# The Role and Practices of KIPO to Promote the PCT System - As RO, DO/EO -

2012.5.

Baek-moon Seong

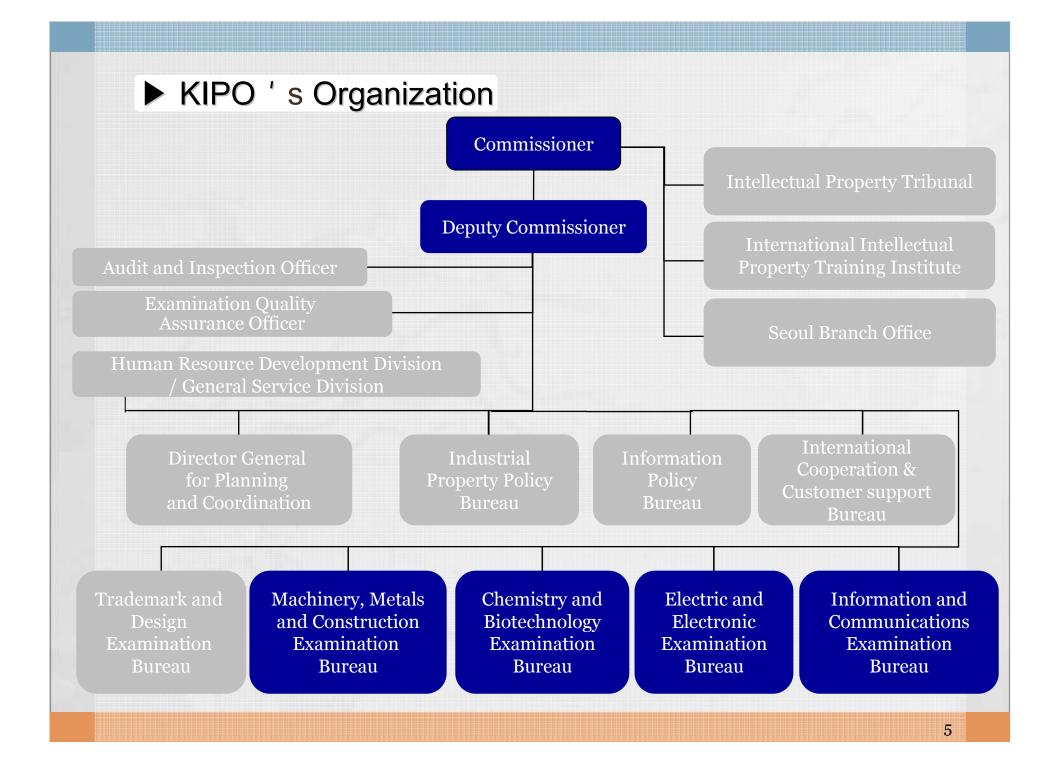
Patent Examination Cooperation Division Electric & Electronic Exam. Bureau K.I.P.O. This presentation will highlight the following topics:

- I. Introduction of KIPO (Korean Intellectual Patent Office)
- II. KIPO's History and Role in the Framework of the PCT
- III. KIPO acting as Receiving Office (RO)
- IV. KIPO acting as Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO)

# Introduction of KIPO (Korean Intellectual Patent Office)

### Introduction of KIPO

- KIPO's History
  - 1949 Established as an external bureau of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry under the name of Patent Bureau
  - 1977 Established as an external administration of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry under the name of Korean Industrial Property Office (KIPO)
  - 1998 Moved the main office from Seoul to Daejeon
  - 2000 Renamed to Korean Intellectual Property Office
  - 2006 Changed the legal status of KIPO to a central executive agency under the Act on Establishment and Operation of Executive Agencies.



