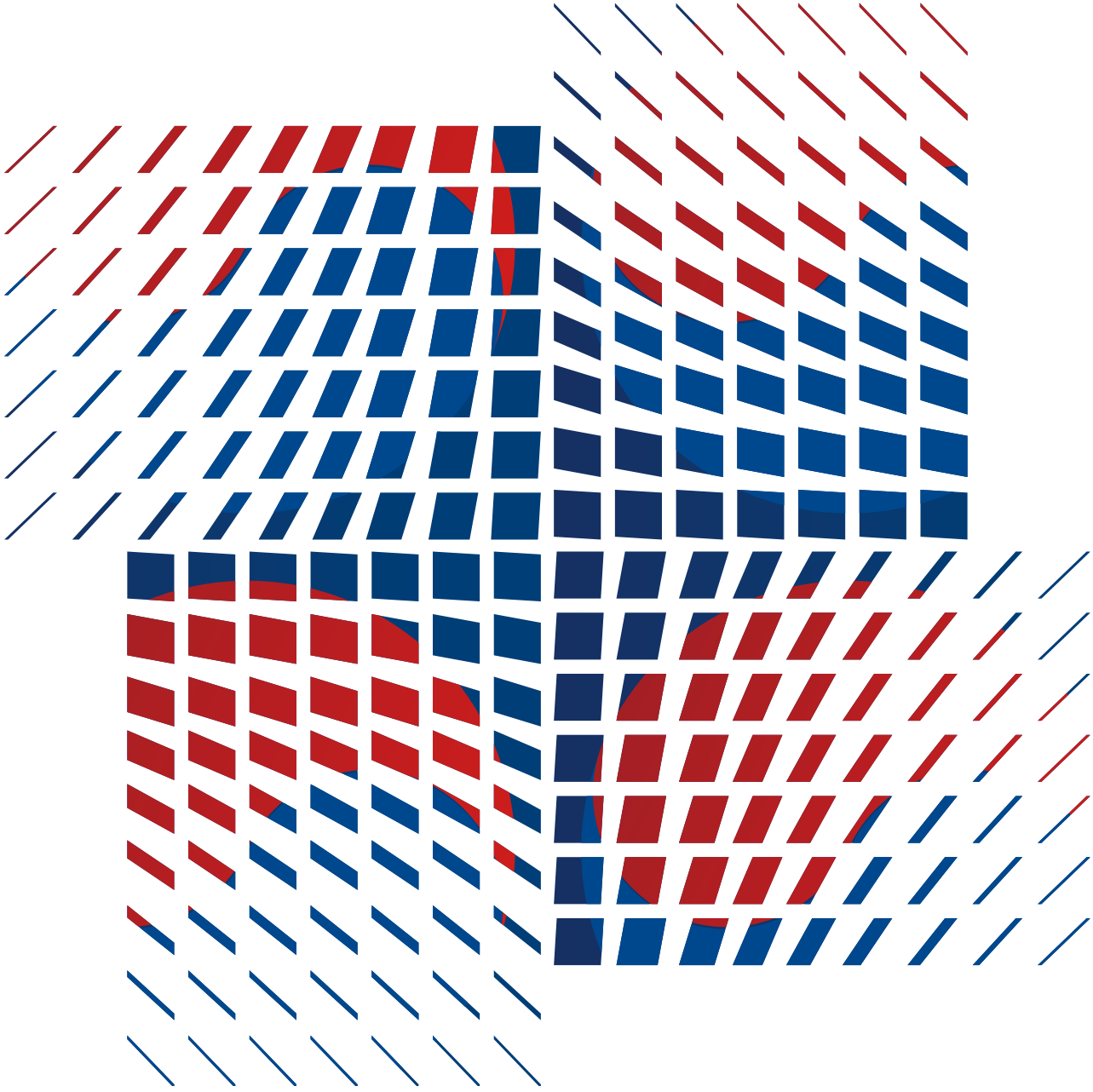
ANNUAL REPORT 2024



Korean Intellectual Property Office

CONTENTS

ANNUAL REPORT
2024

A Message from the Commissioner

KIPO will continue to enhance its IP services, strengthen its support for the creation of “Premium Patents”— offering strong, stable rights for those with significant commercial potential.

With the convergence of rapid technological innovation, particularly in AI, there is an intensifying competition for technological dominance and growing protectionist trends all across the world. As a result, intellectual property (IP) is becoming an increasingly valuable strategic asset in today’s global landscape. In the face of these changes, the Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO) has worked throughout 2024 to continuously improve its IP services, strengthen IP protection, support the creation and utilization of high-quality IP, and advance international cooperation in the IP field ensuring that IP serves as a key driver of business growth and national economic development.

First, KIPO worked to improve IP services from a user-centric perspective. To facilitate the swift acquisition of patent rights in advanced technology fields, we expanded the accelerated examination system and established a new examination division specifically for secondary batteries. New examiners with private-sector industry expertise were also recruited in key fields such as secondary batteries, biotechnology, advanced robotics, and AI. In the trademark sector, the introduction of the Trademark Consent System has broadened the range of options for SMEs and small business owners, creating more opportunities for market entry.

Second, decisive steps were taken to strengthen Korea’s IP protection framework. To enable earlier intervention in cases of infringement, we expanded the scope of investigation of KIPO’s Technology and Design Police to cover not only actual trade secret leaks but also attempts, conspiracies, and unjust possession. The statutory maximum limit on damages was also raised to five times the actual loss and penalties for overseas technology leakage were increased. To better provide local support for Korean companies operating abroad, the IP Centers (formerly IP-DESKs) were restructured into a regional hub system so that coverage could expand from 11 to 40 countries and regions. Additionally, we established the Overseas IP Cooperation Division within the Korea Intellectual Property Protection Agency to offer more responsive and tailored services for Korean businesses whether already abroad or planning to enter overseas markets.

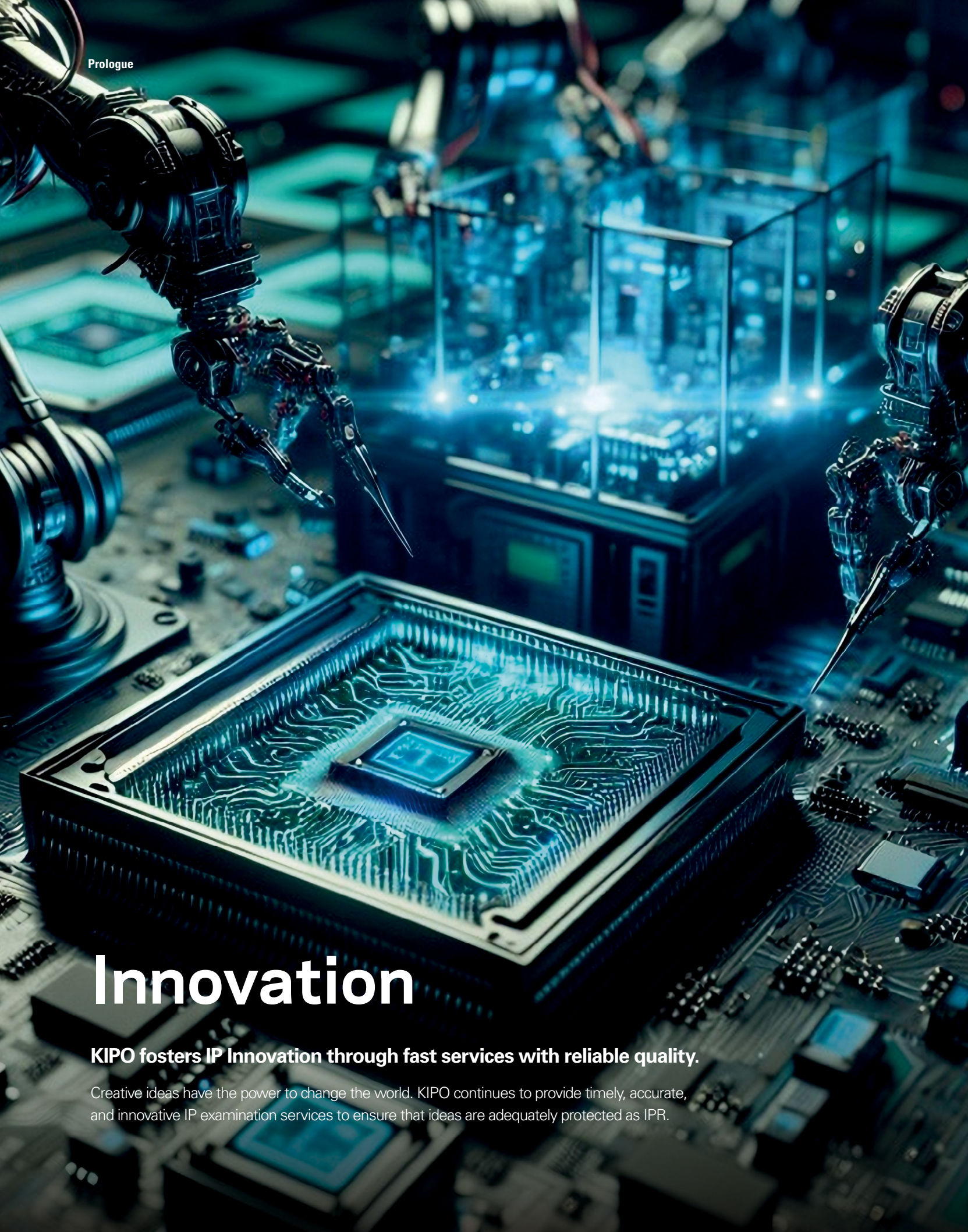
Third, KIPO promoted the strategic creation and utilization of IP. The newly launched National Strategic Technology Patent Division within the Korea Intellectual Property Strategy Agency began analyzing patent big data in 12 key sectors—including semiconductors, secondary batteries, and AI. These insights are foundational to guiding national R&D policymaking and helping to secure critical patents in emerging technologies. Meanwhile, the scale of Korea’s IP finance market (e.g., investment, loans, and guarantees backed by IP) surpassed KRW 10 trillion for the first time in 2024, marking an 80% increase from KRW 6 trillion in 2021. This rapid growth was supported by financial support initiatives, such as the IP valuation support program.

Lastly, KIPO advanced its global cooperation. At the IP5 Heads Meeting hosted by KIPO in Seoul, the five offices adopted a Joint Statement to implement the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and discussed key issues such as adapting IP systems to emerging technologies. In conjunction with the WIPO General Assembly, we commemorated the 20th anniversary of the WIPO Korea Funds-in-Trust, reflecting on two decades of WIPO-KIPO collaborative achievements supporting the IP capacity of youth, women inventors, SMEs and developing countries. Throughout this year, KIPO held 20 bilateral meetings, signed MOUs with five countries, and hosted high-level training programs for officials from Tunisia and the Philippines, contributing to global innovation capacity and strengthened strategic partnerships.

Taken together, 2024 was a year of comprehensive progress across all dimensions of the IP landscape, both domestically and internationally. Going forward, KIPO will continue to enhance its IP services, strengthen its support for the creation of “Premium Patents”—offering strong, stable rights for those with significant commercial potential—and work towards building a more advanced, responsive global IP ecosystem.

It is my great honor to present this 2024 Annual Report of the Korean Intellectual Property Office. I hope it provides readers with meaningful insight into our key initiatives and vision for the future of IP.

Wan-Ki KIM | Commissioner



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.

◂ Futuristic semiconductor chips (AI-generated image)

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).

◂ 'Hunminjeongeum Haeryebon' in Immersive media art installation as displayed in Dongdaemun Design Plaza

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.

◂ Back view of people in red traditional clothes are playing royal ancestral rites music at Jongmyo Shrine

2024 Highlights

Jan.

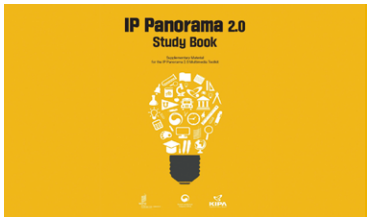
16 Vision Declaration Ceremony for the 50th Anniversary of Korea Invention Promotion Association (KIPA)

Feb.

21 National Strategic Technology Patent Division Launch

Mar.

18 IP Panorama 2.0 Textbook Pilot Release



Apr.

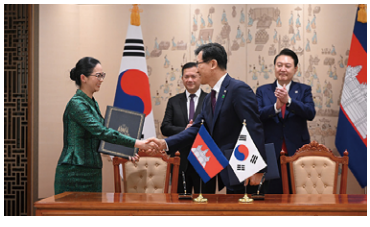
09 IP5 Deputy Heads Meeting

May.

16 Korea-Cambodia MOU on Reinforced Cooperation in the Field of IP

19 59th Invention Day of Korea

29 Korea-UAE MOU on Capacity Enhancement in the Field of IP



Jun.

