

# **IP Support for SMEs in Japan**

**2019**  
**Japan Patent Office**

- 1. Significance of IP Support for SMEs**
- 2. Relationship between SMEs and IP in Japan**
- 3. Introduction of JPO's IP support policies for SMEs**

# 1-1. Significance of IP Support for SMEs



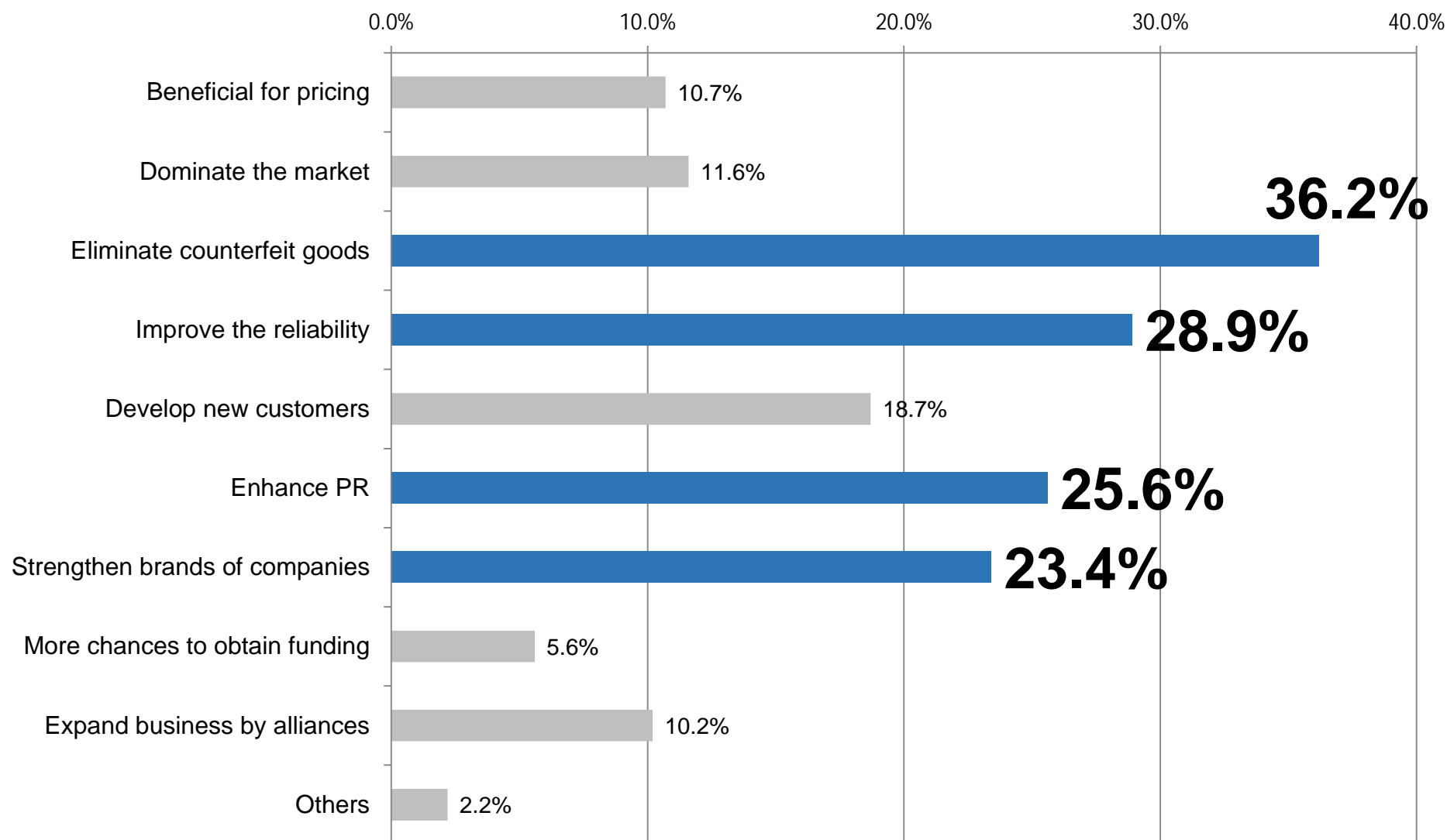
**Economic  
Development of the  
Country**

