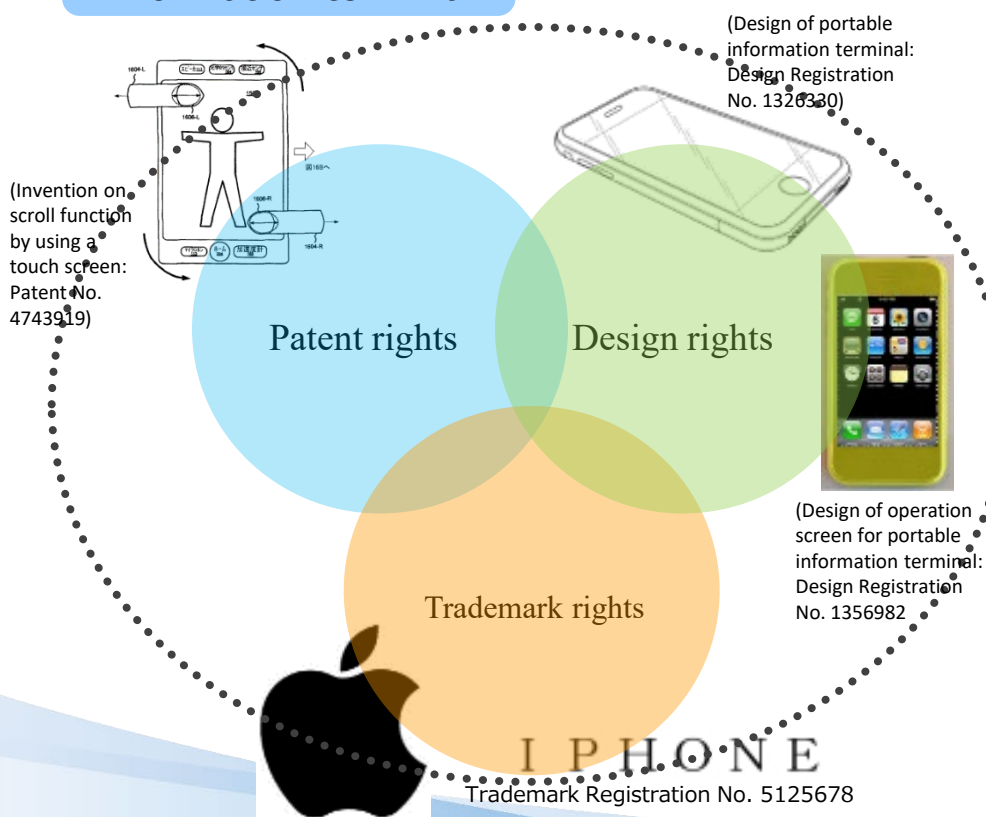
**Implementing initiatives and providing support  
to promote innovation**

# Implementing initiatives and providing support to promote innovation

## - Responding to Diversified Intellectual Property Strategies-

- The significance of design and branding is increasing globally.
- IP MIX, which means building IP portfolios that consist of patents, designs, and trademark rights is key to easily expanding business.

### Example: Portable information terminal



# Implementing initiatives and providing support to promote innovation

## -Collective examination of patents, designs, and trademarks-

- Applications filed to register products/services can be examined simultaneously on a cross-sectoral basis.
- Users can select the timing of examination in line with their business strategy.

### Users' Feedback

- Built strong and broad IP portfolio quickly and efficiently.
- Prosecute a group of related IP at the intended timing.