18-20 IP5 Heads of Office Meeting

20 Korea International Women's Invention Exposition

Jul.

09-17 65th WIPO General Assembly

09 Korea-Brazil MOU on Comprehensive Cooperation in the Field of IP

10 Korea-Denmark MOU on Comprehensive Cooperation in the Field of IP

11 20th Anniversary Ceremony of the WIPO Korea Funds-In-Trust

Aug.

05-09 KIPO-Tunisia High-Level Meeting

08-10 Youth Invention Festival

26-30 KIPO-IPOPHL High-Level Meeting

Sep.

02 ROK-ASEAN Heads of IP Offices Meeting

25 IIPCIC Commendation of Merit for KIPO

Oct.

16 Korea Intellectual Property Association (KINPA) Conference

31 20th PATent INformation EXpo (PATINEX)

Nov.

07 6th IP Financial Forum (IPFF)

11 IPR Conference

Dec.

04 24th TRIPO Heads Meeting

09-13 TM5·ID5 Annual Meeting

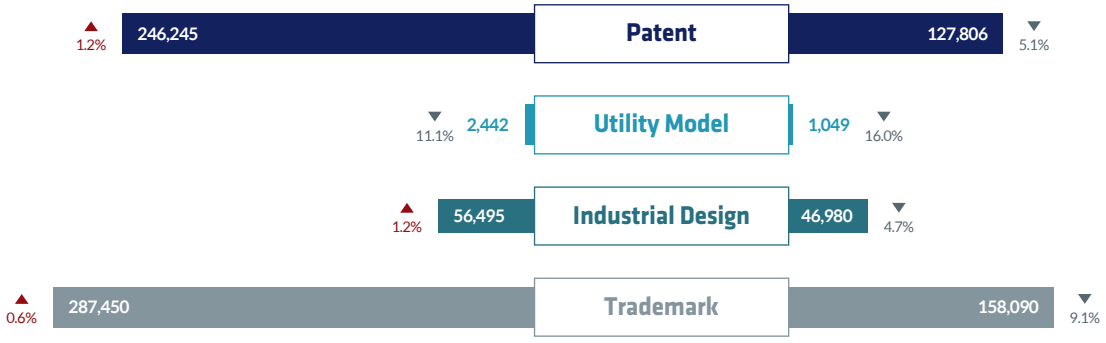
2024 IP Trends

Overview of Key Data

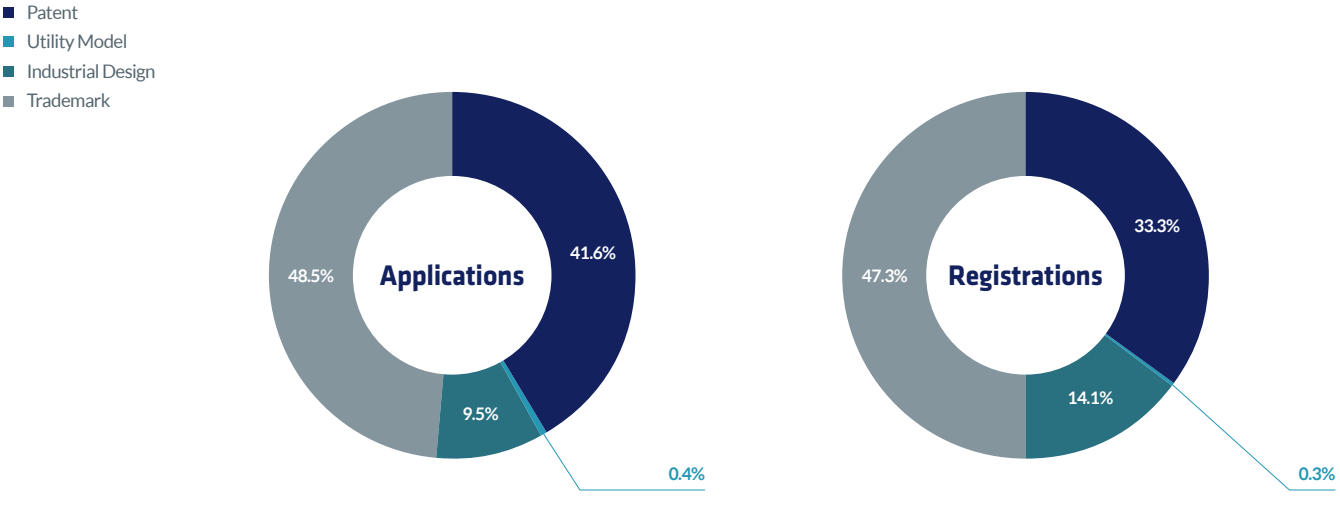
Domestic IPR Applications

(unit: cases)

Applications	592,632	▲ 0.87%
Registrations	333,925	▼ 7.1%



• **Ratio by IPRs**

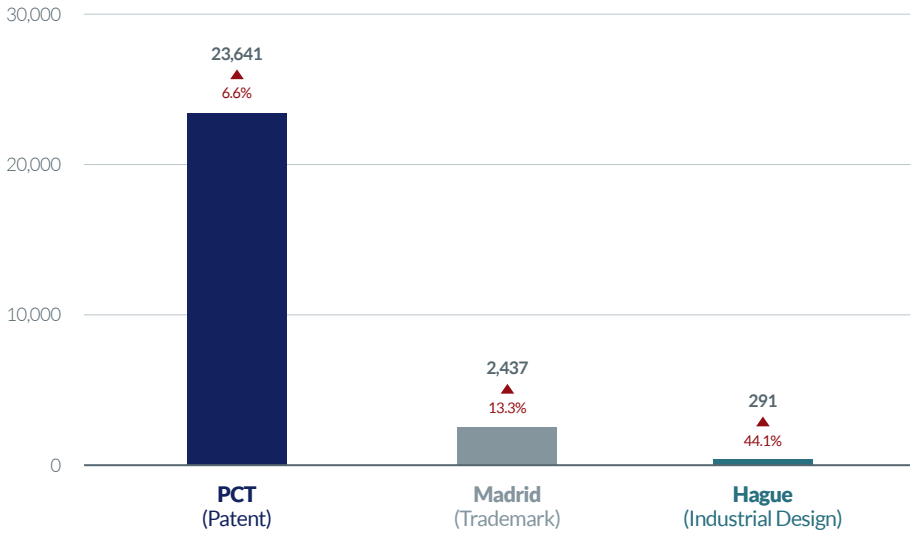


International IPR Applications

• **KIPO as the Receiving Office (International Phase)**

(unit: cases)

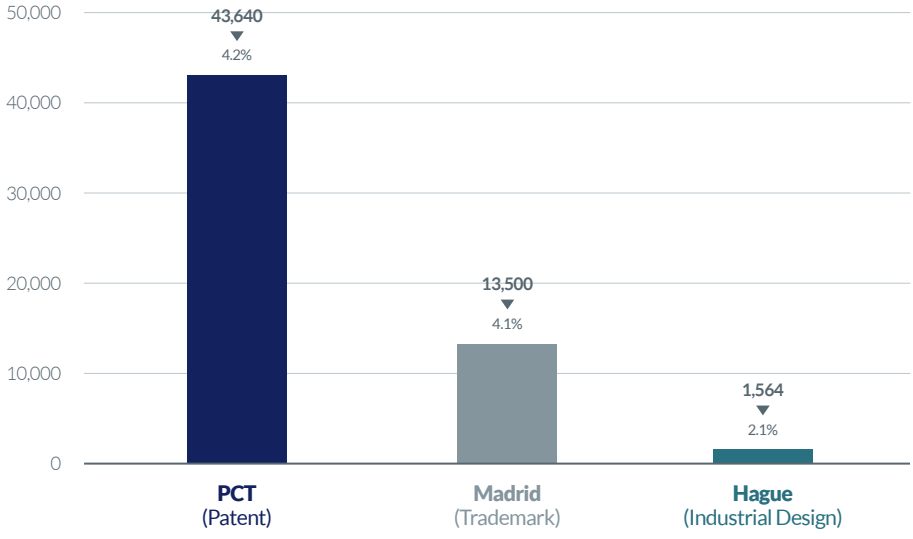
26,369 ▲ 7.5%



• **KIPO as the Designated Office (National Phase)**

(unit: cases)

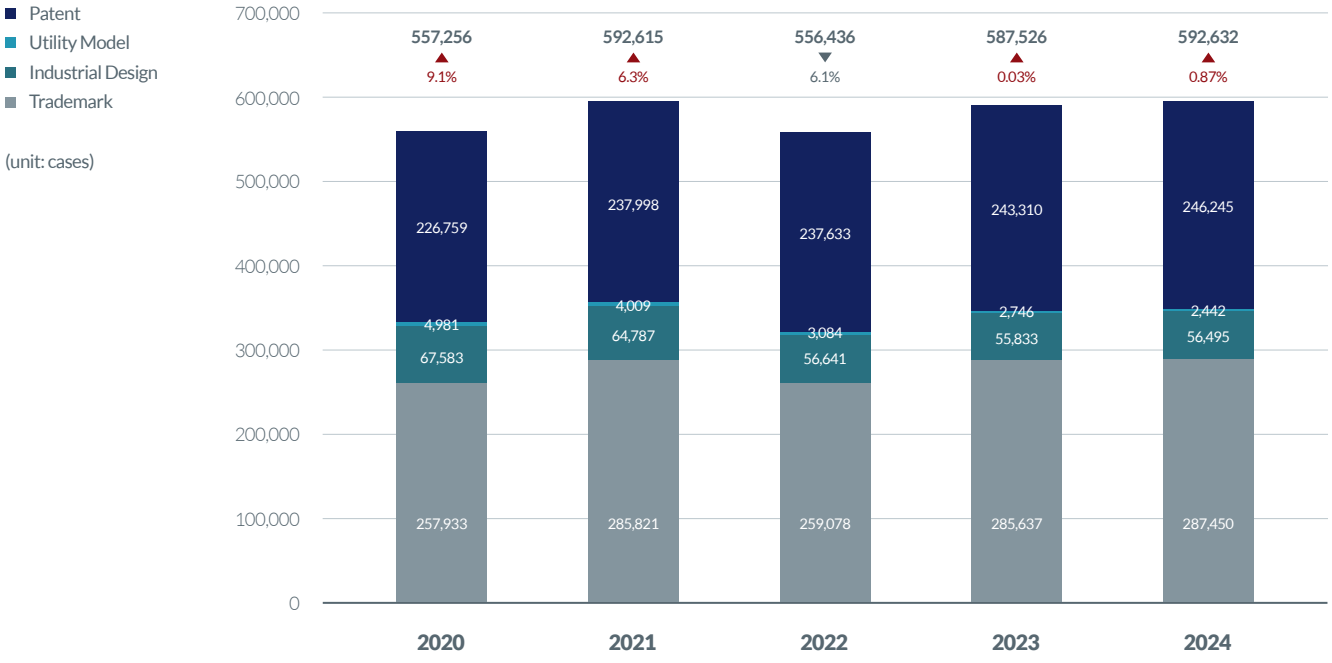
58,704 ▼ 4.1%



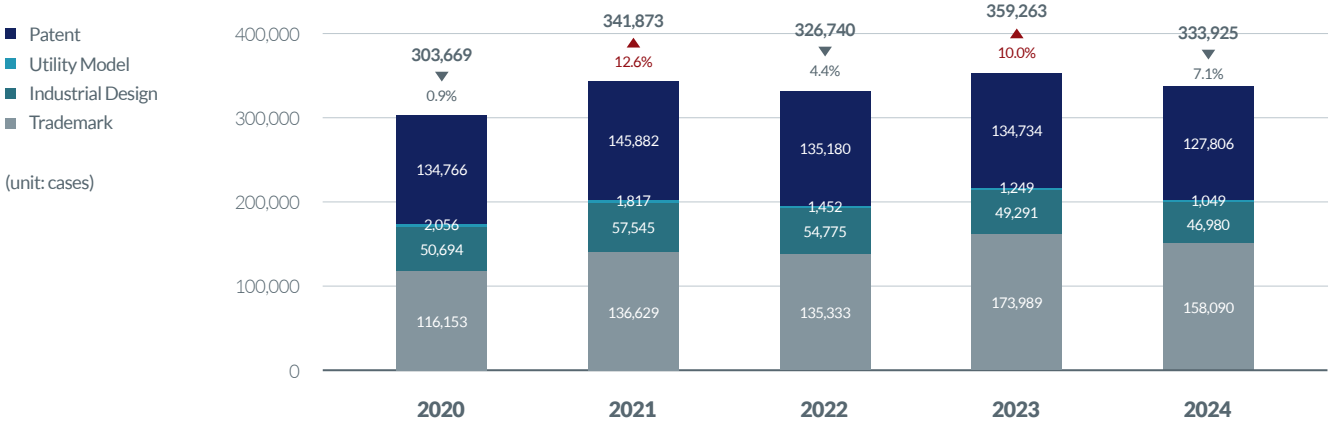
IPR Applications and Registrations by Year