**Development of  
SMEs to Revitalize  
Local Economies**

**Broadening  
the Base for IP**

# 1-2. Significance of IP Support for SMEs

## Q. What kind of effects were obtained as a result of IP activities?



SOURCE : Research by the JPO

# 1-3. Significance of IP Support for SMEs

## Best Practices by Utilizing IP

## Number of employees

30 or less

31 ~ 100

101 or more

### Direct effects

- Companies were able to take prominent position in terms of competitions with others
- Companies were able to protect position in terms of competitions with others

67%

76%

81%

49%

59%

71%

### Indirect effects

- Companies were highly evaluated for their technological strengths to further develop sales channels
- Companies formed a business tie-up with other companies
- Companies have actively been having PR opportunities

65%

58%

56%

33%

23%

18%

54%

46%

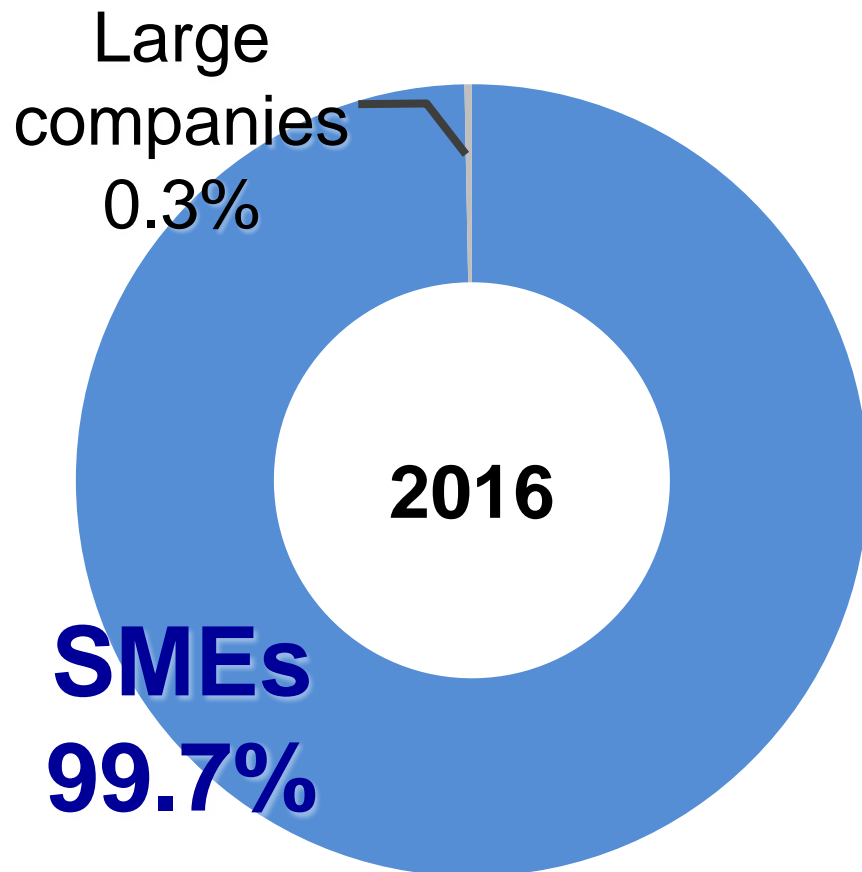
42%

Source: To Get along with Intellectual Property (March 2012)

- Companies with brilliant future have something special. The Collection of Hints in KANSAI

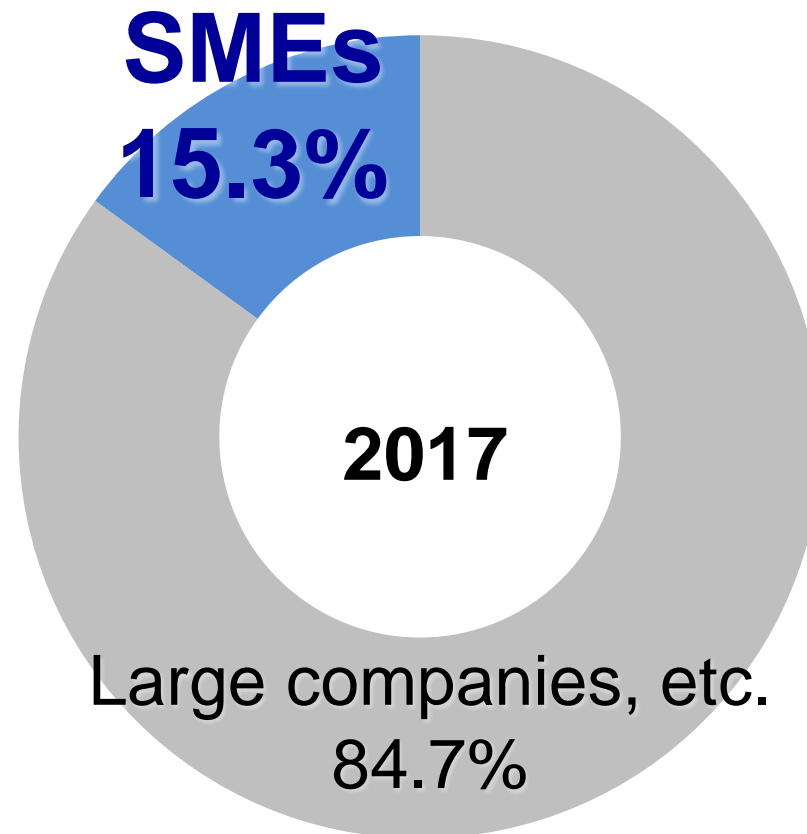
# 2-1. Relationship between SMEs and IP in Japan

