

PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN NEWS

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. New Symbol and Abbreviation

The National Center for Industrial Property Information and Training changed the abbreviation to “INPIT” and changed its symbol to one that suggests a user-friendly organization. The new symbol and the abbreviation has been in use since January 2007.

New Symbol



Meaning of the New Symbol

The new symbol consists of three letters, *I*, *T*, and *P*, with the figure in the center representing *person* and *information*, which as a whole conveys the image of “*diffusion of information*” and “*growth (development) of human resources.*” Its round contours and soft color combination (green and gray) represent intelligence.

(The central figure representing “*person*” and “*information*” is green, and the three arches and the logo are gray.)

New Logo

The new logo, INPIT, is a combination of letters taken from the key words of the organization’s English name (National Center for *Industrial Property Information and Training*).

. Transfer of tasks from JPO to INPIT

As a result of their transfer from the Japan Patent Office (JPO) in January 2007, information systems affairs, etc. are now administered by the National Center for Industrial Property Information and Training (INPIT), with the aim of further enhancing the fundamental elements of industrial property systems, “*information*” and “*human resources,*” and developing and strengthening the “*environment*” for their utilization.

The content of the responsibilities transferred to the INPIT are outlined below.

Responsibilities Transferred to the INPIT

(1) Information systems affairs

By making the best use of its flexible budget control and swift organizational operation, the advantages specific to independent administrative agencies, the INPIT will efficiently develop and manage the information systems necessary for providing information services.

(i) Affairs relating to systems for providing information

Development, management and diffusion of electronic filing software

Development and operation of the JPO website

Development and management of the official gazette system

Master data management

(ii) Affairs relating to the development of the examination reference database

Collection and organization of reference materials relating to design

and trademark examinations

Compilation of a database of non-patent literature

(2) Affairs relating to human resources development

Based on knowledge and experience acquired in the course of

providing training programs for JPO officials, the INPIT will endeavor to raise awareness of intellectual property among young people in their capacity as leaders of the 21st century and support universities in their management of intellectual property, thereby further promoting the development of human resources in the field of intellectual property.

- (i) Development and distribution of educational materials on industrial property rights
- (ii) Dispatch of intellectual property management advisers, etc. to universities

. Report on 24th Annual Trilateral Conference

1. Introduction

The European Patent Office (EPO), the Japan Patent Office (JPO), and the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) met at the 24th Trilateral Conference in Tokyo, Japan on 17 November 2006 to discuss their activities to be carried out cooperatively.

The Trilateral Offices have been holding a Trilateral Conference every year since 1983, with one of these three offices serving as a host in turn.

2. Highlights of the conference

The Trilateral Offices

- identifying timely processing of increased workloads of patent applications and high-quality examination processes as common objectives of the Trilateral Offices and its user communities,
- recognising the benefits of further promoting mutual exploitation of search and examination results, continuously making efforts to increase mutual reliability, promoting the reduction of processing

time/cost, and avoiding duplication of work through a co-ordinated Trilateral approach,

- recognising the benefits of developing a common infrastructure and compatible data for electronic business systems and search tools and promoting character-coded electronic document format in order to facilitate co-operative activities,

understand as follows:

(1) Standard Format

The Trilateral Offices have come to a common understanding with respect to the draft Standard Format of patent applications in response to the request from users, after having intensive discussions at three Working Group meetings in 2006. The Standard Format approach will make patent filing at all three Trilateral Offices easier and improve efficiency for both patent applicants and for the Trilateral Offices.

(2) Enhanced Work-Sharing

The Trilateral Offices recognize the need to take enhanced and concrete measures to avoid duplication of work among the Offices and to reduce workload of the Offices and procedural / financial burden of users.

(3) Re-use of Work Results

Patent Prosecution Highway

The Trilateral Offices confirmed that the Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) may enable users to expeditiously obtain a foreign patent at an early stage and contribute to reducing the examination workload of an Office.

Utilization of Document Access Tools by the Examiners

In order to promote the mutual exploitation of search and examination results, the Trilateral Offices are developing the Trilateral Document Access (TDA) system, which enables the examiners of one Office to electronically access and view the contents of patent application wrappers filed in other Offices.

(4) Exchange of Priority Documents

The JPO and the USPTO agreed commencement of the priority document exchange between both offices from July 2007.

(5) Data exchange and quality

The Trilateral Offices unanimously approved the idea proposed by the USPTO for “Media-less data exchange” which will enable the Trilateral Offices to exchange data without media such as DVD.

(6) Information Dissemination Policies

Public Awareness

The Trilateral Offices confirmed that opportunities of joint participation were significant providing the TO's with venues where the results of the trilateral cooperation activities could be quickly and broadly disseminated to users.

Information Dissemination Policies

The Trilateral Offices underlined the strategic importance of information dissemination policies. In particular, the Trilateral Offices agreed that Information Dissemination has increased relevance for applicants and the public.

The Trilateral Offices reaffirm the importance of the Trilateral policy of free flow of information data at marginal cost and their willingness to apply it to any other country provided the reciprocity principle is respected.

(7) Access to Chinese documentation

The Trilateral Offices recognize the strategic importance of access to the Chinese documents for the examiners and the public.

Further information on the 24th Trilateral Conference can be reached at the Website of the Trilateral Co-operation;

http://www.trilateral.net/conf_sum/

. PAJ Issuance Schedule

[2006]

Date of publication of PAJ	PAJ			PAJ index
	Serial number for the year	Total serial number	Number of PAJ stored	Coverage
Jan. 31 (Tue.)	2006-1	133	34,400	2005-1[121]/2005-12[132]
Feb. 28 (Tue.)	2006-2	134	24,400	
Mar. 31 (Fri.)	2006-3	135	26,200	
Apr. 26 (Wed.)	2006-4	136	25,600	2006-1[133]/2006-3[135]
May 29 (Mon.)	2006-5	137	29,400	
Jun. 28 (Wed.)	2006-6	138	32,300	
Jul. 27 (Thu.)	2006-7	139	28,400	2006-1[133]/2006-6[138]
Aug.29 (Tue.)	2006-8	140	20,500	
Sep.27 (Wed.)	2006-9	141	38,500	
Oct.27 (Fri.)	2006-10	142	23,100	2006-1[133]/2006-9[141]
Nov.28 (Tue.)	2006-11	143	32,400	
Dec.26 (Tue.)	2006-12	144	32,500	

[2007]

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Mar. 28 (Wed.)	2007-3	147	27,700	