IPR Applications

*Including PCT, Madrid, Hague international applications

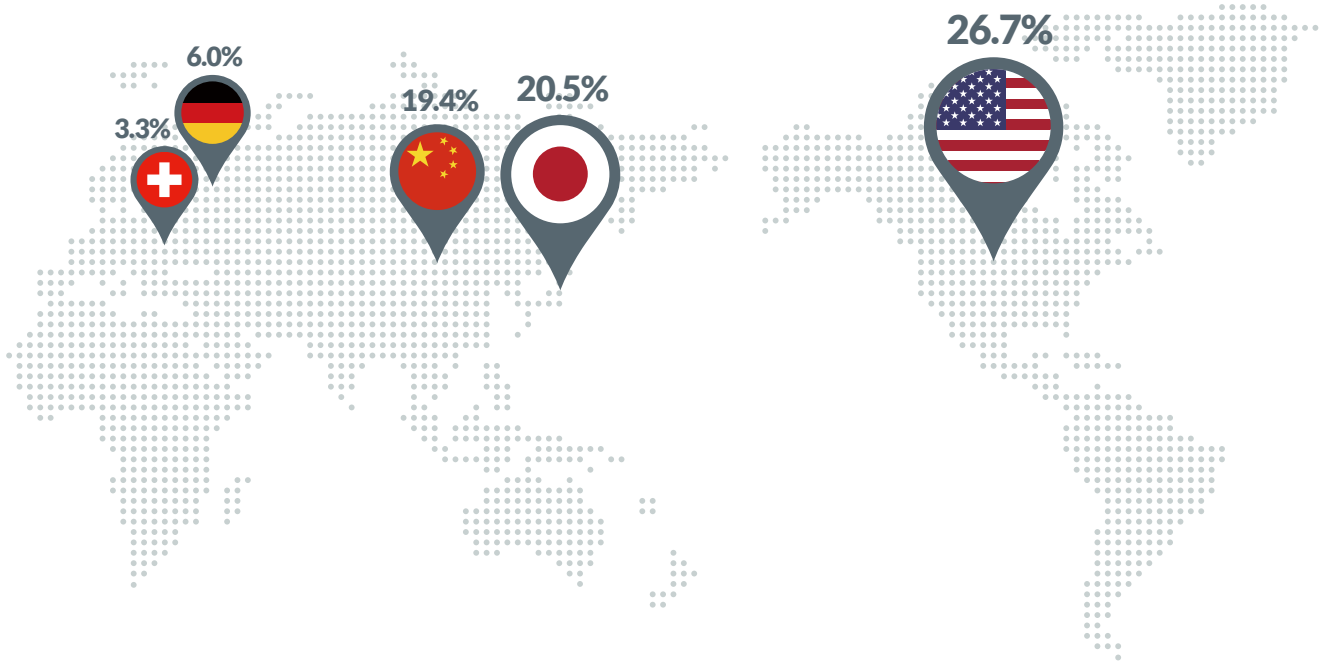


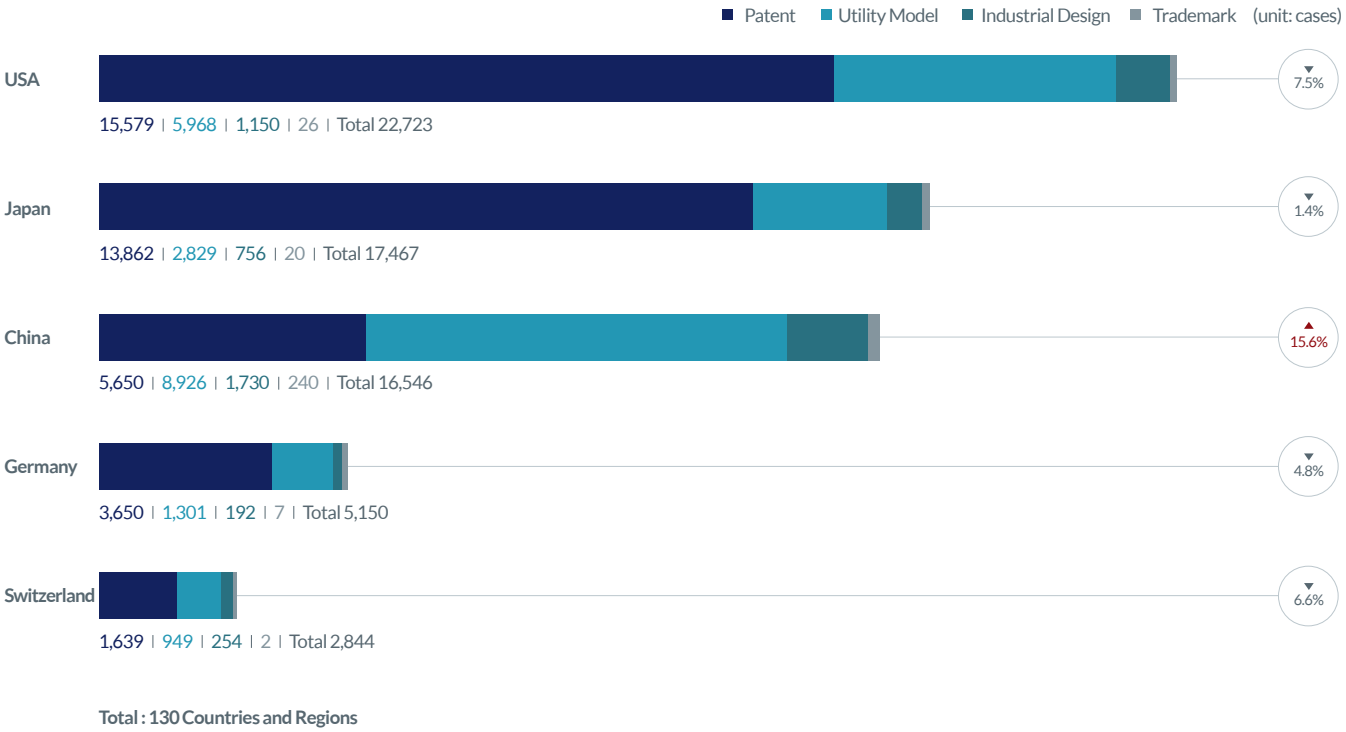
IPR Registrations



Non-resident IPR Applications Filed at KIPO

Top 5 Countries/Regions





Total : 130 Countries and Regions

Top IPR Filing Domestic & Foreign Companies

Patent

	1st.	2nd.	3rd.	4th.	5th.
Domestic	SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS	LG Energy Solution	LG Electronics	SAMSUNG DISPLAY	HYUNDAI
	13,331 12,565 ▲6.1%	4,615 3,741 ▲23.4%	4,390 4,170 ▲5.3%	3,754 3,444 ▲9.0%	3,161 3,163 ▼0.1%
Foreign	QUALCOMM	APPLIED MATERIALS	TEL TOKYO ELECTRON	SEL	
	1,353 1,433 ▼5.6%	634 781 ▼18.8%	610 599 ▲1.8%	549 619 ▼11.3%	489 476 ▲2.7%

Industrial Design

	1st.	2nd.	3rd.	4th.	5th.
Domestic	CJ	LG Electronics	IICOMBINED	SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS	G&Me
	532 565 ▼5.8%	518 682 ▼24.0%	416 18 ▲2,211%	391 360 ▲8.6%	375 143 ▲162%
Foreign		HS PARTNERS PTE. LTD.	dyson	NIKE	LOUIS VUITTON
	228 434 ▼47.5%	82 -	75 38 ▲97.4%	75 58 ▼29.3%	54 87 ▼38.0%

Trademark

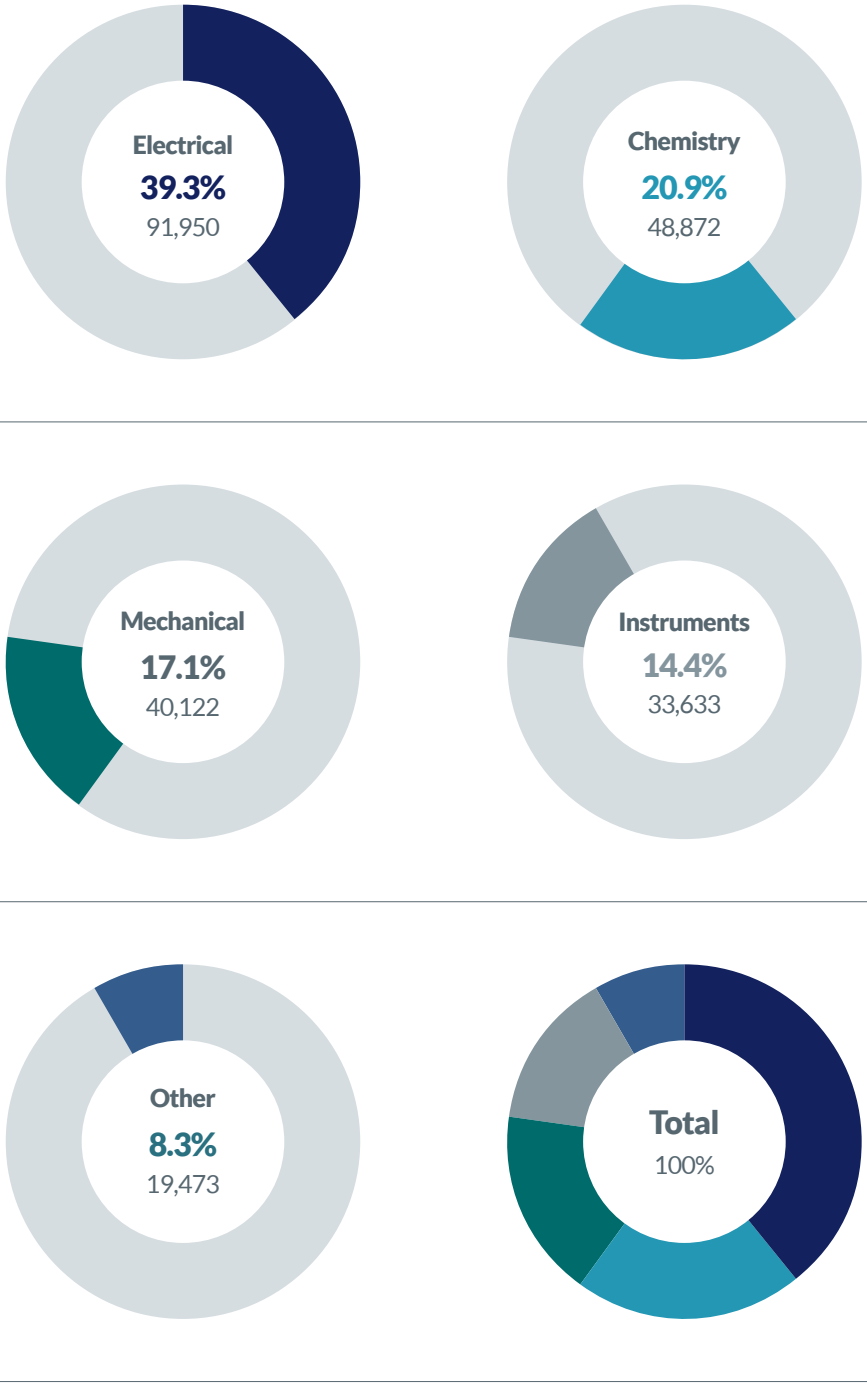
	1st.	2nd.	3rd.	4th.	5th.
Domestic	LG Household & Health Care	MUSINSA	AMOREPACIFIC	NEXON	giaretti
	733 779 ▼5.9%	578 68 ▲750%	494 306 ▲61.4%	357 205 ▼74.1%	344 74 ▲365%
Foreign	HS PARTNERS PTE. LTD.	L'ORÉAL PARIS	Karsten PING	PHILIP MORRIS	amazon
	123 -	113 98 ▲15.3%	45 29 ▲55.2%	38 62 ▼38.7%	35 25 ▲40.0%

■ 2024 ■ 2023 | ▲▼ Year-over-year comparison (unit: cases)