### KIPO's Scope and Staff

- Patent, Utility Model, Industrial Design, Trademark, Trade secrets, Semiconductor chip layout design
- Staff: 1,576 (2011. 12.)
  - Examiners: 866

(Patent Examiner: 712, Trademark & Design Examiner: 154)

- KIPO's Organization of Computerization, Filing and Examination
  - > Information Policy Bureau

Develop, manage, and maintain automation systems

Plans comprehensive automation of intellectual property administration

Receive and formality examine IPR applications and intermediate documents

Build and manage intellectual property information and documentation

Promote international cooperation on patent information systems

#### KIPO's Organization of Computerization, Filing and Examination

➤ International Cooperation and Customer Support Bureau

(Application Division)

Formality Examination of Applications in IPRs

Formality examination of patents, utility models, industrial designs and trademarks applications and other administrative documents

Management of Application System

Management of application procedure and improvement of application system Management of file wrappers

(International Application Division)

Formality Examination of International Applications under PCT Formality examination of Request, demand and other administrative documents under the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

(Registration Division)

Registration of patents, utility models, industrial designs and trademarks

- KIPO's Organization of Computerization, Filing and Examination
  - > Trademark and Design Examination Bureau (9 Div.)
  - Machinery, Metal and Construction Examination Bureau (9 Div.)
  - Chemistry and Biotechnology Examination Bureau (8 Div.)
  - ➤ Electric and Electronic Examinations Bureau (9 Div.)
  - ➤ Information Communications Examination Bureau (6 Div.)

KIPO's History and Role in the Framework of the PCT

### History of PCT in KIPO

- Joined Paris Convention (May 1980)
- Joined PCT (May 1984, 36<sup>th</sup> contracting State)
- Started receiving PCT applications (August 1984)
- KIPO was designated as an ISA/IPEA (Sep. 1997)
- KIPO Started its work as an ISA/IPEA (Dec. 1999)
- Korean was adopted as an PCT Publication
   Language (Sep. 2007)

#### Role of the KIPO in the framework of the PCT

### Receiving Office

competent only if applicant is national or a foreigner who has residence or the address of office within korea

### o International Authority:

- International Searching Authority (ISA) and International Preliminary Examining Authority (IPEA)
- > PH(02), VN(02), ID(03), MN(04), SG(04), NZ(05), US(06), MY(06), LK(09), AU(09), TH('09), CL('10), PE('11) [13 countries], provided the applicant has selected KIPO as ISA or IPEA

### Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO)

### Outline of the PCT procedure

Filing of a first application at a national office

Filing of a single
"international
application" at a
single "receiving
Office" designating all
PCT states

National **grants**by "designated
Offices" in/for
PCT states

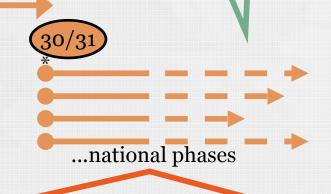
OPriority period 12

(month)

International phase

International processing including centralized search, examination and publication

added value, improving and facilitating...



...subsequent processing in..

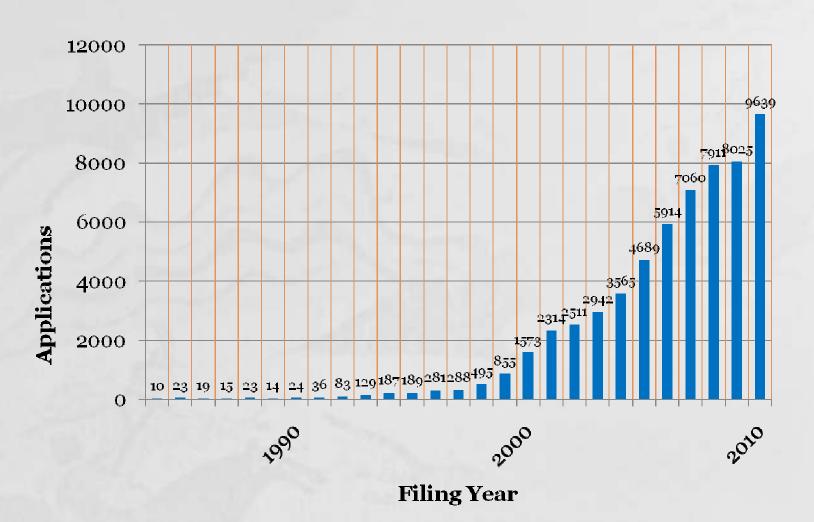
<sup>\* 20/21</sup>m for CH,LU,TZ,UG if no demand filed within 19 m