Ratio of SMEs to All Companies (2016)



Total number of Japanese companies:  
About 3.59 million

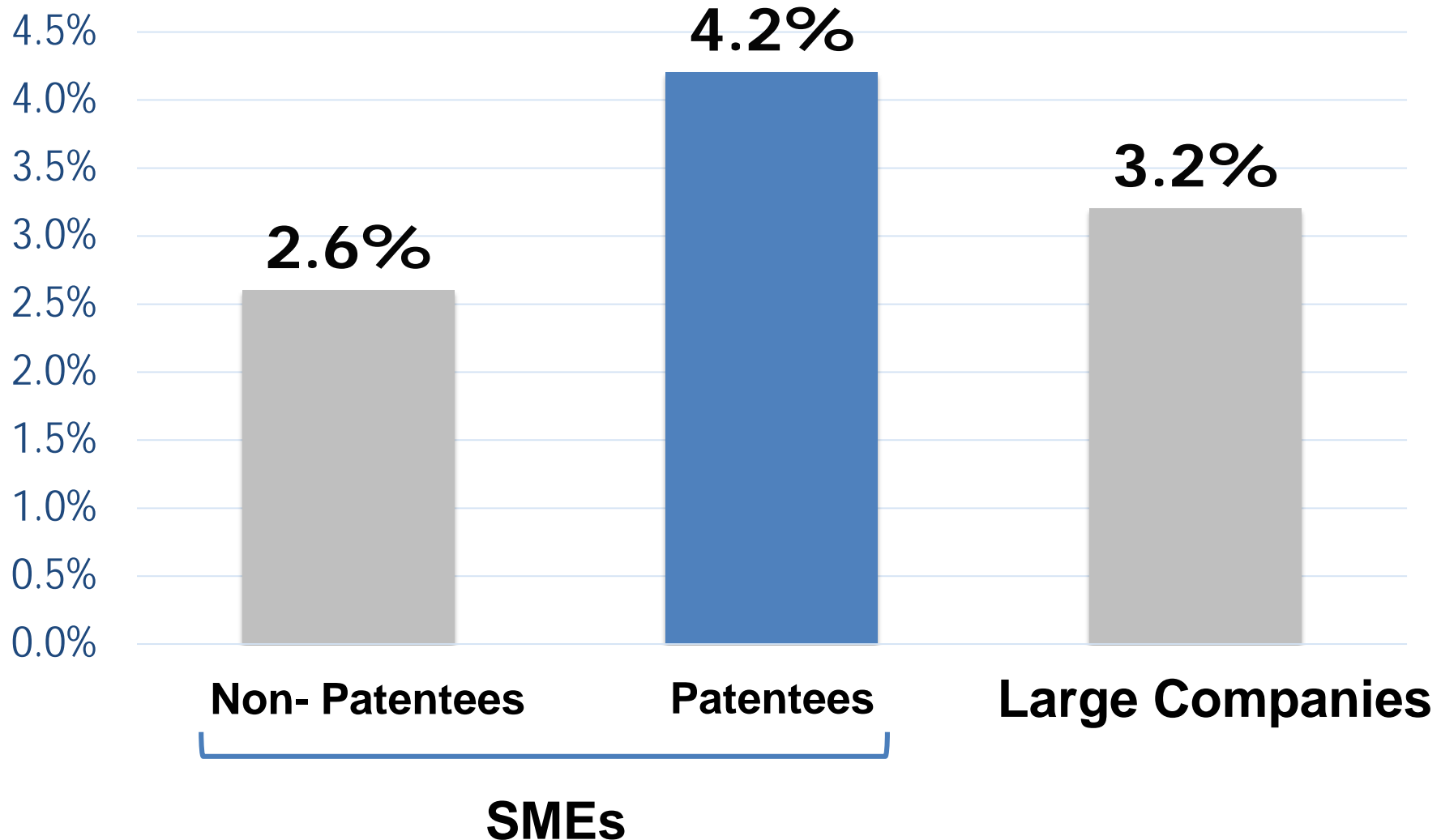
Percentage of Applicants (2017)



