

TRILATERAL
STATISTICAL REPORT
1997

PREFACE

In order to promote a better understanding of the importance of patents rights in the world and the roles of the European Patent Office (EPO), the Japanese Patent Office (JPO) and the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), a joint annual Trilateral Statistical Report has been developed. Its purpose is to facilitate an understanding of the operations of each Office and to increase the awareness of the patent grant procedures of the three Offices to interested circles in the patent world. It is a compilation of statistics from the EPO, the JPO and the USPTO and is partially based on statistics from the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in Geneva. The report is a supplement to the separate annual reports of each of the three Offices. The joint report is one of the fruits of trilateral cooperation

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