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WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
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STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES

ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORT

2001

ON PATENT INFORMATION ACTIVITIES*

submitted by the

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

An annual series of reports on the patent information activities
of members of the Standing Committee on Information Technologies

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- The term “patent” covers utility models and SPCs.
- Information related to design patent activities reported by industrial property offices issuing design patents is included in the series of documents SCIT/ATR/ID.

**ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORT ON
PATENT INFORMATION ACTIVITIES**

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REPUBLIC OF KOREA

I. Evolution of registration activities:

- **Changes experienced in terms of application filings and grants with respect to the previous year;**

Although IPR applications had begun to increase again in 1999 after Korea's financial crisis in 1998, they started to slowdown in the latter half of 2000. The number of applications filed for patents and utility models in 2001 rose by only 5%, compared to a 25% increase in the previous year.

The number of registered patents and utility models in 2001 was 78,517, showing a 2.4% increase over the previous year. The largest number of applications was 62,015 in electricity/communications, followed by machinery. LG Electronics filed the largest number of applications (7,626), and among foreign businesses Japan's Sony still topped the ranks with 881.

Classification	Applications		Ratio of variation	Registrations		Ratio of variation
	2000	2001		2000	2001	
Patents	101,738	104,612	3%	34,894	34,675	0.1%
Utility Models	37,076	40,804	10%	41,726	43,842	5%

There might be a marginal error due to the unprocessed written applications.

- **Trends or areas experienced rapid changes with respect to the previous year;**

PCT applications

Since KIPO began its function as an International Searching Authority (ISA) and an International Preliminary Examining Authority (IPEA) under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT), there has been a continuous increase in PCT applications. During 2001, KIPO received 2,314 PCT applications; it performed 1,939 international searches and 970 international preliminary examinations. These figures show increases over the previous year of 47%, 51% and 139%, respectively.

Applications filed by women

Due to KIPO's policy of encouragement, applications by women showed a 21% increase, from 2,769 to 3,355. In its encouragement policy, KIPO enticed more women interested in inventions to participate in various exhibitions, it helped them embody their creative ideas by setting up a business and it rewarded them for their results.

II. Matters concerning the generation, reproduction, distribution and use of primary and secondary sources of Patent information:

- **Publishing, printing, copying (main types of publications of the office in the field of Patent information, etc.)**

Gazette publication

Hard copy: Until April 1998 hard copies of the official gazettes (the Registered Patents Gazette, the Registered Utility Models Gazette, the Unexamined Patents Gazette, the Unexamined Utility Models Gazette), which were published two or three times a month, two or three months after the publication date, were disseminated to the general public by mail.

CD-ROM: From May 1998 to June 2001, the official gazettes were integrated into two gazettes, namely the Unexamined Patents and Utility Models Gazette, and the Registered Patents and Utility Models Gazette, and published on CD-ROM with a mixed-mode data format and a user-friendly interface utilizing Mimosa from the EPO. They were distributed inside and outside the country. The new CD-ROM gazette has been issued with SGML data PDF documents, including the additional Korean language font for foreign users; it also supports English installation for users with an English OS. The Korean language version of Adobe Acrobat Reader should be installed for the gazette inquiry.

Internet: In July 2001, KIPO began posting PDF-formatted gazettes daily on its website. This has replaced the CD-ROM version although a master CD-ROM of each publication has been archived for permanent preservation. With this IT breakthrough, KIPO can expeditiously and inexpensively provide information to its customers while cutting down publication expenses and allowing users to gain easy access to information via the Internet.

- **Main types of announcements of the Office in the field of Patent information;**

KIPO's website

On KIPO's website, applicants can find the following information:

- Subsequent notices of applications filed with KIPO, when not delivered to an

- applicant due to a change of address
- Pre-notice of expiration of a patent, due to non-payment of official fees
- Other notices such as changes in laws or fees

Internet gazette search service

In July 2001, KIPO launched an Internet gazette search service at its website, [_____](#). Applicants can freely refer to PDF-formatted data via the Internet at any time during the opposition request period from the publication date. Even after the opposition request period, they can find the information at <http://www.kipris.or.kr>, the website of the Korea Institute of Patent Information (KIPI), which is a specialized IPR information service founded by KIPO in 1995. The search service allows applicants to be notified about their interests through a push-mail service.

- **Mass storage media used (paper, microforms, optical storage, etc.);**

Optical disc

For easier preservation and more efficient usage, KIPO stores patent documents in electronic media such as optical discs. In 2001 optical discs were used for the original copy of priority documents with relevant translations from 1999 to 2000, as well as for paper-based applications, including PCT documents, from 1992 to 2001.

- **Word processing and office automation;**

The KIPOnet system

To establish a paperless and fully-computerized IPR-administration system, KIPO established the KIPOnet system, which realizes the vision of e-government services for handling all IPR-related administrative procedures.

Due to this system, all kinds of intellectual property can be filed online. Internal administrative processes were computerized within KIPO, enabling computerized searching and examining. In addition, filed applications were approved electronically in a more transparent manner. KIPO was also able to communicate examination results with applicants via the Internet or mobile service, to publish official gazettes via the Internet and to handle all registration procedures online.

Since its launch, the KIPOnet system has been continuously improved, and its subordinate systems have been developed. The subordinate systems, which have more than two or three sub-systems, provide better access. They also prepare electronic documents such as reports and notifications for examiners, as well as managing information and data produced during all these processes. In particular, the KIPOnet system was enhanced in 2001 by the development of the supplementary systems below.

Online Trial System

Through the development in 2001 of the Online Trial System, which is linked to the

KIPOnet system, some parts of trial administration are now conducted online. The system allows the electronic preparation and receipt of trial-related documents. It also enables electronic distribution and online routing of relevant documents for the convenience of applicants and for the purpose of improving efficiency in trials.

General Administration System

The General Administration System provides electronic approval for each form-based work process and necessary item of information. It also helps in laying a foundation to stably operate the existing systems through solving problems that arise during the operation of the system, and by introducing the Intergovernmental Department Electronic Document Distribution System. The General Administration System handles all matters in relation to the establishment of a link to the Electronic Approval System of KIPOnet.

PCT International Search & International Preliminary Examination System

Concerning PCT business, KIPO's examiners can conduct prior art searches through the PCT International Search & International Preliminary Examination System. They can prepare an international search report for an international application, and send it to the International Bureau and the applicant. This report will be utilized by the applicant to determine the prior art status of the application. The applicant may then take action such as the amendment of a claim or withdrawal of the international application.

- **(New) techniques used for the generation of Patent information (printing, recording, photo-composing, etc.).**

III. Matters concerning abstracting, classifying, reclassifying and indexing of technical information contained in Patent documents:

- **Abstracting, reviewing, translating;**

Korean Patent Abstracts

In 2001, KIPO published CD-ROMs of Korean Patent Abstracts (KPA) in English patent abstracts 18 months after they were filed, and distributed them domestically and abroad. The data was extracted from Korean applications consisting of 69,481 unexamined patents and 72,144 registered patents.

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