Total number of patent applications filed at the  
JPO by Japanese users:  
About 0.26 million

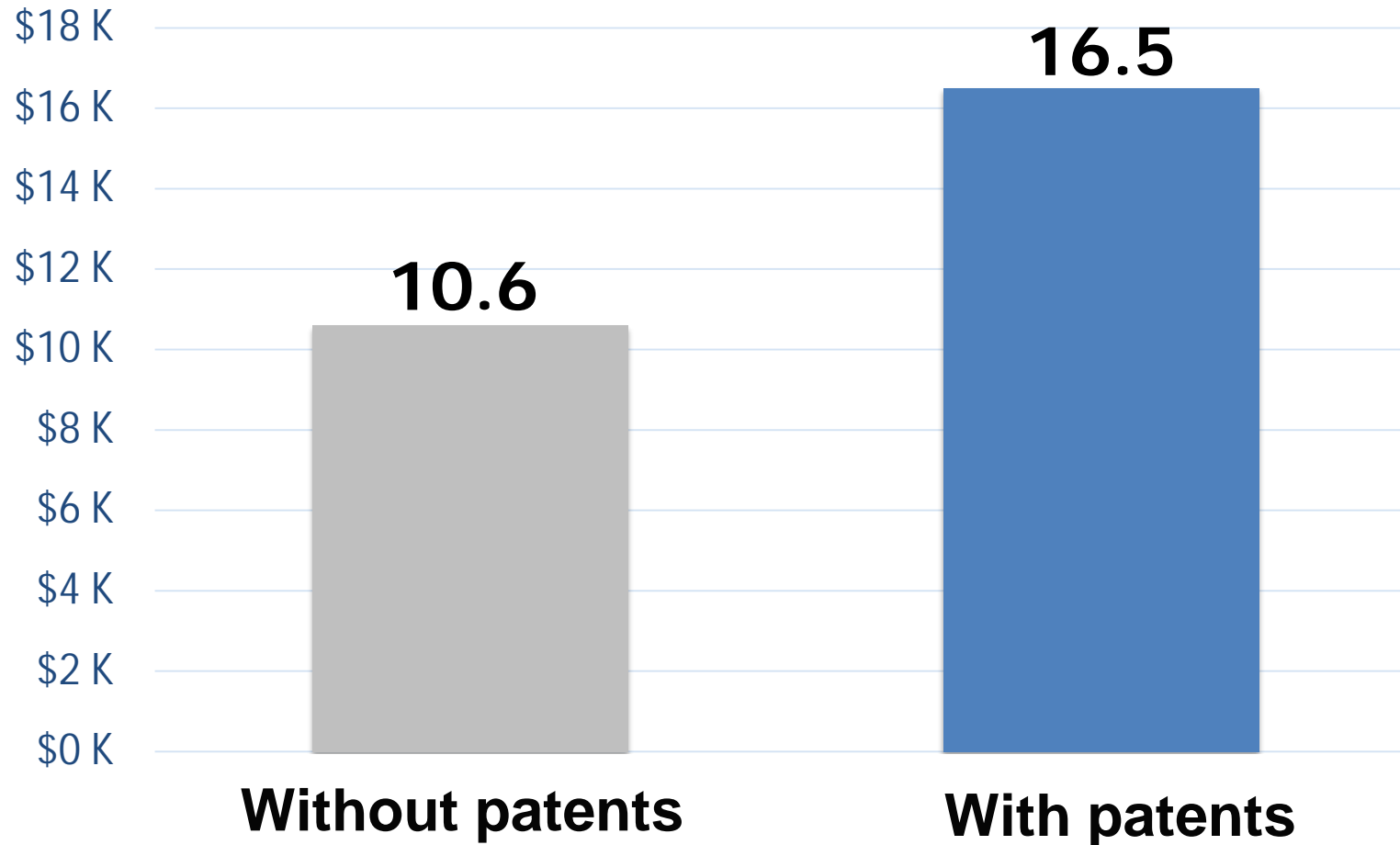
## 2-2. Relationship between SMEs and IP in Japan

