

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 2014 and 2015 in Table 6.

Table 6: STATISTICS ON OTHER WORK

Activity	Year	EPO	JPO	SIPO	KIPO	USPTO
Searches for national offices	2014	26,755				
	2015	24,367				
Design applications	2014		29,738	564,555	64,345	35,378
	2015		29,903	569,059	67,954	39,097
Utility model applications	2014		7,095	868,511	9,184	
	2015		6,860	1,127,577	8,711	
Plant patent applications	2014					1,063
	2015					1,140
Reissue applications	2014					1,265
	2015					1,049
Trademark applications	2014		124,442		150,226	463,316
	2015		147,283		185,443	518,315

The notable changes from 2014 to 2015 were an increase of about 30 percent for utility model applications at the SIPO, a 17 percent decrease for Reissue patent applications and a 7 percent increase for Plant patent applications at the USPTO.