(e.g.) Electric Vehicles



Filing



Enterprises

Business strategy

Technical details

The JPO

Consultation by examiners in each technical field



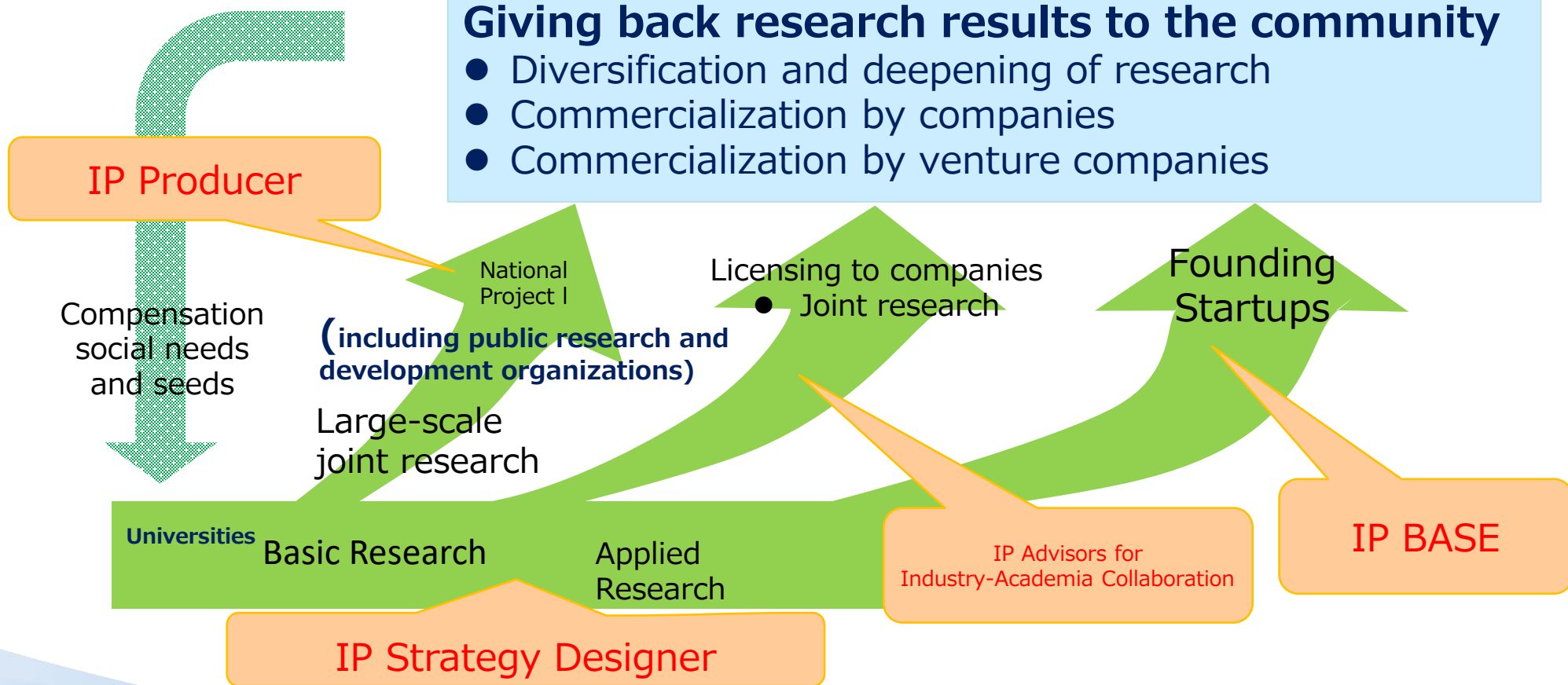
# Implementing initiatives and providing support to promote innovation

## -Support for universities and research institutes-

- Universities and research institutions serve as sources of innovation.
- The JPO sends IP experts to universities and research institutions to support IP activities such as IP management for commercializing products.

### Giving back research results to the community

- Diversification and deepening of research
- Commercialization by companies
- Commercialization by venture companies