### Correlation between Holding Patents and Operating Profit on Sales



## 2-3. Relationship between SMEs and IP in Japan

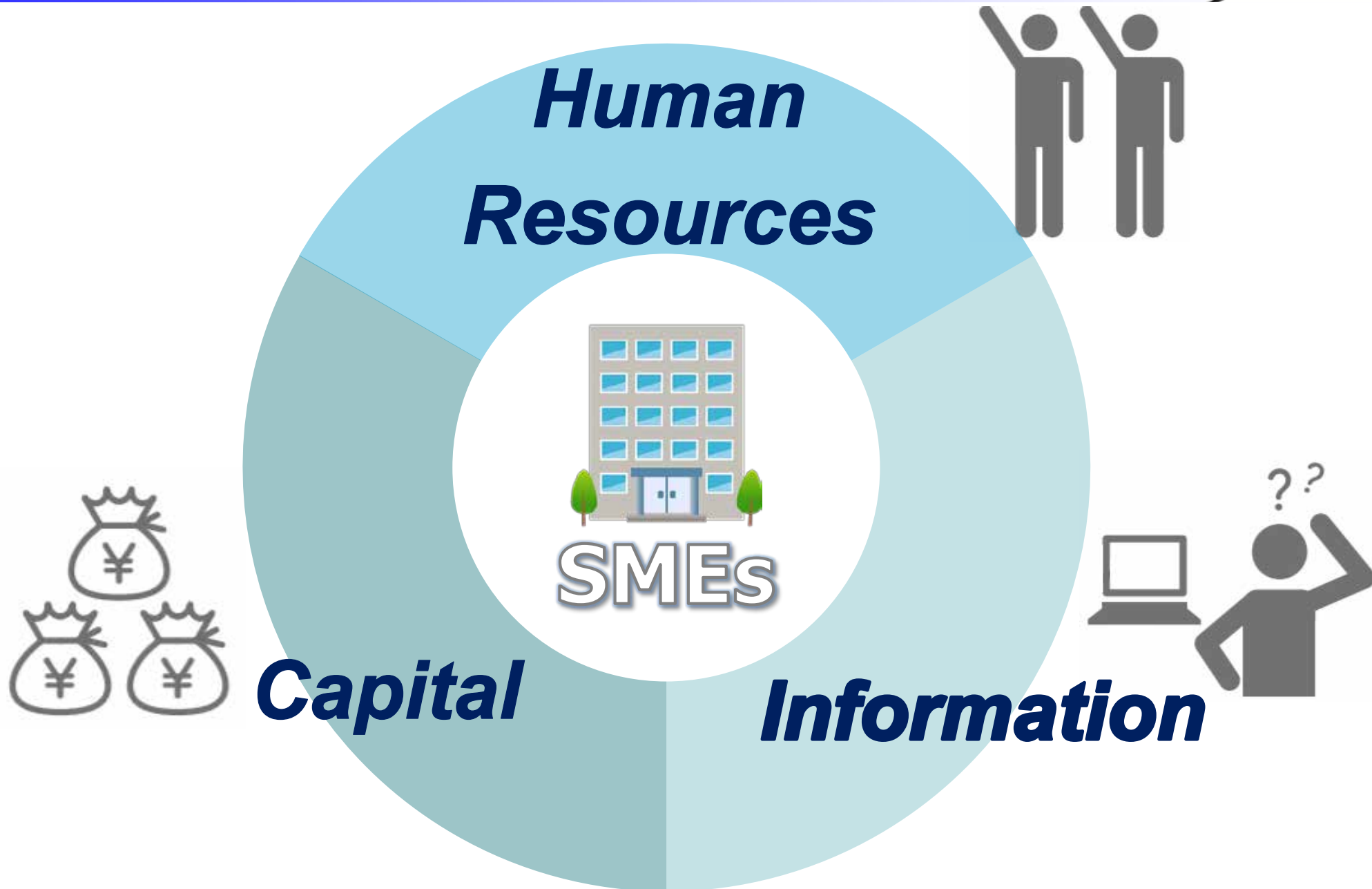
### Patents Owned by SMEs and Operating Income per Employee



