

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, SIPO, and KIPO), designs (JPO, SIPO, KIPO, 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 SIPO and the KIPO.

The numbers of requests received for these types of other work are shown for 2013 and 2014 in Table 6.

Table 6: STATISTICS ON OTHER WORK

Activity	Year	EPO	JPO	SIPO	KIPO	USPTO
Searches for national offices	2013	25,624	-	-	-	-
	2014	26,755	-	-	-	-
Design applications	2013	-	31,125	659,563	66,940	36,034
	2014	-	29,738	564,555	64,345	35,378
Utility model applications	2013	-	7,622	892,362	10,968	-
	2014	-	7,095	868,511	9,184	-
Plant patent applications	2013	-	-	-	-	1,406
	2014	-	-	-	-	1,063
Reissue applications	2013	-	-	-	-	1,065
	2014	-	-	-	-	1,265
Trademark applications	2013	-	117,674	-	147,667	439,645
	2014	-	124,442	-	150,226	463,316

At all offices proposing such rights, the number of applications for Design and Utility Model declined in 2014, while Trademark applications increased. The other notable changes from 2013 to 2014 were a 24 percent decrease for Plant patent applications and a 19 percent increase for Reissue patent applications at the USPTO.