

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 2012 and 2013 in Table 6.

Table 6: STATISTICS ON OTHER WORK

Activity	Year	EPO	JPO	KIPO	SIPO	USPTO
Searches for national offices	2012	23,899	-	-	-	-
	2013	25,624	-	-	-	-
Design applications	2012	-	32,391	63,135	657,582	32,799
	2013	-	31,125	66,940	659,563	36,034
Utility model applications	2012	-	8,112	12,424	740,290	-
	2013	-	7,622	10,968	892,362	-
Plant patent applications	2012	-	-	-	-	1,149
	2013	-	-	-	-	1,406
Reissue patent applications	2012	-	-	-	-	1,231
	2013	-	-	-	-	1,065
Trademark applications	2012	-	119,010	132,522	-	417,951
	2013	-	117,674	149,154	-	439,645

The most notable changes from 2012 to 2013 were a 22 percent increase for Plant patent applications and a 13 percent decrease for Reissue patent applications at the USPTO, a 21 percent increase for Utility model applications at the SIPO and a 12 percent decrease for Utility model applications at the KIPO.