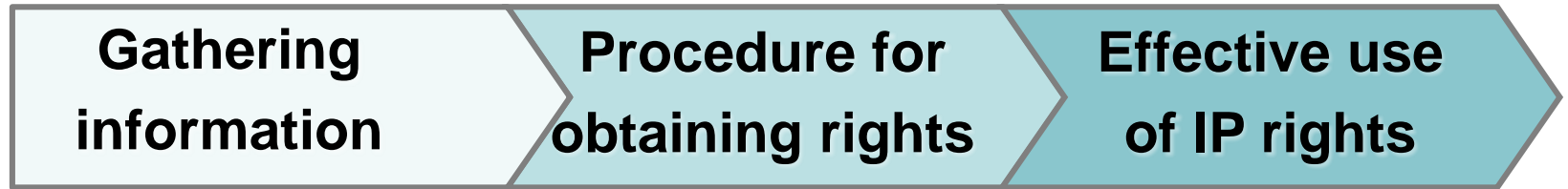
Calculated as \$1 = JPY100



# 3-1. Three Viewpoints to Support SMEs



## 3-2. Overview of IP Support for SMEs Provided by the JPO



**Human Resources**

**Intellectual Property Comprehensive Help Desk**

**Individual Visits to SMEs by IPRs Specialists**

**Information**

**Providing Information on IP (through J-PlatPat)**

**IP Seminars**

**Circuit Japan Patent Office**

**Capital**

**Promoting IP-backed Financing**

**Insurance Program for Overseas IP Litigation costs**

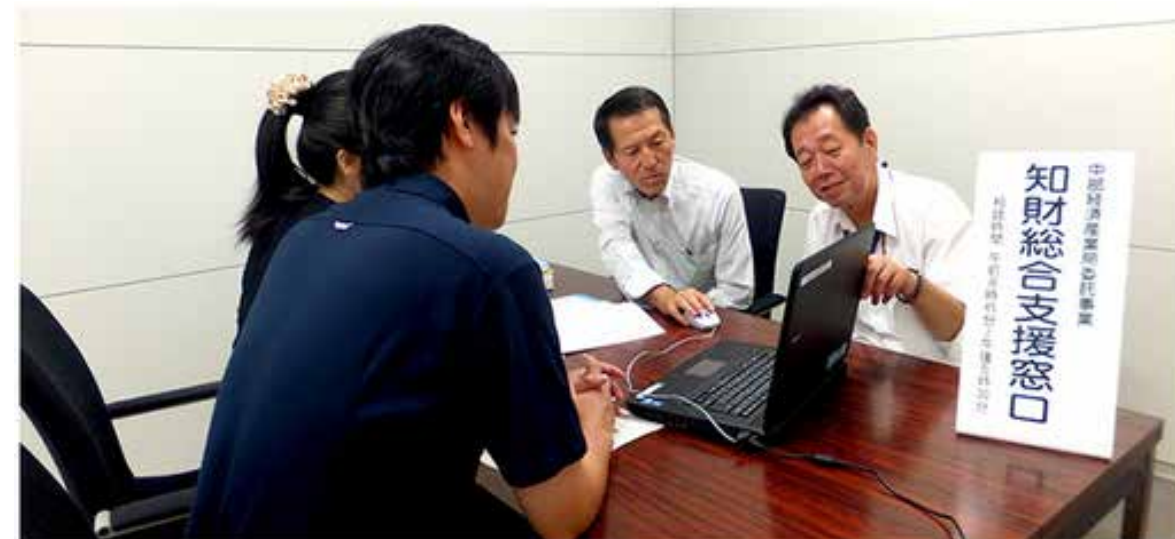
## 3-3. IP Comprehensive Help Desk

### Activities in FY2018

n The number of consultations at IP Comprehensive Help Desk across Japan was...

103,000

n Consultation services by specialists, such as lawyers and patent attorneys



Giving advice about IP issues at every stage of development:

Ideas  
R&D

IP protection;  
Acquisition of IPRs

Commercialization

Overseas  
development

# 3-4. Individual Visits to SMEs by IPR Specialists

## Sending IPR Specialists for SMEs



## Publishing Compilation of Best Practices of SMEs Utilizing IP

- ü Uploaded on JPO website
- ü Free distribution at Helpdesk





# 3-6. Providing Information on IP to SMEs

## SMEs need an Easy-to-use, Simplified Portal

### I Top page of J-PlatPat



Help desk  
(weekdays 9:00-21:00 JST)  **(+81)3-3588-2751**  
 [helpdesk@j-platpat.inpit.go.jp](mailto:helpdesk@j-platpat.inpit.go.jp)

[Japanese](#) | [Site Map](#) | [Help list](#)  
 National Center for Industrial Property Information and Training



Patents/Utility Models


Designs

Trademark

Trials & Appeals


[Home](#) > Simple Search

 Simple Search 


Input keywords or numbers of desired patents/utility models, designs or trademarks. For search targets, click  [here](#).