### KIPO acting as Receiving Office (RO)

### KIPO acting as Receiving Office

- Started in 1984
- Filing on paper or in electronic form
  - ➤ Direct or by post
  - ✓ Request written by PCT-SAFE EASY MODE (reduction of 100 Swiss francs): on paper together with a copy in electronic form of the request and the abstract
  - ➤ E-filing:
    - ✓ Online filing using *PCT SAFE* (reduction of 300 Swiss francs)
- Languages
- The description and claims must be drafted in either Korean, English, Japanese
- Competent ISAs
  - KR, AT, AU, JP (only International applications filed in Japanese)

### Trends of International applications filed at the RO/KR

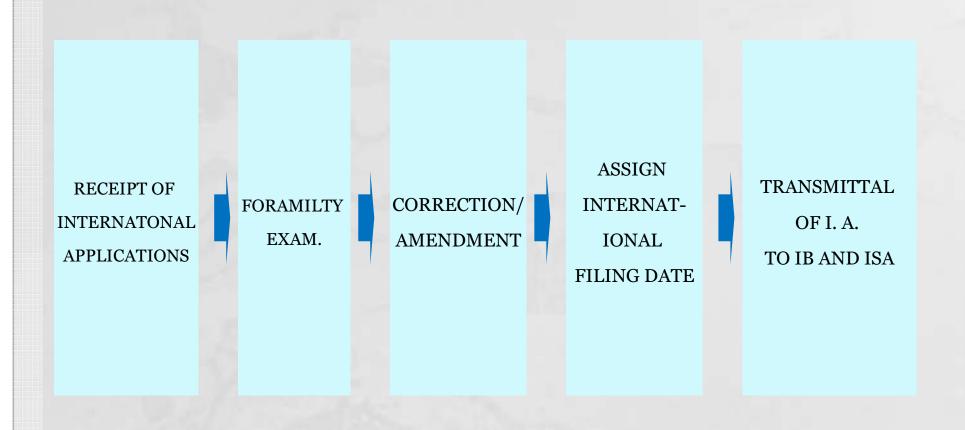


### International applications filed in Languages at the RO/KR

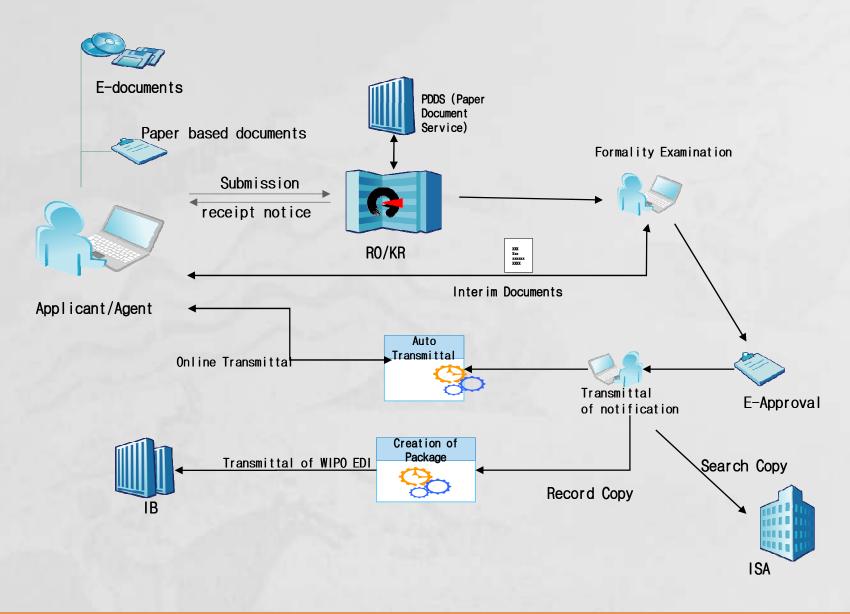
	<b>'84</b>	<b>'85</b>	<b>'86</b>	•••	<b>'05</b>	<b>'</b> 06	<b>'0</b> 7	<b>'08</b>	<b>'09</b>	<b>'10</b>
Korean	-	-	-	•••	2,856	3,714	4,558	4,982	5,800	7,336
English	6	11	15	•••	1,833	2,204	2,505	2,928	2,226	2,303
Japanese	4	12	5	•••	1	1	0	3	0	0
Total	10	23	20	•••	4,690 (61%)	5,919 (63% )	7,063 (65%)	7,913 (63% )	8,026 (72%)	9,639 (76%)

