

Chapter 6

OTHER WORK

This brief chapter contains further statistics of other work done on IP rights that is not common to all five offices. The data presented below supplement the information appearing in earlier chapters of this report.

Other work includes applications for plant patents (USPTO); reissue patents (USPTO); applications for patents other than those for inventions: utility models (JPO, KIPO, and SIPO), designs (JPO, KIPO, SIPO, and USPTO), trademarks (JPO, KIPO and USPTO); and searches on behalf of national Offices (EPO).

The utility model is different from the patent for invention discussed in Chapter 1. The utility model system is designed to protect a device related to the shape or construction of articles or combination of articles (JPO, SIPO) or a creation of a technical idea using the rules of nature regarding the shape, structure or combination of subjects (KIPO). Contrary to most patent systems, a utility model is registered without a substantive examination as long as it meets basic requirements. The maximum period of protection for a utility model in Japan, R. Korea and P.R. China is 10 years which is shorter than for a patent for invention.

Neither the EPO nor the USPTO grants utility models. However, the USPTO's main type of patent is called a utility patent which is issued for the invention of a new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or a new and useful improvement thereof. It is similar to the standard patents of the EPO, the JPO, the KIPO, and the SIPO.

The numbers of requests received for these types of other work are shown for 2010 and 2011 in Table 6.

Table 6: STATISTICS ON OTHER WORK

Activities	Year	EPO	JPO	KIPO	SIPO	USPTO
Searches for national offices	2010	27,818	-	-	-	-
	2011	26,227	-	-	-	-
Design applications	2010	-	31,756	57,187	421,273	29,059
	2011	-	30,805	56,524	521,468	30,467
Utility model applications	2010	-	8,679	17,144	409,836	-
	2011	-	7,984	11,854	585,467	-
Plant patent applications	2010	-	-	-	-	992
	2011	-	-	-	-	1,139
Re-issue patent applications	2010	-	-	-	-	1,180
	2011	-	-	-	-	1,151
Trademark applications	2010	-	113,519	121,125	-	370,168
	2011	-	108,060	123,814	-	405,684

Some notable changes from 2010 to 2011 were a 24 percent increase for Design applications and a 43 percent increase for Utility model applications at the SIPO, a 31 percent decrease for Utility Model applications at the KIPO, and a 10 percent increase for trademark applications at the USPTO.