For a detailed search by classification, date, etc., use appropriate services listed in the menu.

All law categories  Patents/Utility Models  Designs  Trademark

Automatic narrowing 

|Ex1: 人工知能 Ex2: 2019-00012X

 Search

<https://www.j-platpat.inpit.go.jp/web/all/top/BTmTopEnglishPage>

## Activities in 2018

### **(1) Introductory Level Seminars**

59 times

Held nationwide

7,476 people attended

### **(2) Advanced Level Seminars**

57 times

Held in 21 cities

8,249 people attended

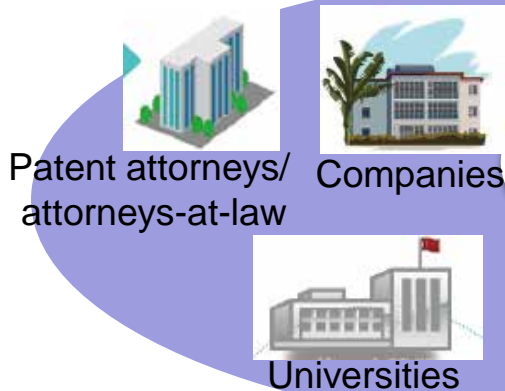


# 3-8. Circuit Japan Patent Office

IP seminars

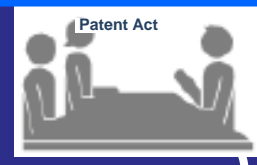
Intensive interview examinations

Regions



IP seminar

On-site interview examination



Held concurrently

JPO



- ü Conduct face-to-face interviews with applicants throughout Japan
- ü Better understand companies by visiting their factories and/or directly checking articles embodying their inventions

Held in 10 cities in FY2018



# 3-9. Accelerated Examination System

All SMEs (Japanese and foreign) can undergo accelerated examinations for patent applications

## Accelerated Examination

Applicants can acquire rights earlier than normal.

Waiting Period of Patent Examination  
11 months → 2.3 months (in 2018)

Request examinations

Start examinations

## On-site Interview Examination



JPO



SME

# 3-10. Program to Reduce Fees for Patents, etc.

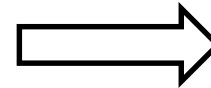
- The JPO revised its fee schedule to reduce patent and examination fees 50% for all SMEs (Before the revision, only limited SMEs were eligible for 50% fee reduction); and
- Procedures needed to apply for fee reductions were also simplified.

Before the Revision

After the Revision

Scope of SMEs eligible for fee reduction:

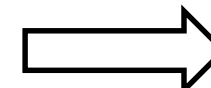
Limited to certain SMEs, such as deficit companies and R&D oriented companies



All SMEs

Procedures for applying for fee reductions:

Complicated  
(Need to create and submit documents certifying that they are eligible for having their fees reduced)



Simplified  
(No need to submit any certificates)

Fees:

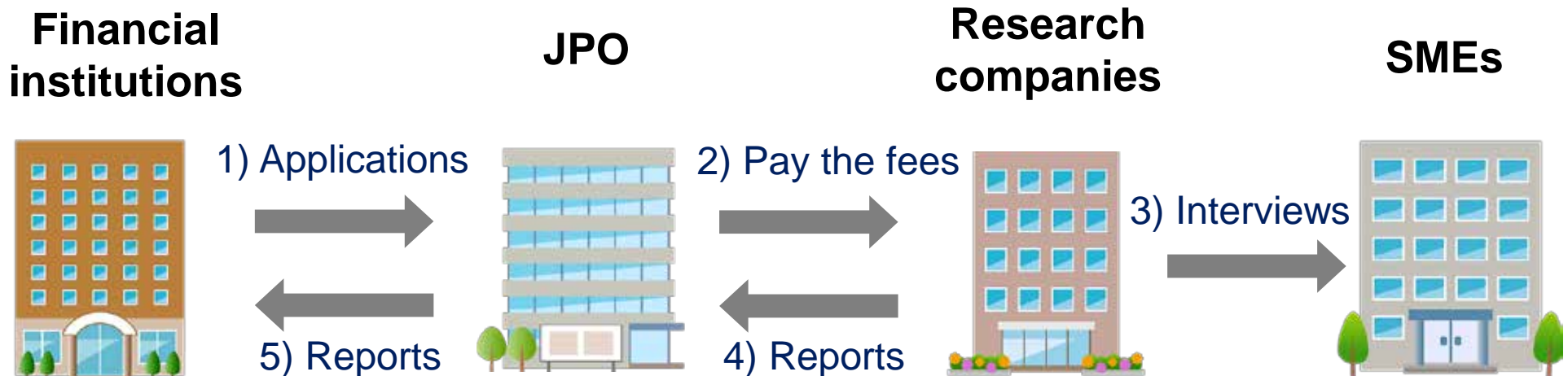
- Examination fees
- Patent fees (to maintain rights for up to 10 years)

