
INTRODUCTION OF ARTICLES

Introduction of System for the Intelligent Securing of Patent Rights and Activities of the Trilateral Patent Offices

The Second Subcommittee,
The First Patent Committee

Under the government's "Intellectual Property Strategic Program 2004," various measures (legal revisions, amendments to implementing standards, etc.) have been taken to "achieve expeditious and accurate patent examination meeting the highest global standard." Moreover, the Trilateral Patent Offices have been making various efforts. It is preferable that users are informed about these measures.

This report introduces means of promptly obtaining patents, means of obtaining patents at low cost, and details of examination cooperation among the Trilateral Patent Offices, specifically, the Japan Patent Office (JPO), United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) and European Patent Office (EPO).

As for means of promptly obtaining patents, this report introduces the accelerated examination system, the preferential examination system, and the system to examine patent applications in related technical fields as a whole. As for means of obtaining patents at low cost, it introduces the reduction or exemption of fees through joint application in collaboration with a university, etc., the specified registered search organization system, the system to return international search fees and the system to return examination request fees, and also mentions advantages for applicants and points to be noted by applicants with respect to each system.

In terms of examination cooperation among the Trilateral Patent Offices (JPO, USPTO and EPO), this report refers to the Dossier Access System as one of the efforts for expeditious examination. It is an information system that enables the Trilateral Patent Offices to mutually inspect and obtain information about examinations conducted by other offices. Its main purpose is to enable one office, which is going to examine an application, to use information about examinations and searches previously conducted by other offices on corresponding applications. Then the report introduces the purpose and content of examination cooperation as well as expectations for examination cooperation.

[This article appeared on pp. 1463-1471 of "CHIZAI KANRI" (Intellectual Property Management), Vol. 55, No. 10 (2005).]

Issues and Utilization of the New Invalidation Trial System and the Post-grant Information Submittal System

The Second Subcommittee,
The Second Patent Committee

To coincide with the abolishment of the patent opposition system, the new invalidation trial system became effective on January 1, 2004. This system was established through the integration of