Patent Applications by Technology

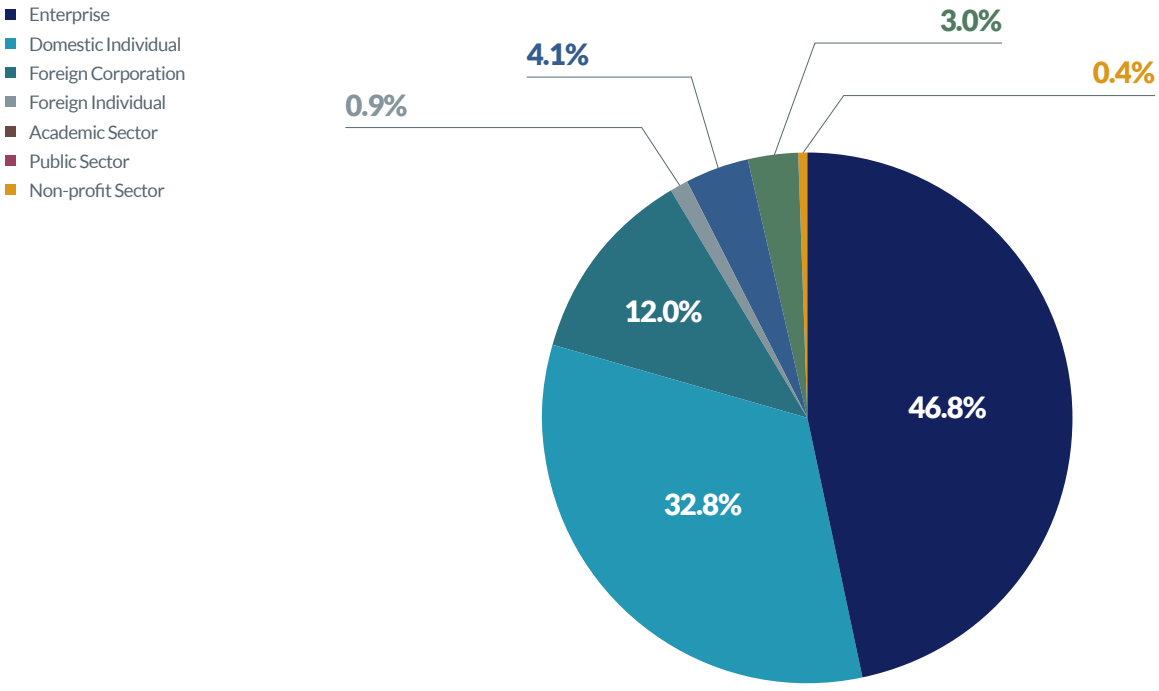
Top 5 WIPO Technology Fields

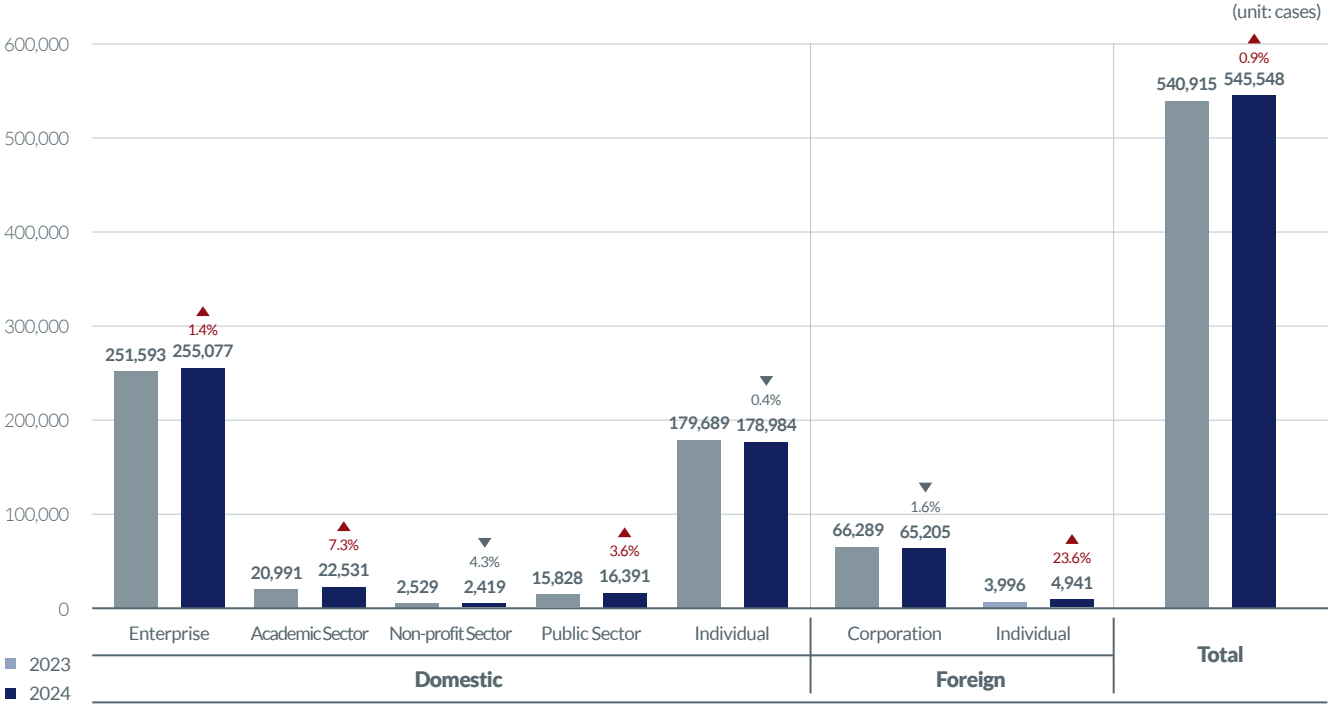
(unit: cases)



Applications by Applicant Type

Ratio of Applications According to Applicant Type



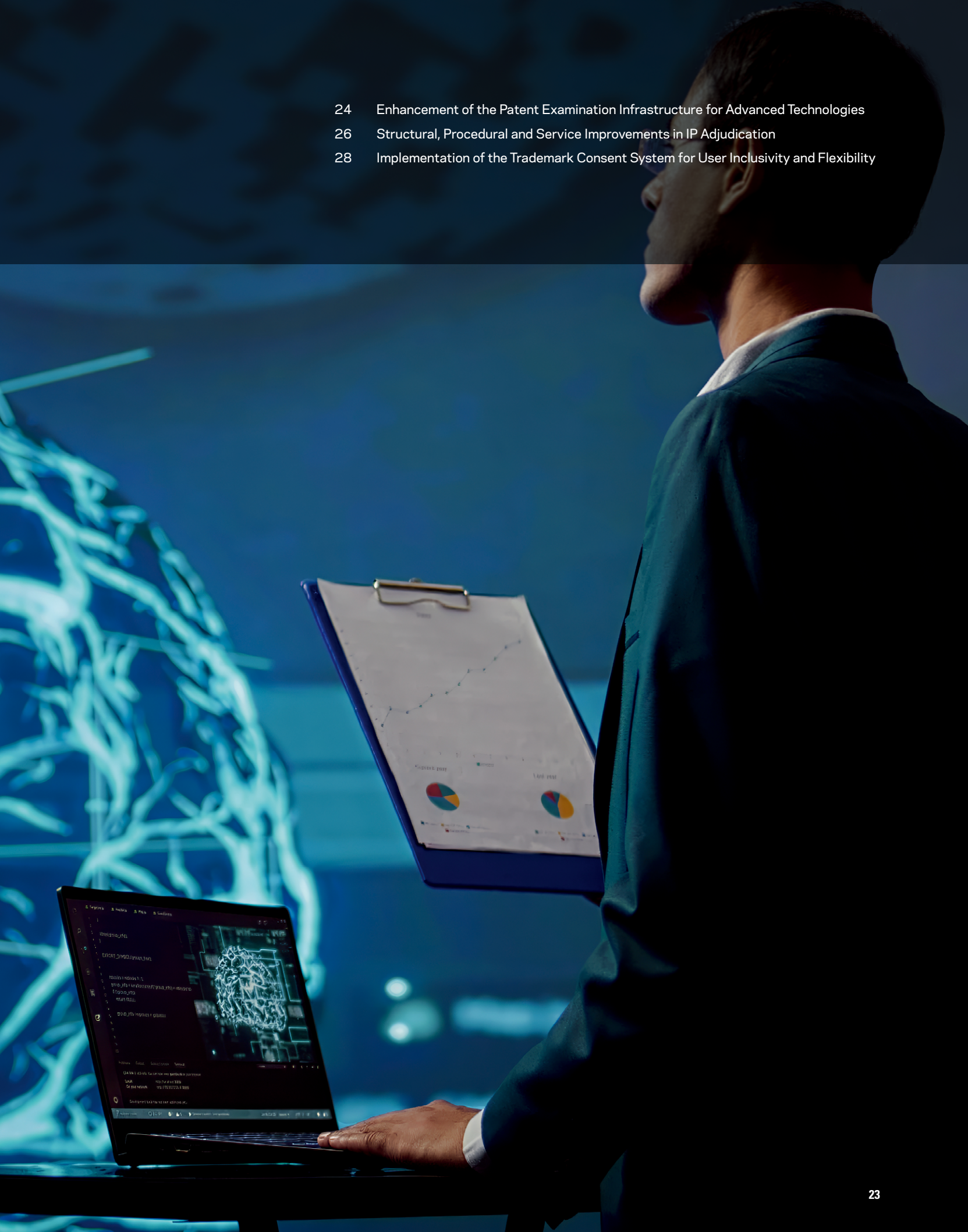


Applications by Applicant Type for Each IPR

(unit: cases)

Improving the IP System

IT expert developing innovative artificial intelligence solutions for company



Enhancement of the Patent Examination Infrastructure for Advanced Technologies

Patent Legal Administration Division, General Affairs Division

Amid intensifying global competition for technological supremacy, KIPO has significantly reinforced its patent examination infrastructure to help companies protect their technologies from the early stages and to support their competitiveness in advanced technology fields. In 2024, KIPO actively implemented a range of policy measures to provide focused support for key high-tech industries. These include expanding the scope of the accelerated examination system, conducting large-scale recruitment of private sector industry-expert as KIPO examiners, and newly establishing a specialized examination division.

Accelerated Examination for Secondary Battery Technologies

Patent filings related to secondary battery technologies have been growing rapidly at an average annual rate of 11.9%, making them one of Korea's core strategic assets, alongside semiconductors. Therefore, in 2024 KIPO designated applications related to secondary battery technologies to be eligible for accelerated examination. This is a continuation of KIPO's efforts to support innovation and ensure timely examination of emerging technologies by expanding the scope of accelerated examination, such as the inclusion of display technology in 2023 and semiconductors in 2022. Companies, R&D institutes, and other related entities in these fields can now apply for accelerated examination more easily and receive examination results usually within two months of approval.

Specifically, accelerated examination is available for applications: 1) directly related to materials, components, and equipment for secondary batteries; 2) related to technologies for battery manufacturing or design; 3) filed by companies producing or preparing to produce secondary battery-related products or equipment in Korea; 4) related to the output of national R&D projects in the field of secondary battery technologies; and 5) from universities (including graduate schools) specializing in secondary batteries.

Recruitment of Private Sector Industry Experts

To enhance both expertise and industry relevance in patent examination, KIPO expanded its recruitment of highly experienced professionals from the private sector. Despite rapid growth in patent filings for secondary battery technologies, examination delays have persisted due to a shortage of qualified examiners.

Therefore, KIPO hired 38 new examiners from the secondary batteries industry and, by June 2024, established a new examination division solely for secondary battery patents, becoming the first among major countries to do so.
These initiatives aim to enhance examination capabilities for complex technologies and proactively manage the growing volume of filings. Furthermore, KIPO has begun recruiting 60 new examiners across three rapidly growing fields: biotechnology (35), advanced robotics (16), and AI (9), each of which has demonstrated an annual patent filing growth rate of 8.4%. These coordinated efforts are expected to significantly strengthen KIPO's examination capacity and responsiveness in key technology sectors.

Through institutional improvements, such as accelerated examination, industry-expert recruitment, and dedicated divisions, KIPO aims to deliver high-quality, specialized examination services and respond swiftly to technological developments which will help companies secure IP rights more quickly and support the commercialization of advanced technologies, ultimately enhancing their competitiveness in key technology sectors.

Structural, Procedural and Service Improvements in IP Adjudication

Trial Policy Division

To achieve more prompt and specialized IP dispute resolution involving national strategic technologies, the Korean Intellectual Property Trial and Appeal Board (IPTAB) has undertaken comprehensive improvements of its trial and appeal system and implemented digital transformation to enhance user convenience. The IPTAB has focused its efforts on three core areas to provide faster and fairer adjudication services by actively reflecting the needs of the users: ① transitioning the IPTAB Boards toward a more user-centered operational framework, ② providing expedited hearing proceedings, ③ supporting user convenience and accessibility.

① Structural Reform of the IPTAB Boards

Major cases involving technologies essential for national security and competitiveness are handled by "Exclusive Boards" composed of administrative judges with advanced degrees (e.g., PhDs) and extensive experience in both examination and trials. Reflecting the growing importance of such emerging technologies, KIPO expanded the number of Exclusive Boards in 2024 from two fields—semiconductors and mobility—to four, with the addition of secondary batteries, and next-generation communications. This expansion is expected to enhance economic security and industrial competitiveness by enabling faster and more reliable IP dispute resolution.

