

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.

This 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 search requests to be performed on behalf of national offices (EPO).

The utility model is different from the patent for invention, because it is used to protect a device in relation to the shape or construction of articles or combination of articles (JPO, SIPO), or to protect 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 a patent for invention that 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 2011 and 2012 in Table 6.

Table 6: STATISTICS ON OTHER WORK

Activity	Year	EPO	JPO	KIPO	SIPO	USPTO
Searches for national offices	2011	25 850	-	-	-	-
	2012	25 459	-	-	-	-
Design applications	2011	-	30 805	56 524	521 468	30 467
	2012	-	32 391	63 135	657 582	32 799
Utility model applications	2011	-	7 984	11 854	585 467	-
	2012	-	8 112	12 424	740 290	-
Plant patent applications	2011	-	-	-	-	1 139
	2012	-	-	-	-	1 149
Re-issue patent applications	2011	-	-	-	-	1 151
	2012	-	-	-	-	1 231
Trademark applications	2011	-	108 060	123 814	-	405 684
	2012	-	119 010	132 522	-	417 951

For each category of right, the number of applications received increased in 2012. At the EPO, the number of searches for national offices slightly declined in 2012.