



**The Patent Office  
Japanese Government**

3-4-3 Kasumigaseki  
Chiyoda-ku  
Tokyo 100-8915 Japan  
Tel: +81-3-3581-1898  
Fax: +81-3-3581-0762

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Mr. Yo Takagi  
Director  
Inter-Office Information Services Department  
World Intellectual Property Organization  
34, chemin des Colombettes  
1211 Geneva 20  
S W I T Z E R L A N D

RE: WIPO/SCIT Circular 2446 - draft SCIT Strategic Information Technology Plan

Dear Mr. Takagi:

This letter is about our proposal to add changes to the draft SCIT Strategic Information Technology Plan into the Twenty-First Century contained in SCIT Circular 2446.

The Japanese Patent Office (JPO) basically supports the above draft. However, the draft refers only to general matters but any specific measures to realize the projects are not suggested.

The Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) is an international system and the IP offices of Contracting States often exchange documents with each other. Thus, automation of the PCT procedure utilizing information technology will be greatly beneficial for both industrialized nations and developing countries.

Automation of the PCT procedure should be included in the draft SCIT Strategic Information Technology Plan into the Twenty-First Century because this will help make the SCIT Strategic Plan more practical and feasible.

The JPO proposes that the following sentences should be added as the last paragraph of "5.2 International Bureau of WIPO."

*The International Bureau will also be responsible for promoting the introduction of automated processes into such global protection systems as the PCT and Madrid Protocol. For example, PCT Automation includes PCT electronic filing, IP Office Automation and Transmission between IP Offices via WIPONET. PCT Automation will serve to enhance and facilitate modernization and automation of similar systems in developing countries.*

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

Naoki Kohno  
Director  
International Affairs Division  
Japanese Patent Office