KIPO also introduced a more flexible case distribution to address imbalances in pendency period resulting from discrepancies in caseloads across different fields. Instead of fixed assignments of judges to 36 field-specific Boards, cases are now allocated flexibly to areas with high demand. This approach is expected to help alleviate delays in fields, such as biotechnology and trademarks, where trial requests are particularly concentrated.

Change in Exclusive Boards

Before	After (2024)
① Semiconductor ② Mobility	① Semiconductor ② Mobility ③ Secondary Battery ④ Next-Generation Communications

② Improvement of Hearing Procedures

Improvements to hearing procedures have also been pursued. For *inter partes* trials, such as invalidation trials and trials to confirm the scope of rights, KIPO has expanded the use of concentrated hearing procedures to prevent unnecessary prolongation of disputes and to reduce the burden on companies. In addition, the introduction of an *amicus curiae* system, which allows participation by external experts, is expected to enhance the reliability of IPTAB decisions in major cases that have significant industrial impact.

③ Introduction of User Oriented Services

With the introduction of the *"Ex Officio Amendment"* in March 2024, minor and clear defects in the appeal briefs and trial petitions can now be amended directly by the presiding administrative judge. This proactive administrative measure is expected to reduce procedural delays and alleviate difficulties faced by petitioners unfamiliar with IPTAB proceedings. Additionally, the launch of the IPTAB IT system (as part of a 2023-2025 three-year plan) will streamline the drafting process for IPTAB documents and enable automated classification of evidence using AI technology, further improving user accessibility.

Furthermore, the IPTAB-appointed attorney (public defender) service entered its third term in January 2024. Improvements were made by enhancing the matching process between attorneys and parties based on their technical expertise and case characteristics. The previous term (2nd term; January 2022–December 2023) demonstrated high user satisfaction with a success rate for IPTAB-appointed attorneys at 52.8%, more than 2.5 times higher than that of *pro se* cases at 21.0%. This service is particularly meaningful to support financially under-resourced and socially under-represented groups.

Implementation of the Trademark Consent System for User Inclusivity and Flexibility

Trademark Examination Policy Division

Starting May 1, 2024, KIPO officially began implementing the Trademark Consent System, which allows the registration of identical or similar trademarks if consent is obtained from the prior trademark holder. This user-centered reform aims to lower a major barrier in the trademark registration process and is expected to significantly ease the difficulties faced by SMEs and small business owners in securing trademark rights.

According to domestic trademark examination statistics for 2022, over 40% of all rejected trademark applications were due to conflicts with prior trademarks. Of these rejected cases, 80% were filed by SMEs or small business owners.

Under the previous system, applications for trademarks that were identical or similar to existing or pending trademarks were automatically rejected—regardless of differences in business sectors or regions, actual risk of confusion, or even the expressed consent of the existing trademark holder. As a result, legitimate uses of trademarks were blocked, even in situations where no practical conflict existed, resulting in unnecessary costs and missed business opportunities.

For example, a restaurant owner preparing to launch a new business would be denied registration of a desired name because a similar trademark was already registered by another party. Despite the existing trademark holder's agreement that there was no risk of confusion due to the differences in location and menu, the applicant would still be forced to change the name and discard all pre-produced signage and materials due to regulatory constraints.

With the introduction of the Trademark Consent System, applicants may now register identical or similar trademarks upon receiving the explicit consent of the existing rights holder. This change allows applicants to secure trademark rights without requiring formal transfers or assignments, thereby reducing both cost and time, while contributing to greater operational flexibility and business stability for SMEs and entrepreneurs.

The new system is expected to significantly reduce the burden of securing trademark rights for small entities and help prevent future disputes. At the same time, safeguards have been introduced to protect consumers if the coexisting trademark is used in bad faith and causes confusion or misunderstanding among consumers, the registration may be subject to cancellation.

By allowing coexistence based on mutual consent, the new framework reflects real-world business practices and improves fairness and efficiency in the registration process. Moving forward, KIPO will continue to develop policies that lower barriers, reduce administrative burdens, and ensure balanced protection for both rights holders and consumers.

Strengthening IPR Protection

Landmark during sunset of Suwon Hwaseong Fortress in Suwon, Gyeonggi-do, Korea

Comprehensive Safeguard System for Technology Leakage Protection

Intellectual Property Protection Policy Division

Over the past seven years, the overseas leak of industrial technology —a major form of trade secret infringement—has resulted in damages amounting to approximately KRW 33 trillion (approx. USD 2.4 billion). In response to growing concerns, KIPO introduced a comprehensive safeguard system for technology protection to significantly strengthen Korea's ability to prevent and respond to such incidents. This strengthened system spans the full cycle of protection against trade secret infringement (technology leakage) from risk analysis to investigation, enforcement, and compensation.

As part of this initiative, Korea has enhanced its legal and institutional foundations to more effectively prevent and punish technology leakage. Key reforms include expanding the investigative authority of KIPO's special judicial police to cover not only actual acts of trade secret leakage but also preparatory and conspiratorial conduct, as well as unauthorized retention and transfers. Sentencing guidelines were also revised to impose stricter penalties, and the ceiling for punitive damages in trade secret infringement cases has been raised, demonstrating a strong commitment to deterrence and enforcement.

Expansion of the Tech Police's Authority

Comprising of KIPO personnel with technical and legal expertise, KIPO's special judicial police (also known as the Technology and Design Police or "Tech Police") are authorized to investigate and enforce violations related to technology, design, and trade secrets. First launched in 2019, they have charged 1,855 individuals with technology-related crimes as of 2023. To significantly expand the investigative authority of the Tech Police, an amendment was made to the *Act on the Duties of Judicial Police Officers* on January 16, 2024.

Previously, investigative power was limited to the unauthorized acquisition, use, or disclosure of trade secrets. As a result, investigations could only be initiated after an actual leak had occurred. Even when authorities could identify preparatory or conspiratorial activity, they lacked the legal grounds to intervene unless the information had already been disclosed to a third party. This limitation made it difficult to respond proactively to suspected offenses during the planning or attempted stages of the crime.

Following the 2024 amendment, the Tech Police is now empowered to investigate not only the unauthorized acquisition, use, or disclosure of trade secrets, but also any acts committed during the preparatory, conspiratorial, or unlawful possession stages. This legal reform enables preemptive investigations, helping to prevent technology leaks before they transpire. KIPO's expanded authority thus moves beyond post-incident enforcement and extends to preventative enforcement measures, offering robust protection for key technologies.

Stronger Penalties and Punitive Damages for Trade Secret Infringement

To strengthen enforcement against trade secret infringement, KIPO collaborated with the Supreme Prosecutors' Office to revise sentencing guidelines for IP and technology crimes. The updated guidelines, implemented on July 1, 2024, impose stricter penalties, particularly for cases involving overseas leakage of trade secrets (industrial technology). Additionally, on August 21, 2024, the *Unfair Competition Prevention and Trade Secret Protection Act* was amended to raise the cap on punitive damages from three times to five times the actual loss incurred, signaling Korea's firm commitment to strengthening the enforcement of IP rights.

Also, despite the severity of technology leakage, particularly cases involving overseas transfers, penalties have previously been relatively lenient. For example, first-time offenders were often given suspended sentences without actual imprisonment. Under the revised guidelines, the maximum prison term has increased from 9 to 12 years, and courts may now impose custodial sentences even for first-time offenders.

Moreover, recognizing the corporate and organizational nature of many violations, corporate fines may now reach up to three times the amount imposed on individual perpetrators. This measure is intended to strengthen enforcement and enhance deterrence particularly against organized or systematic attempts to misappropriate trade secrets.

In further effort to ensure that sentencing reflects the scale of economic harm, KIPO plans to establish a consultative body with relevant agencies and experts. Additional legislative reforms are also underway to define broker activities—such as introducing, arranging, or soliciting trade secret leakage—as punishable criminal acts.

Key Changes for the Safeguard System for Technology Protection

Details	Date of Implementation
Expansion of the Technology Police's investigative authority to all stages of trade secret crimes (via amendment to the *Act on the Duties of Judicial Police Officers*) * Previous: Unauthorized acquisition/use/disclosure only → Current: Conspiracy, unjust retention, unauthorized external transfer	2024. 01. 16.
Increase of punishment severity in sentencing guidelines for IP and technology crimes * Previous : 9 years imprisonment → Current: 12 years imprisonment, also for first time offenders	2024. 07. 01.
Increase of punitive damages (via amendment to the *Unfair Competition Prevention and Trade Secret Protection Act*) * Previous : 3 times actual loss → Current: Cap to 5x actual loss	2024. 08. 21.

Operation of a Tailored Online Trade Secret Training Program

Intellectual Property Dispute Settlement Division

With the growing threat of trade secret misappropriation, KIPO launched an online training program to strengthen trade secret protection capabilities. In particular, many SMEs face difficulties in conducting internal training due to financial constraints and/or a lack of awareness among top management. To address this, KIPO, in collaboration with the Korea Intellectual Property Protection Agency (KOIPA), launched a free online training course tailored to the needs of different user groups.

A key feature of the program is its three track structure designed for CEOs, employees, and the general public. 1) The CEO Track includes modules on institutional strategies, confidentiality agreements, and internal human resource management. 2) The Employee Track covers the use of patents and trade secrets, research security, and legal precedents related to R&D activities. 3) The General Public Track offers introductory content, including Q&A sessions, explanations of protection systems, and case-based response strategies. Each track provides audience-specific guidance and practical tools for managing and protecting trade secrets. A notable common component of the program is a lecture by an expert in trade secret law offering in-depth explanations of the legal criteria for trade secret recognition and practical guidance on confidentiality agreements and managing internal personnel.

Participants who complete the training receive a certificate of completion, which may serve as evidence of a company's preventive efforts in the event of a legal dispute on trade secrets. In addition, companies that complete the course are awarded additional points as a competitive advantage to be selected for government support programs, such as KOIPA's consulting services to establish in-house trade secret management systems.

Those wishing to participate in the online training program must register membership and enroll in the course through the official website of the KOIPA's "Trade Secret Protection Center." Based on future demands and outcomes, KIPO plans to consider ways to expand and further develop the program.

Structure of the Online Trade Secret Training Program

Track	Category	Details
CEO	Institutional Management	Strategies for trade secret protection from an institutional perspective
	Physical Management	Physical measures CEOs should adopt to safeguard trade secrets
	Human Resource Management	HR strategies for internal control of trade secrets
	IP Internal Regulations	Guidelines for drafting internal IP protection rules
	Confidentiality Agreement	Guide for securing signed confidentiality agreements
Employees	Technology Protection	Use of patents and trade secrets to protect technical information
	Patent & Trade Secrets	Complementary use of patents and trade secrets
	Research Security	Research security and trade secret protection system
	R&D Information	Legal precedents related to trade secrets in R&D
General Public	Q&A	Representative questions and answers on trade secret protection
	Protection System	Introduction to the trade secret protection system through real-life cases
	Response Measures	Response strategies and case studies on trade secret leaks
	Management Practices	Guidelines for companies on managing trade secrets

Restructuring and Expansion of Overseas IP Centers

Intellectual Property Dispute Settlement Division

In 2024, KIPO restructured and significantly expanded its Overseas IP Centers (formerly known as IP-DESKs) to provide stronger support to Korean businesses facing IP challenges abroad. "IP Centers" are located in countries across the world serving as regional hubs for localized IP support, offering legal consultations, enforcement assistance, and IP protection strategic guidance tailored to each country's legal and market environment.