() is rate Korean to Total

### Overview of the formality examination process at the RO/KR

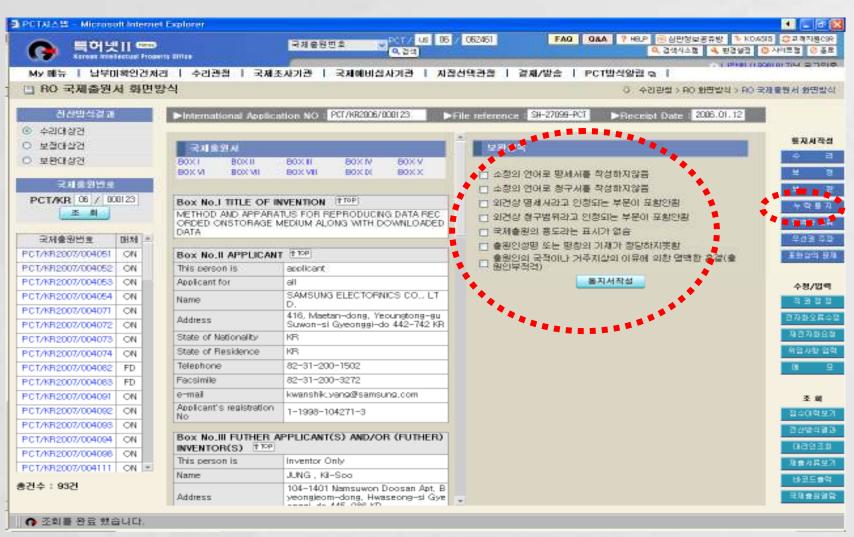


#### Overview of RO Work Process



12 / 20

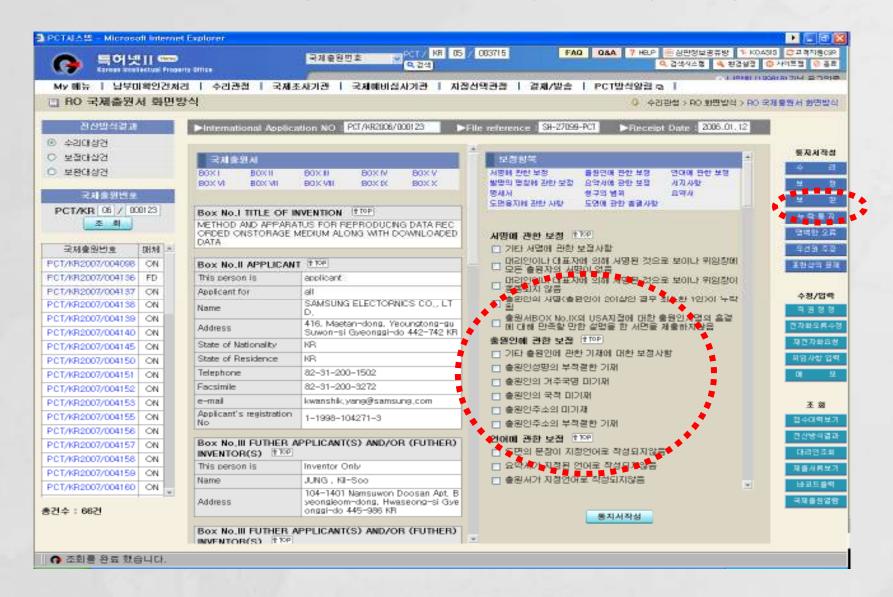
### Screen for checking whether or not the requirements (Art. 11) of assigning an international filing date is met