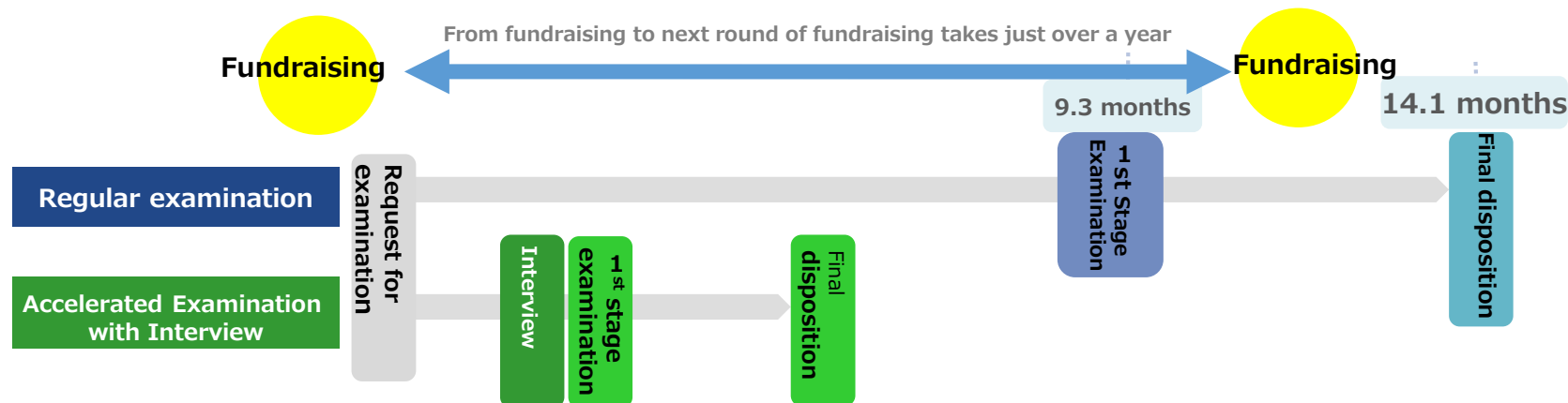


# Implementing initiatives and providing support to promote innovation

## -Startup Support -

### Speed

- For startups with little experience with IP, the JPO enhances communication and provides attentive support through accelerated examination conducted by interviews.



### Fee Reduction

- The fee for startups is reduced by **1/3!**

### Providing Information

- Strengthening the relationship between the venture community and IP experts through the IP portal site "**IP BASE**" and through IP events conducted for venture companies.
- **IP BASE** provides expert, IP searches and useful information for venture businesses.

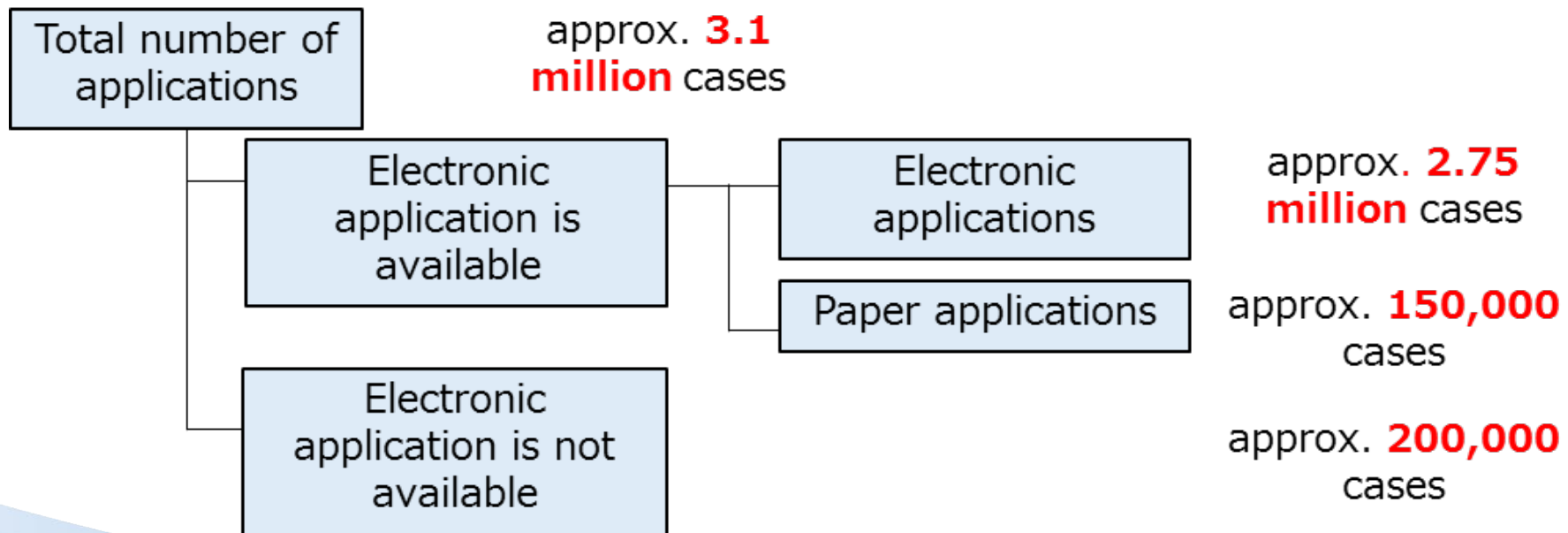
# **Flexibly Adapting to the Changing Times**



## Flexibly Adapting to the Changing Times

### -Promoting digitalization of procedures-

- Government needs to respond to the changes in society, which Covid-19 has brought about
- In Japan, the cabinet made its "Declaration to Be the World's Most Advanced IT Nation: Basic Plan for the Advancement of Public and Private Sector Data Utilization (New IT Strategy)".
- JPO also implemented a plan to digitize filings/applications as much as possible by promoting digital transformation in the private sector.