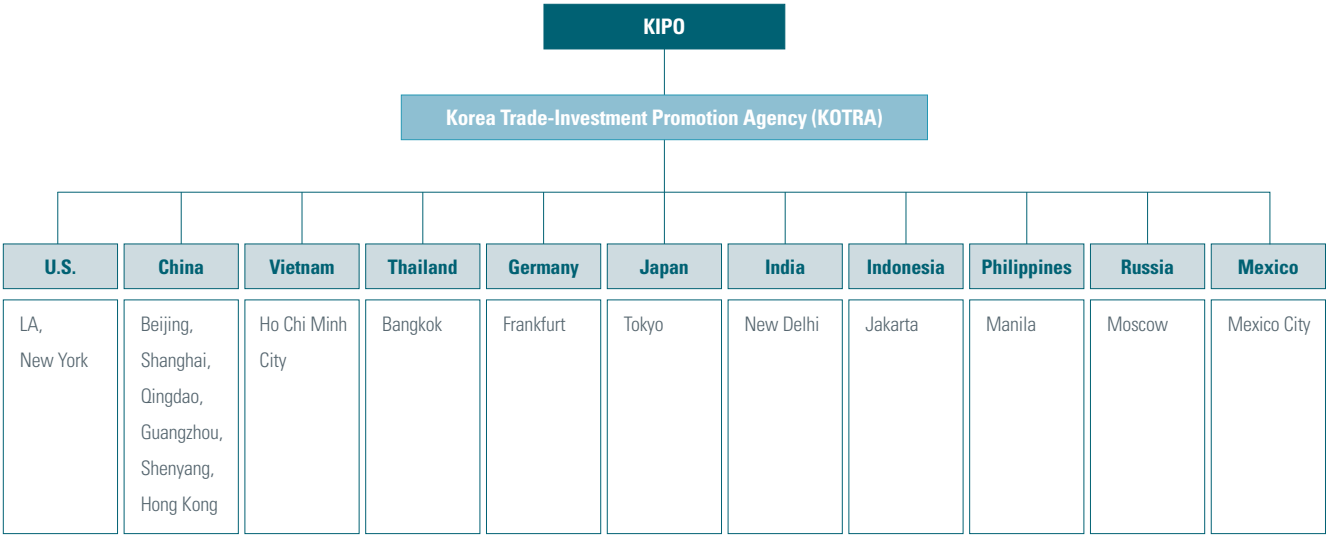
Previously managed by the Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA), IP Centers have been under the supervision of the Korea Intellectual Property Protection Agency (KOIPA) since their reorganization. As services were previously limited to countries with a physical IP Center, in February 2024, a regional support model was adopted to significantly expand service coverage from 11 to 40 countries. The new system allows each center to provide assistance, such as IP-related consultations and legal support, across multiple neighboring countries, further strengthening support for Korean companies' global IP protection efforts.

The IP Centers are staffed with legal professionals, including attorneys and patent attorneys, who provide customized legal support tailored to local conditions. These services are particularly valuable for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and mid-sized companies seeking to enter or expand into global markets. As a result, Korean businesses now have access to legal consultations and advisory services in about 40 countries and regions across North America, Europe, Asia, and Latin America.

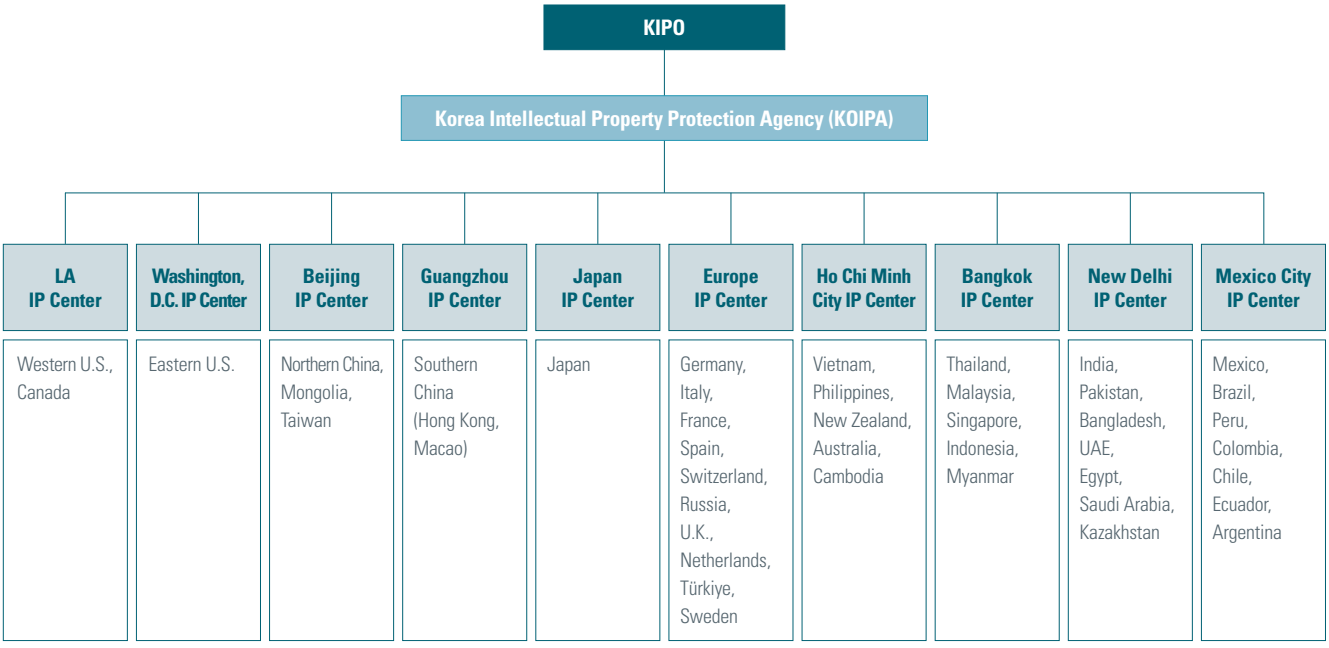
In tandem with the reorganization, the IP Center's Legal Services Support Program has been fully implemented to provide financial assistance for services, such as legal opinions, infringement investigations, and overseas dispute response. The program includes a fast-track mechanism for urgent cases, enabling companies to respond swiftly and effectively to emerging IP challenges. By encouraging regular participation and offering structured support, this enhanced framework allows Korean businesses to address IP infringement and disputes abroad in a more timely and systematic manner.

For those entering new international markets—or those still in the early stages of expansion—often struggled to obtain localized, professional advice. To address this gap, KIPO established the Overseas IP Cooperation Division within KOIPA. Unlike the IP Centers, which operate overseas, this new division is based in Korea and focuses on supporting companies preparing for international expansion. In addition to providing IP consultation services, the division acts as a liaison by connecting companies with the relevant IP Center responsible for their target region. Depending on the nature of the issue, cases may be handled directly by the division or referred to the appropriate local IP Center. Furthermore, export-related agencies such as KOTRA and the Korea International Trade Association (KITA) may alert the division to urgent IP issues faced by Korean companies abroad, ensuring more timely and coordinated support.

Before (17 IP-DESKs providing support in 11 countries and regions)



After (10 IP Centers in 8 countries providing support in 40 countries and regions)



Joint Enforcement System to Combat E-Commerce Counterfeits

Intellectual Property Protection Policy Division

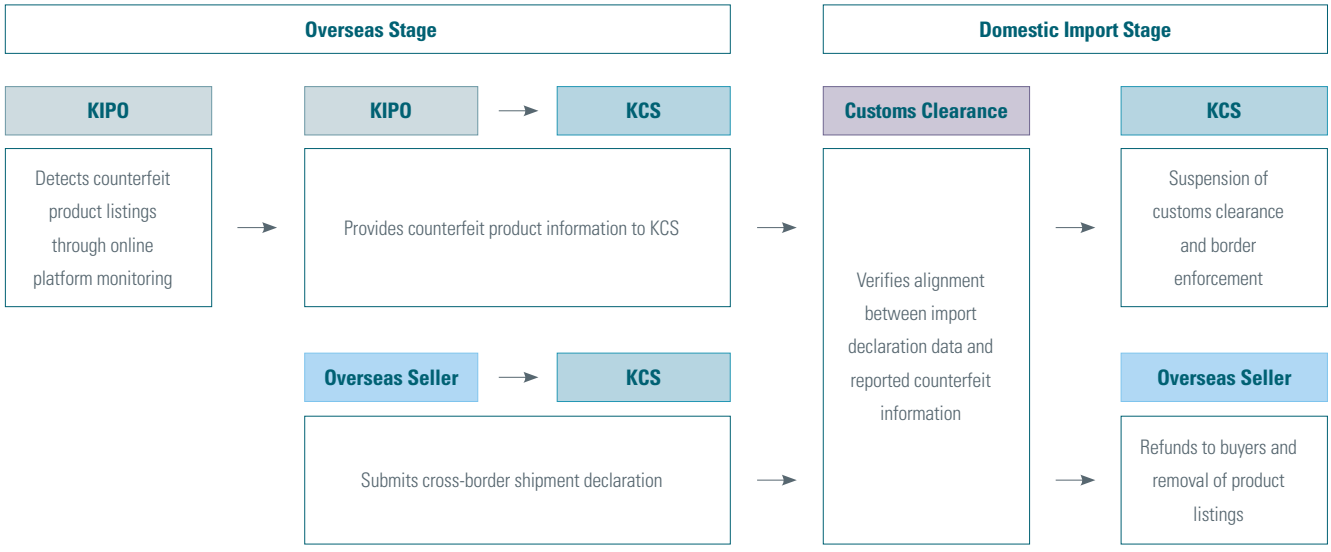
To more effectively prevent the inflow of counterfeit goods through cross-border e-commerce, KIPO, in collaboration with the Korea Customs Service (KCS), launched a joint enforcement system that targets counterfeit imports at the customs clearance stage. As part of this initiative, the Cross-Border E-Commerce Counterfeit Goods Monitoring System was piloted in April 2024.

Under this system, KIPO monitors online platforms for listings of suspected counterfeit goods and shares the relevant information with KCS. Based on this information, KCS can suspend customs clearance for the corresponding goods before they enter the domestic market. When overseas sellers submit shipment declarations, KCS verifies whether the declared items match KIPO's counterfeit reports. If a match is identified, customs clearance is suspended, and enforcement measures are taken. In such cases, overseas sellers may be required to issue refunds and remove the product listings, thereby preventing the distribution of counterfeit goods before they reach Korean consumers.

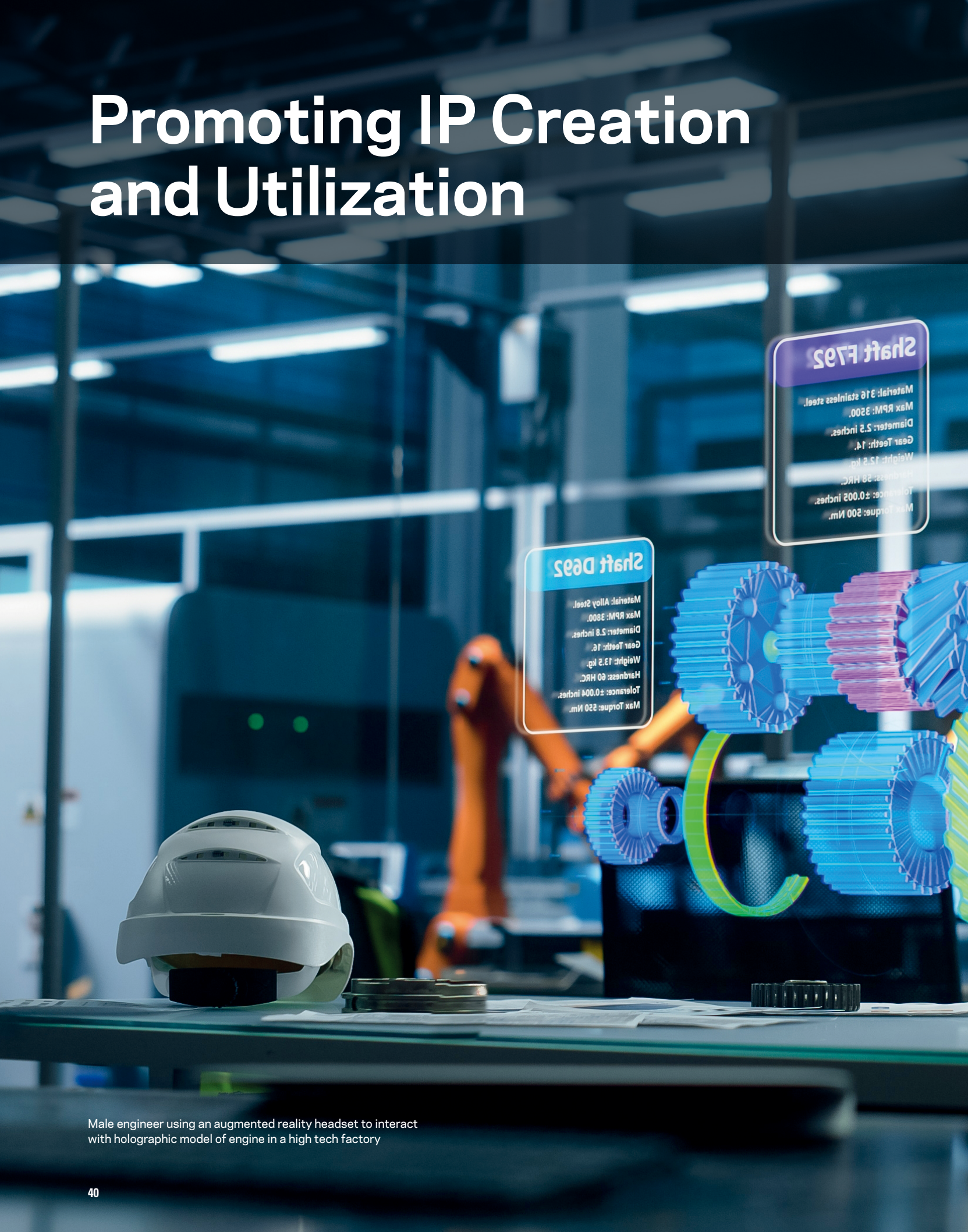
Within just six months of its pilot launch, the system successfully prevented the import of 5,116 counterfeit items (as of October 2024). Following this success, KIPO and KCS signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) in November 2024 to institutionalize the system and strengthen interagency cooperation, particularly in areas of information-sharing and enforcement coordination.