- Fees for SMEs were reduced to 1/2
- Fees for start-ups were reduced to 1/3

# 3-11. Promoting IP-backed Financing

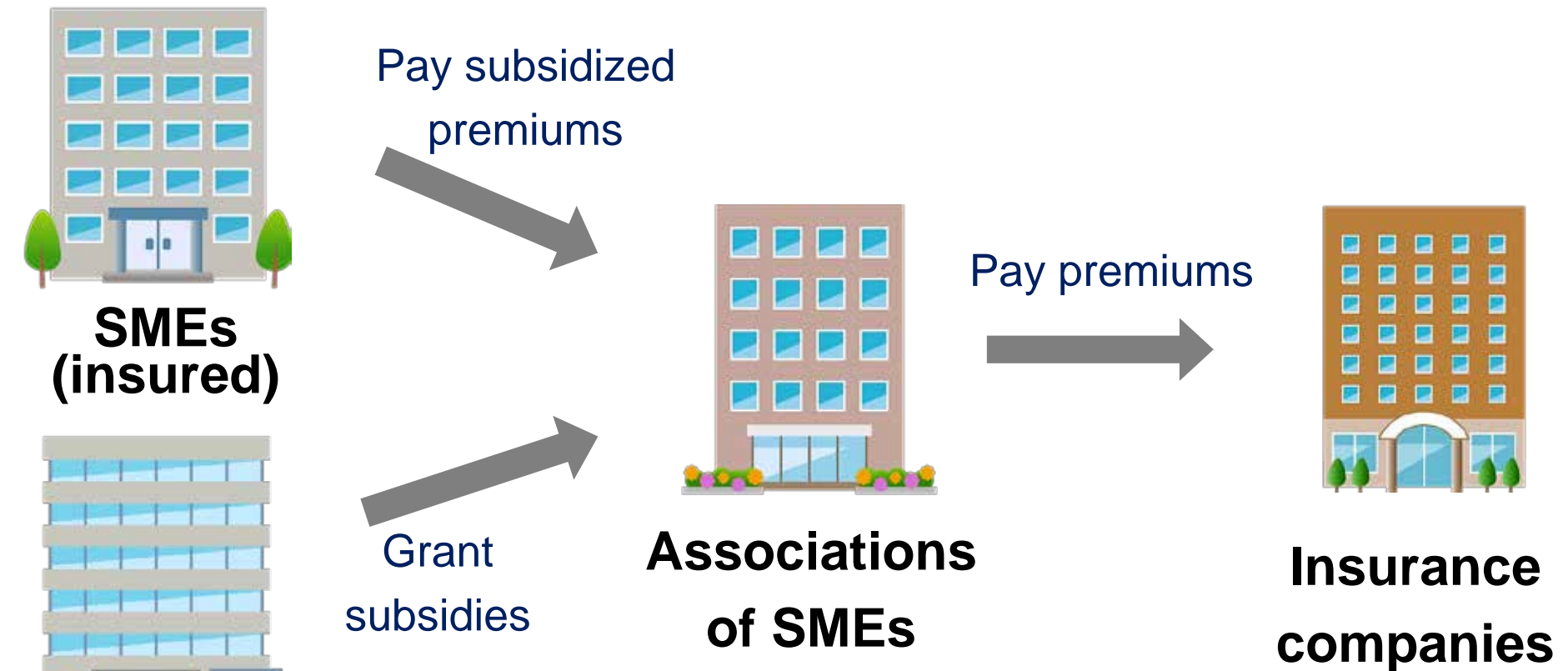
## IP business valuation reports

- ü Evaluate how SMEs' IPRs contribute to the growth of their business activities;
- ü Made by research companies specialized in evaluating IP
- ü Provided to financial institutions at no cost through JPO subsidies



### 3-12. Insurance Program for Overseas IP Litigation costs

Financial Support: Granting subsidies to pay insurance premiums for enrolling in the JPO's insurance system that covers the costs of overseas IP litigations





**Thank you for your attention!**