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Kazuhiro MATSUDA

Patent lawsuits often involve highly difficult technical issues which are inevitably linked to legal matters. In this article, patent lawsuits in the courts of the United States, the U.K., Germany and Japan are compared, whereby focusing on their management of technical issues.

■ Considerations of Two EU and US Disputes on Medicinal Plant Patents from Traditional Knowledge and Public Interest 36

Hajimu MORIOKA

Among many issues relating to utilization of genetic resources under the Convention of Biological Diversity, disputes between traditional knowledge and patentability have been continued. In this paper, two medicinal plant cases, the Indian "Neem" patent in the EPO and the Indian "Turmeric" patent in the USPTO are analyzed, and relationship between traditional knowledge and patentability is discussed.

■ An Overview of Patent Reforms in the U.S. 48

Hiroki KITAMURA / Takahiko TOHYAMA

The bill including the first-inventor-to-file system has been submitted to the House of Representatives. Whether it becomes law depends on the discussion in Congress. Submission of such a bill, however, is in itself an important milestone in the U.S. We would like to view the course of the discussion on patent reform in the U.S. and introduce the content of the bill briefly.

■ Reasoning in the Judgement on Inventive Step — focused on Problems to be Solved— 58

Kiichi TAKASHIMA

The Tokyo High Court made the decision that if a person skilled in the art could easily arrive at the structure of the invention claimed in the application concerned from the another art in a technical area, the art claimed in the application concerned could be judged as being easily arrived at, even if the technical problems of the another art differed from those of the art claimed in the application concerned. I basically agree with this decision making process by the Tokyo High Court. However, there are some points to which attention should be paid. I also have some questions about the reasons given for the Tokyo High Court's decision.

■ Various Efforts on Industry-University Collaboration and Future Direction of Technology Transfer Systems 67

Tadashi SATO

While the institutional reform of universities is developing, some university faculty members seem to think that university transfer operations are profit-oriented activities. But, to develop a robust technology transfer system in Japan, we need to have a correct perception of the significance of technology transfer operations.

This report introduces our industrial policies about TLO, university based start-ups, and personnel training, and also explains future direction of technology transfer systems.

■ The JPO's Measures to Support the Establishment of an Intellectual Creation Cycle at Universities etc. 76

Yoichiro TSUKINO / Hisanobu NAKAJIMA

The JPO has dispatched specialists (Intellectual Property Management Advisors) to universities to support establishment of the intellectual property management unit since FY2002. In addition, seminars and symposia in support of universities in IP management will be convened so that nationwide universities are able to manage intellectual property right.

■ State Measures to Support Intellectual Property and Related Activities in Universities and Other Academic Institutions — Their Current State and Problems — 83

Office for Technology Transfer Promotion

Research Environment and Industrial Cooperation Division

Research Promotion Bureau

Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT)

With turning national universities into independent administrative entities as a start, Intellectual property and related activities in universities and other academic institutions have significantly changed.

MEXT, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, which promotes the activities through implementing appropriate measures such as projects developed by Intellectual Property Headquarters in Universities, is to contribute to make Japan an intellectual Property-based Nation.

■ Federal Trade Commission, *To Promote Innovation: The Proper Balance of Competition and Patent Law and Policy* (Executive Summary) 90

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National Center for Industrial property, Information and Training (NCIPI)