To further enhance monitoring capabilities, KIPO began introducing AI-powered detection technologies in June 2024. The AI-based system initially targeted 11 brands and is scheduled to expand to 160 brands starting in 2025. In parallel, KIPO will continue to share data with KCS regarding trademark infringement trends and enforcement outcomes to support more proactive and targeted border control. Particular focus will be placed on counterfeit products that pose risks to public health and safety. In these cases, KIPO and KCS plan to coordinate targeted enforcement efforts alongside hazard analyses, ensuring both consumer protection and effective IP rights enforcement in the fast-evolving e-commerce landscape.

Cross-Border E-Commerce Counterfeit Goods Monitoring System with KCS



Promoting IP Creation and Utilization



Male engineer using an augmented reality headset to interact with holographic model of engine in a high tech factory

IP Finance Market Surpasses KRW 10 Trillion

Intellectual Property Utilization Division

Based on active IP-backed financial resources at the time of calculation, IP finance has reached KRW 10.88 trillion which is an 80% increase from KRW 6.01 trillion in 2021, this is nearly double in size in the span of just three years. IP finance refers to financing methods based on the assessed value of companies' IP assets. It operates through three primary mechanisms: loans collateralized by IP, loans guaranteed based on IP value, and IP-based investments. These mechanisms enable innovative businesses, especially startups and SMEs with strong technological capabilities but insufficient tangible collateral, to secure financing based on the value of their ideas.

The IP finance market reached a total of KRW 10.88 trillion, comprising KRW 2.15 trillion in loans collateralized by IP, KRW 4.41 trillion in loans guaranteed based on IP value, and KRW 4.32 trillion in IP-based investments. These financing types typically follow a common process beginning with an application, followed by an assessment conducted by a specialized IP valuation institution. IP valuation is the process by which KIPO-designated institutions assess the economic value of IP assets, assigning a monetary amount, quantitative grade, or score. The results of the valuation are then used to inform the decision to issue a loan, guarantee, or investment.

The effectiveness of IP finance is particularly evident in its support for companies that typically face significant funding challenges due to low credit ratings. In fact, 85.2% of companies receiving IP-backed loans were rated below a BB+ credit rating, which is considered a non-investment grade. This high percentage highlights the system's effectiveness in providing viable funding pathways for startups and SMEs with strong technological capabilities but limited tangible collateral.

The rapid growth of the IP finance market has been driven by a variety of promotion policies implemented by KIPO. First, an IP Valuation Support Program subsidizes the cost of IP valuation, which is an essential prerequisite for utilizing IP finance. This program supports valuation not only for finance purposes (loans, guarantees, investment) but also for IP transfer and commercialization, primarily targeting SMEs.

Second, to promote investment in the IP sector, KIPO has contributed capital to the Patent Account within the Korea Fund of Funds. This account supports the creation of sub-funds that invest in companies with strong IP portfolios or directly in high-potential IP assets, thereby broadening access to IP-related investment opportunities.

Third, KIPO operates an IP collateral recovery mechanism, which mitigates financial risk for lenders by facilitating the acquisition and disposal of IP collateral in cases of loan default, helping ensure a stable IP-backed lending environment.

With the success of Korea's proactive actions in IP finance, KIPO has taken steps to share its experiences and foster international dialogue to develop IP finance. Virtual meetings have been

held with IP finance officials from foreign IP offices, including those of Finland, France, and the European Union to share Korea's IP finance development, support measures, and key achievements. Going forward, KIPO plans to foster global cooperation and work with international partners to advance IP finance and jointly explore new strategies for growth in this field.

IP Finance Mechanisms

Type	Process
Loans collateralized by IP	Loan application → Bank request for evaluation → IP valuation → Loan issuance
Loans guaranteed based on IP	Guarantee application → IP valuation → Issuance of guarantee → Loan issuance
IP-based Investment	Investment application → Request for evaluation by investment institution → IP valuation → Investment decision

Program	Description
IP Valuation Support	A program providing financial support for IP valuation, which is an essential process for companies to access IP finance.
Patent Account (of the Korea Fund of Funds)	KIPO's contribution to the Patent Account of the Korea Fund of Funds to channel capital into IP investment for companies with outstanding IP or directly invest in high-potential IP assets.
IP Collateral Recovery Support	A program that, in case of loan defaults, supports the acquisition or disposal of IP collateral to reduce banks' financial risk

National R&D Innovation Support Through IP-Based Strategies

Intellectual Property Creation Strategy Division

To support strategic and data-driven research and development (R&D) planning, KIPO has been promoting the integration of IP into the full R&D cycle. Recent efforts include the establishment of a dedicated support system for national strategic technologies, the publication of patent-based industry analysis reports, and the provision of regularly updated information on global technology trend data. These initiatives aim to strengthen Korea's IP-based R&D ecosystem by leveraging patent big data to identify promising future technologies, guide the development of R&D strategies, and secure core patents across both public and private sectors.

Strengthening of IP-R&D Support Systems

In February 2024, KIPO launched the National Strategic Technology Patent Division, a dedicated team supporting the development of R&D strategies in national strategic technologies and the acquisition of core patents. The division conducts big patent data analysis focusing on 12 priority technology sectors (e.g., semiconductors, secondary batteries, AI, etc.) and provides the analysis results to relevant ministries and agencies as input for R&D policy planning. By supporting early-stage IP integration into national R&D efforts, KIPO helps establish a firm foundation for securing patent competitiveness.

Also in December, KIPO, in cooperation with related government agencies, announced the "Strategy for National R&D Innovation Support Based on IP." This strategy aims to utilize patent big data throughout the full R&D cycle–from planning to output–by identifying promising future technologies, supporting efficient research execution, and promoting the acquisition of core patents.

Patent Big Data Analysis

Each year, KIPO analyzes more than 580 million global patents to assess the current state of the technological landscape in various strategic industries. The results are compiled and published in the "Patent Big Data-Based Industry Innovation Strategy Reports," which are released to the public. In 2024, KIPO published the 2023 edition, consisting of 20 volumes each covering a specific technology field (e.g., AI, quantum technologies, advanced semiconductors, etc.) or economic security field (e.g., EUV photoresists, numerical controllers, synthetic graphite, etc.).

The reports provide in-depth analysis of national technological competitiveness and emerging technologies, derived from domestic and international patent big data related to industries that have garnered public and policy attention in recent years. Specifically, they include comparative assessments of technological maturity across countries, Korea's competitive positioning, technology classification systems and significance, as well as status updates on key technologies held by leading companies, research institutes, and universities around the world. Additionally, they highlight focal areas by country and corporation, and identify future promising technologies. These comprehensive insights are expected to significantly enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of R&D planning and strategy development for both public and private research institutions.

Provision of Technology Trends of Key Industries

In order to assist both government and private sectors in informed R&D decision making, KIPO launched a new public

service in September 2024 titled Global Technology Trends and Patents in High-Tech Strategic Industries. This resource offers industry insights based on objective patent data through three main categories: global policies for strategic industries, industry-specific technology trends, and patent trends.

First, global policies for strategic industries include national development strategies, legislation, and international cooperation trends; second, industry-specific technology trends cover 13 key sectors (e.g., semiconductors, displays, secondary batteries, and AI, etc.) along with market movements and major corporate investments; and third, patent trends provide annual statistics on patent filings in the key sectors, broken down by country and applicant. This resource is updated monthly to ensure timely access to reliable data and is expected to greatly assist academia, industry, and research institutions in their R&D-related decision-making processes.

Promotion of IP-R&D through Public-Private Communication

KIPO is also promoting broader adoption of IP-R&D, a policy approach that uses IP information—particularly patents—as the starting point for R&D. It supports analysis of global patent trends and key patents held by overseas competitors in the early stages of R&D, guiding research efforts in a direction that maximizes the likelihood of securing core patents and avoid duplication or infringement.

In December 2024, KIPO hosted a national IP-R&D conference bringing together stakeholders from academia, industry, and public research institutions. The conference featured case studies and presentations on the strategic use of patent big data in R&D planning and showcased successful examples of how companies and institutions achieved tangible research outcomes using the IP-R&D approach. The event served not only as a platform for knowledge sharing but also as a catalyst for fostering an ecosystem in which the IP-R&D strategy is driven by the private sector and expanded across the broader R&D landscape.

KIPO will continue to promote widespread utilization of IP into R&D across public and private R&D institutions by enabling its proactive use in research fields and academic-industry collaborations. To support this, KIPO will foster outstanding private-sector institutions specializing in patent big data analysis and establish guidelines for high-quality strategy development, thereby laying the groundwork for wider adoption.

Category	Details
Global Policies for Strategic Industries	· Information on key national policies for fostering advanced strategic industries, legislative developments, and the current status of international cooperation among major countries.
Industry-specific Technology Trends	· Insights into market developments including industry movement, investment directions of leading companies, and emerging issues of 13 key sectors*. * Key industrial sectors (13): semiconductors, displays, secondary batteries, advanced mobility, next-generation nuclear power, advanced biotechnology, aerospace and marine, hydrogen, cyber security, AI, next-generation communications, advanced robotics and manufacturing, quantum technology
Patent Trends	· Annual trends in patent applications for select key technologies within each industrial sector. · Patent filing statistics by major countries and leading applicants.

Legislative Reform to Enhance Employee Invention Practices

Intellectual Property Policy Division

In March 2024, the *Invention Promotion Act* was amended to improve the employee invention system. Under Article 2(2) of the Act, an "employee invention" is defined as an invention created in the course of employment that falls within the scope of the employer's business and relates to the employee's current or past job responsibilities. This aims to balance the interests of employers and inventors by encouraging creative innovation by employees while ensuring that employers succeed to (acquire the rights to) such inventions and enable their use for technology transfer and commercialization. However, the previous system had faced practical challenges, including administrative burdens for employers and difficulties in securing objective evidence for fair compensation.

To address these issues, the amendment introduced two major improvements: (1) the implementation of an automatic succession system and (2) the establishment of new court procedures for evidence submission and confidentiality orders. These changes were developed through broad consultations with stakeholders, including employers, employees, the scientific and technological community, and legal professionals, ensuring the amendment is both inclusive of diverse perspectives and effective in practice.

First, to alleviate the administrative burden on employers and enhance the stability of succession, the automatic succession system simplifies the process by which employers acquire rights to employee inventions. Under the previous system, employers were required to individually notify employees of their intent to succeed each invention. This process created legal ambiguity and increased business costs due to the risk of double assignment and the administrative burden placed on companies. The revised system changes the point of succession to occur

automatically at the time the invention is completed. Now, employers only need to explicitly notify the employee if they do not intend to succeed the invention, significantly simplifying the process and reducing regulatory burden on businesses.

Second, to promote a fairer compensation process, the amendment strengthened procedures for securing evidence in litigation. Previously, employers could decline to submit key evidence in litigation related to employee inventions by citing trade secret protections, which often left employees without access to objective data for calculating fair remuneration. The amendment empowers courts to issue evidence submission orders, compelling disclosure of necessary documents when necessary even if they contain trade secrets. At the same time, the law introduces confidentiality orders to ensure such materials are not used outside the context of litigation. Together, these measures strike a balance between protecting business-sensitive information and safeguarding employees' rights to fair compensation.

To support implementation, KIPO published the Employee Invention System Guidebook, which includes model internal regulations, procedures for employer-employee consultation, and practical examples of compensation practices. Educational programs based on the guidebook are also planned to help businesses and inventors better understand the revised system.

The improved employee invention framework is expected to foster a more innovation-friendly R&D environment in which employees are encouraged to create with confidence, and employers can more reliably acquire and commercialize inventions. It also supports the development of a fair and transparent compensation culture that promotes mutual trust and sustained technological advancement.

Large-scale Release of Patent Information for Enhanced IP Utilization

Industrial Property Data Management Division

To promote broader and more strategic use of patent data, KIPO has significantly expanded public access to both domestic and international patent data through KIPRIS[Plus], KIPO's official data provision platform. KIPRIS[Plus] offers real-time access to all publicly disclosed IP information, available in both bulk data and Open API formats. It supports a wide range of users—including companies, universities, research institutes, individuals, and public institutions—who utilize the platform for purposes such as IP management, IP finance, IP valuation, IP transfer, and the development of IP-based services.