### KIPO acting as Receiving Office

- Upon receipt of a request for an International application the RO checks if the application
  - Has indicated that it is to be treated as a PCT application
  - Has indicated the applicant's name / identity
    - should be national/a foreigner who has residence or the address of office within korea
  - Contains a Description
  - Contains at least one Claim
- · If these conditions are met the RO will allocate a
  - DATE OF FILING (DFIL)

#### Screen for checking whether or not any defects (Art. 14) exist



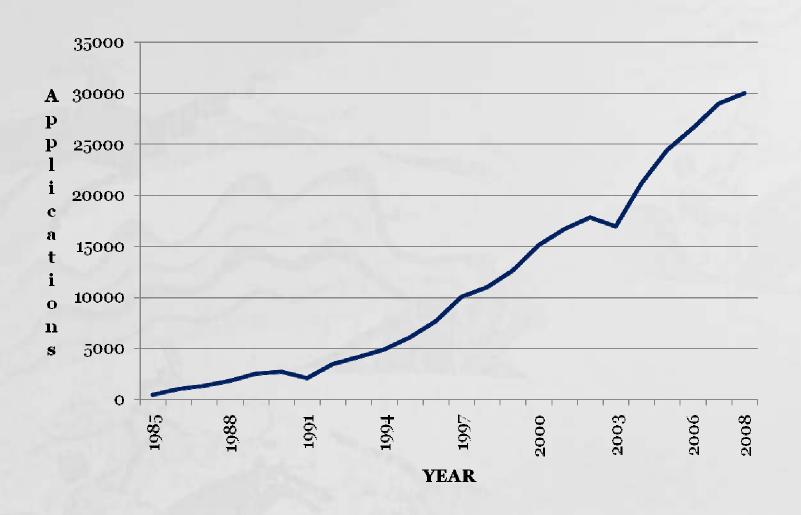
### KIPO acting as Receiving Office

- Invites the applicant to correct any deficiencies within prescribed time limits, for instance:
  - Signature
  - Indications concerning applicant
  - Language
  - Title
  - Text or drawing matters

- Forwards the Application to
  - the International Searching Authority
  - International Bureau of WIPO

## KIPO acting as Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO)

### Trends of patent applications by PCT national phase entry



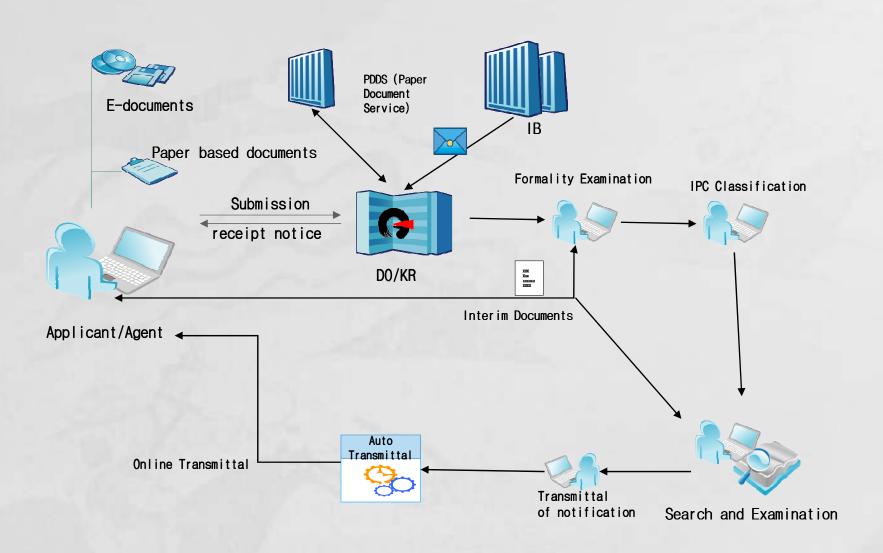
### Number of Patent applications by PCT/ PARIS/Domestic