# Flexibly Adapting to the Changing Times

## -Response to and support for Digital Society-

**Digitization  
of application  
procedures**

FY2020

Compile  
promotion  
plan

Phased implementation

**Development of  
remote  
examination**

Target for FY2026

Development of remote access and telecommuting systems

System design and development

Full-scale  
implementation

## Flexibly Adapting to the Changing Times

### –Support for the development of IP infrastructure overseas

- Support for strengthening the infrastructure of the IP system overseas through a wide range of human-resource-development initiatives and support for public awareness

#### Promoting Public Awareness

- Raising awareness to prevent damages from counterfeits
- Dispatch of IP attache to each regions

#### Support for HR Development

- Cooperation Project for HR Development
- Utilizing WIPO Japan Funds-in-Trust

#### In cooperation with foreign IP offices

- **PPH (Patent Prosecution Highway)**

Contributes to early patent prosecution, accelerating the rate of grant of patents, and reducing costs by utilize JPO's examination results.

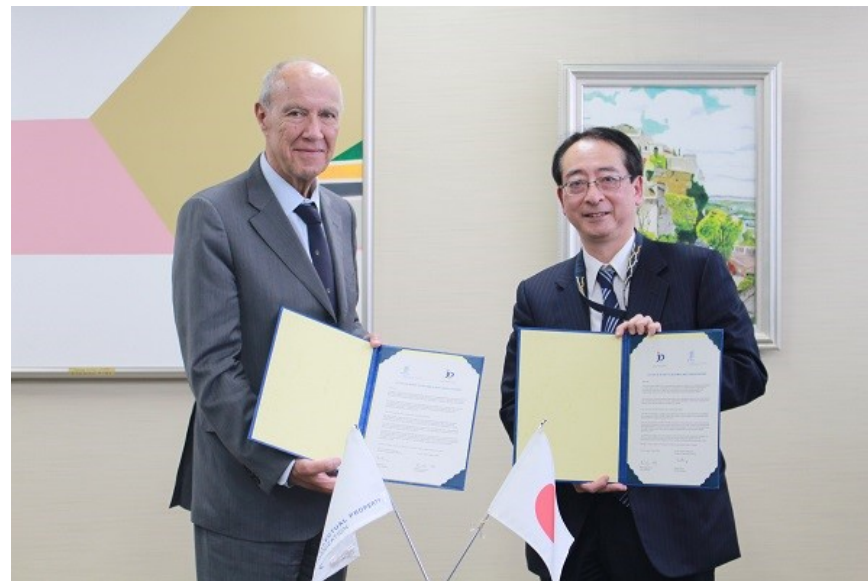
- **CPG (Cooperation on Patent Grant)**

Contributes to the acceleration of establishing rights by utilizing the examination results in Japan.

# Flexibly Adapting to the Changing Times

## -International Contribution through Intellectual Property -

- JPO joined WIPO GREEN as a partner on February 19, 2020.
- Organized a symposium on WIPO GREEN initiatives on June 18, 2021. 564 IP experts from 43 countries attended online.
- Provided support through the WIPO Funds-in-Trust Japan Industrial Property Global.
  - Started cooperation to promote matching needs for environmental technologies.



**Signing Ceremony for Partner Affiliation**

Collaboration with WIPO GREEN

Supporting  
green innovation  
[wipo.int/green](http://wipo.int/green)

The Japan Patent Office (JPO) participates as a partner in the online platform WIPO GREEN to promote the utilization of green technologies, which is run by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). The JPO will work together with WIPO to continuously strive to facilitate the spread of green technologies in the world.

Contribution to the SDGs by WIPO

WIPO, as a special agency of the United Nations (UN), intends to contribute to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by making use of intellectual property.



the dedicated WIPO GREEN page

**Thank you for your kind attention**

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