

The background of the entire page is a detailed, high-tech illustration. It features several robotic arms with intricate mechanical joints and glowing blue internal components. These arms are positioned around a central, large, square-shaped circuit board that is illuminated with a bright blue light. The circuit board has a complex pattern of lines and a central square component. In the background, there are more circuit boards and glowing blue light sources, creating a sense of depth and advanced technology. The overall color palette is dominated by dark blues and blacks, with bright blue highlights from the lights and the circuitry.

Prologue

Innovation

KIPO fosters IP Innovation through fast services with reliable quality.

Creative ideas have the power to change the world. KIPO continues to provide timely, accurate, and innovative IP examination services to ensure that ideas are adequately protected as IPR.

Premium Examination Services

KIPO continually aims to provide high-quality, customer-oriented, and fast examination services by raising the quality of IP administration, improving examination systems, and reducing first office action pendency.

In 2024, the average first office action pendency was 16.1 months for patents and utility models, 12.6 months for trademarks, and 4.6 months for industrial designs.

To provide timely registration of rights and accommodate the IP strategies of our users, patent and utility model examinations have three tracks: regular examination, accelerated examination, and customer-deferred examination. Trademark and industrial design examinations have two tracks: regular examination and accelerated examination.

Competitiveness

KIPO increases its IP competitiveness by maintaining the highest number of resident patent applications per both GDP and population.

In this era of creative economies, IPRs are the core of competent business strategies. KIPO is dedicated to establishing a competitive and rewarding IP system by transforming novel ideas into strong IPRs.

IP Competitiveness

Top Global Ranking

According to WIPO's World IP Indicator unveiled in 2024, the ROK ranks 1st worldwide for having the highest number of national patent and PCT patent applications per PPP\$ GDP.

IPR Applications

In 2024, we received a preliminary total of 592,632 applications for patents, utility models, industrial designs, and trademarks. Out of that number, 77,638 applications were filed by non-residents.

PCT Applications

The number of PCT applications from the ROK has continually grown every year. We have the 4th largest amount of PCT applications by country of origin. There were 23,641 PCT applications in total for 2024 which is a 6.6% increase from 2023. The Korean language is also the 4th most commonly used language as an official PCT publication language. (Source: WIPO IP Statistics Data Center).

Harmonization

KIPO collaborates with key national allies to create a global community that appropriately values and rewards inventions.

Cooperation is fundamental to creating an environment where IPRs are promptly acquired and firmly protected for stakeholders. KIPO engages in activities that advance the global IP systems as it works to increase the value of IP.

Worldwide IP Collaboration

Global Cooperation Forums

Taking on the role as one of the world's leading IP offices, KIPO engages in cooperation forums with other leading IP offices that contribute to harmonizing global IP systems, such as the IP5 for patents, the TM5 for trademarks, and the ID5 for industrial designs.

Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) with 38 Countries & Regions

KIPO works with countries and regions around the world under the PPH for reducing the time and costs required to obtain patent rights overseas. As of 2024, the PPH has been implemented with 38 countries and regions.

• PPH participants: Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Denmark, EAPO, EPO, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, NPI, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, TIPO, UK, USA, Viet Nam and Visegrad Patent Institute

99 IP-Sharing Projects

KIPO implements IP-Sharing projects to share our gained knowledge of rapid development and to help bridge the IP divide among developed and developing countries. These projects aim to help create cost efficient and sustainable appropriate technology and brand development for improving the quality of life and income of local communities.

WIPO Korea Funds-In-Trust (FIT)

Jointly undertaken in collaboration between KIPO and WIPO, the FIT KOREA is applied towards projects that support developing countries and strengthen the global IP system through economic, social, and cultural development. For the continued operation of the FIT KOREA, Korea has contributed about 15.4 million Swiss francs in total since 2004.