	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987
Foreign (PCT Route)	J-/2	-	H	<u>_</u>	418	976	1,277
Foreign (Paris Route)	3,984	4,368	4,795	6,619	7,466	8,142	10,914
Domestic (share)	1,319 (24.9% )	1,556 (26.3% )	1,599 (25%)	2,014 (23.3% )	2,703 (25.5% )	3,641 (28.5% )	4,871 (28.5% )
Total	5,303	5,924	6,394	8,633	10,587	12,759	17,062

### Number of Patent applications by PCT/ PARIS/Domestic

	1985	1986	1987	~	2006	2007	2008
Foreign (PCT Route)	418	976	1,277	~	26,635	29,023	30,048
Foreign (Paris Route)	7,466	8,142	10,914	~	14,078	13,545	11,459
Domestic (share)	2,703 (25.5%)	3,641 (28.5% )	4,871 (28.5% )	?	125,476 (75.5%)	128,143 (75.1%)	126,397 (75.3%)
Total	10,587	12,759	17,062	?	166,189	170,711	167,904

### Overview of DO Work Process



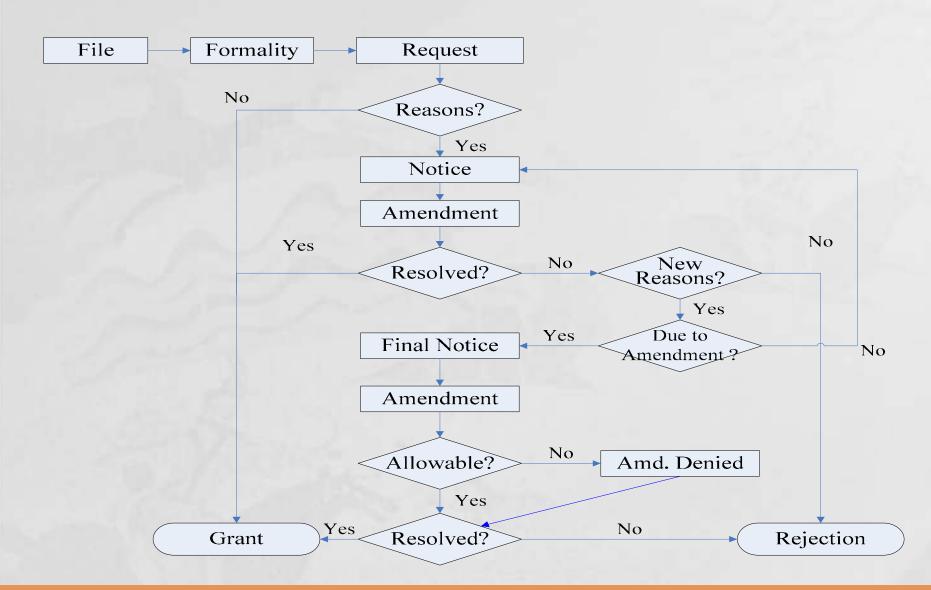
### KR National Phase entry requirements by PCT

- Time limit: 31 months from the priority date (under Chapter I and Chapter II)
- Language of the translation: Korean
- Filing and examination fees etc: basically identical to those due for a national direct filing
  - > Reductions of the national fee are also applicable
- Publication of the translated application

### KR National Phase entry requirements by PCT

- Appointment of an agent if the applicant is not a resident in the Republic of Korea
- Priority document: If not submitted or available during the international phase, invite the applicant to furnish the priority document
- Translation into Korean of the priority document is required only when it is needed for the purpose of examination or trial (with effect from January 1, 2006)

### Flow Chart of KR National Phase Exam.



### **KR National Phase Examination**

- Similar to the examination of national direct filings
- Request for examination is required
- ➤ Within 5 years from international filing date
- Consider the International Search Report and Written Opinion
- Additional Search

## Thank you very much for your attention

**Baekmoon Seong Patent Examination Cooperation Division** 

**KIPO** 

tel.: + 82 42 481 8153

e-mail: seongryu@kipo.go.kr