In 2024, KIPO released a series of large-scale data sets that enhance transparency, improve searchability, and reduce barriers to global patent information. These include approximately 28 million records of patent ownership changes from Korea, the United States (U.S.), and Japan; 39 million Korean-language translations of Chinese patent gazettes; and 5 million legal status records for domestic patents and utility models. The datasets support enhanced IP analysis, reduce language and legal barriers, and help companies and research institutions develop more informed global technology strategies.

Release of 28 Million Patent Ownership Change Records (Korea, U.S., Japan)

Beginning May 22, 2024, KIPO made available approximately 28 million patent ownership change records from Korea, the U.S., and Japan via KIPRIS[Plus]. Previously, only the final rights holder information was available, which made it difficult to track ownership changes over time. With this release, users can now access a standardized and structured database containing both the ownership change histories and final rights holders across these three countries. This improvement enables more robust analysis of global IP transfer and trends, ultimately aiding strategic decision-making by companies and research institutions.

Release of 39 Million Translations of Chinese Patent Gazettes

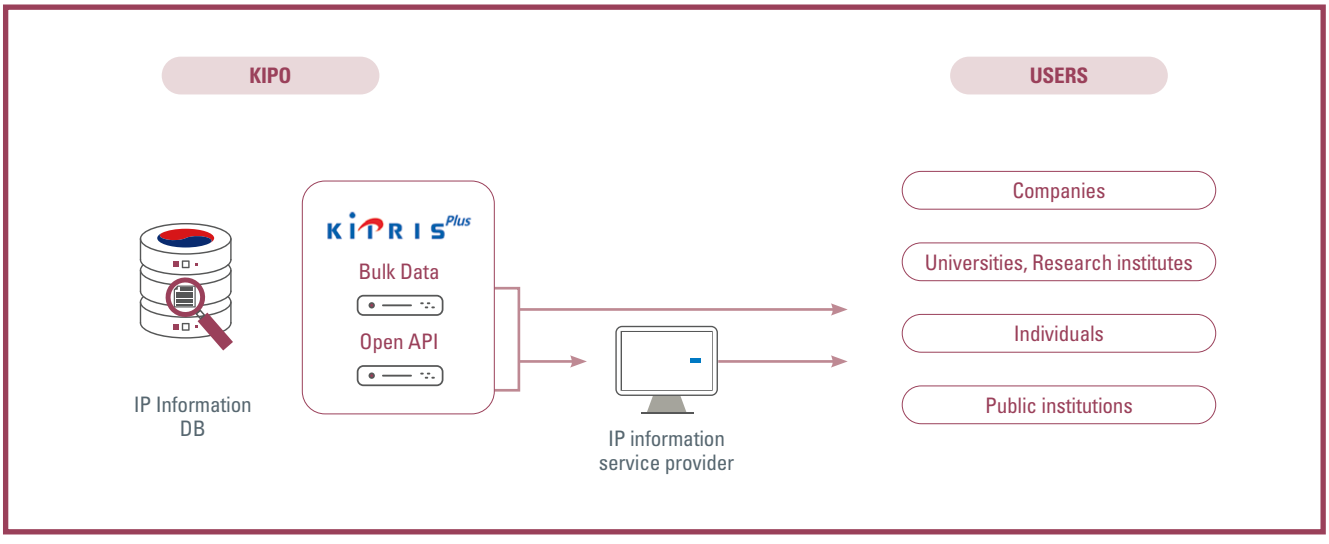
To further improve Korean users' access to global patent information, KIPO launched the third phase of its foreign patent translation initiative in September. Following previous releases for European (2022) and U.S. (2023) patents, KIPO published Korean-language translations of 39 million Chinese patent gazettes. This translated data covers the Chinese gazettes published by the China National Intellectual Property Administration (CNIPA) from February 2010 to July 2023, and was generated using an AI-powered machine translation system. The translated gazettes are freely accessible via KIPRIS[Plus], enabling Korean companies and individuals to search and utilize Chinese patent documents without language barriers. The data is expected to be widely used in various fields, such as prior art searches, patent valuation, and technology analysis.

Release of 5 Million Legal Status Records of Korean Patents and Utility Models

In addition to international data, KIPO has also expanded domestic data availability. On December 12, 2024, it released approximately 5 million legal status records for domestic patents and utility models. The dataset includes legal changes throughout the full life cycle of rights, such as application, registration, expiration, termination, and transfer history, dating back to 1942. These records have been standardized in accordance with WIPO's international data protocols and help companies and research institutions systematically manage their IP portfolios and establish strategies for dispute prevention. It also enables clearer assessment of patent value in terms of legal stability and potential for utilization.

Looking ahead, KIPO plans to sequentially release seven types of patent data for AI training and provide Korean-language translations of Japanese patent gazettes by 2025. KIPO will also continue to identify and release high-quality IP data and expand demand-driven customized data services to support broader utilization across the public and private sectors.

KIPO's Patent Information Utilization Service (KIPRIS^{Plus})



Advancing Global IP Cooperation

Gyeongbokgung Palace at night in Seoul, Korea

Commemoration of the 20th Anniversary of the WIPO Korea Funds-in-Trust

International Cooperation Division

On July 11, 2024, KIPO hosted a commemoration event for the 20th Anniversary of the WIPO Korea Funds-in-Trust (Korea FIT) at the headquarters of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in Geneva. Established in 2004, the Korea FIT is a collaborative initiative between KIPO and WIPO aimed at bridging the global IP gap between developed and developing countries by strengthening IP capacity and providing technical assistance. The ceremony served as an opportunity to reflect on two decades of achievements under the FIT cooperation between Korea and WIPO and to discuss its future direction.

Over the past 20 years, Korea has contributed approximately KRW 18 billion (CHF 15.4 million) to the Korea FIT and has jointly implemented more than 180 projects, serving a broad range of beneficiaries. In particular, these projects have had meaningful impact in three core areas: 1) engaging youth through IP education, 2) supporting women leadership in science and innovation, and 3) enhancing IP utilization by SMEs. In recent years, the Korea FIT has expanded further to support modernization of IP offices through the use of AI technologies.

Engaging Youth through IP Education

The Korea FIT has helped raise global awareness of IP among children by fostering early engagement in creativity and invention. As part of this effort, the animated series "Getting Creative with Pororo" was produced as a way to reach young audiences through a popular children's character. There are six episodes to introduce the concept of IP rights and the invention process in an accessible and engaging format. The miniseries is uploaded to be freely available to all on WIPO's official YouTube channel and has been translated into nine languages—Korean, English, French, Chinese, Spanish, Arabic, Russian, Portuguese, and Thai. It has reached millions of children worldwide, promoting an early appreciation for innovation and IP.

Empowering Women Scientists and Innovators

The "WIPO-UNESCO-KIPO Leadership Course on Intellectual Property, Science and Innovation for Women Scientists and Innovators" was organized through the FIT Korea to support gender-inclusive innovation. The curriculum covered topics such as IP commercialization strategies, IP valuation and management, and recent trends in IP rights, offering practical guidance on leveraging IP throughout the R&D and commercialization process. The first session was held in Geneva in April 2023, followed by a second session in Seoul in September 2024 with participation by 23 women scientists from around the world. This initiative reflects the strong commitment to empower women scientists and innovators by equipping them with practical IP knowledge essential for research commercialization and leadership in innovation.

Enhancing SME IP Utilization Capacity

To enhance IP capacity in the business sector, the Korea FIT supported the

development of IP Panorama, a global e-learning platform that enables SME leaders and employees to understand and apply IP strategies in real-world business contexts. Originally, IP Panorama 1.0 was launched in 2007, translated into 24 languages, and used by more than 30,000 individuals across 175 countries. Building on this success, the modernized IP Panorama 2.0 was launched in 2022 to reflect current IP trends and continues to serve as a vital resource for global SME capacity building. By delivering high-quality IP education to SMEs worldwide, the Korea FIT enables them to better acquire, manage, and leverage IP assets as a strategic business tool.

AI-based Support for Developing Countries

Furthermore, in response to evolving global IP administration needs, the Korea FIT has recently expanded its support to include the digital transformation of IP offices in developing countries. One key area is the use of AI technologies to address human and technical resource shortages at IP offices. In April 2024, KIPO and WIPO AI experts conducted training at the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines on AI-powered prior art search systems and supported the development of a pilot system. The project provided practical guidance on integrating AI into examination processes, helping to improve efficiency and accuracy. Future cooperation will extend to other ASEAN countries, including Thailand, Indonesia, and Viet Nam. Through the introduction of AI-based patent examination support, KIPO aims to help bridge resource gaps and improve the examination capacity of partner offices.

Throughout the two decades, the WIPO Korea FIT has made significant contributions to narrowing the global IP gap and promoting inclusive, innovation-driven development. These achievements exemplify KIPO's long-standing commitment to strengthening global IP capacity through partnership and collaboration. KIPO will continue developing impactful programs that align with WIPO's priorities and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), ensuring that the benefits of IP are shared equitably across the global community.

The 17th IP5 Heads Meeting Hosted in Seoul

International Cooperation Division

From June 19 to 20, 2024, KIPO hosted the annual meeting of the heads of the world's five leading intellectual property offices (IP5) in Seoul, along with a joint session involving industry representatives. It had been five years since the last time the IP5 meeting was held in Korea in 2019 in Songdo, Incheon. The event brought together more than 100 participants, including the heads of the IP5 and industry stakeholders.

The IP5 is a cooperative forum among the world's five largest IP offices—KIPO, the European Patent Office (EPO), the Japan Patent Office (JPO), the China National Intellectual Property Administration (CNIPA), and the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO)—which together handle approximately 85% of the world's patent applications. Established in 2007, the IP5 aims to build a user-friendly global IP ecosystem and KIPO has continued to play an integral role in shaping the IP5's core agenda and has been leading several key discussions.

Adoption of a Joint Declaration for Advancing the UN SDGs

At the 2024 Heads Meeting, the five offices adopted a Joint Declaration outlining a mid- to long-term cooperative framework aimed at achieving the UN SDGs. This initiative builds on the outcomes of the 2023 IP5 meeting in Hawaii, where the SDGs were officially adopted as a central vision for IP5 collaboration. At the Seoul meeting, Korea and Japan jointly proposed the "Guideline for Building a Sustainable Future," which will serve as a foundational document guiding future IP5 efforts to promote sustainability.

In addition, under the theme of building an inclusive IP system for sustainable innovation, the IP5 discussed policy measures to support innovative SMEs. Recognizing the importance of SME growth, KIPO presented its comprehensive support framework—spanning from the filing to commercialization—including application fee subsidies and IP valuation assistance, and future plans.

Discussions on User-Friendly Global IP Systems

The IP5 also continued its efforts to improve user convenience by exploring ways to streamline international patent assignment procedures. A patent assignment refers to the legal transfer of ownership of a patent or a pending patent application from one party to another. As the lead office on this agenda item, KIPO shared the progress of the "Global Assignment" project, which aims to establish a mechanism to recognize the effects of a patent assignment across all IP5 jurisdictions through a single application.

Furthermore, in relation to the Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) cooperation, the IP5 welcomed CNIPA's decision to join a joint PPH project led by Korea, the U.S., and Japan. The PPH is an international framework that enables faster patent examination by allowing offices to rely on each other's prior examination results. This specific project seeks to deliver results

within three months of filing. China's participation is expected to significantly improve predictability and examination efficiency.

Cooperation on Emerging Technologies

Another major topic at the 17th IP5 meeting was how to adapt IP systems in response to rapidly developing technologies, such as AI. The offices shared progress on the implementation of the "New Emerging Technologies and AI Roadmap," first adopted at the 14th IP5 Heads Meeting in 2021, and discussed its next steps. Among the key outcomes, the IP5 heads approved the results of a joint study on the "Inventorship of AI-Generated Inventions" which examined legal and policy developments across the five jurisdictions regarding the recognition of AI as an inventor.

Through its leadership in hosting the 2024 IP5 Heads Meeting, KIPO demonstrated its growing influence in shaping global IP policy. By contributing to the adoption of a joint SDG declaration, promoting inclusive support for SMEs, and leading key initiatives on patent assignment and AI, KIPO reaffirmed its commitment to advancing a more collaborative, sustainable, and future-ready global IP system.

International IP Engagement through Bilateral Partnerships

International Cooperation Division

As part of its broader efforts to strengthen global IP cooperation, KIPO has been working to deepen engagement with partner countries through tailored administrative and training initiatives. In particular, these efforts include cooperation with the United Arab Emirates (UAE), a major economic and technological hub in the Middle East, and Cambodia, an ASEAN partner with high market potential. As a step toward strengthening bilateral engagement, KIPO signed memoranda of understanding (MOUs) on IP Cooperation with each country during the respective Korea-UAE and Korea-Cambodia Summit meetings held in 2024.

MOU on IP Cooperation during the Korea-UAE Summit

Korea and the UAE have been carrying out a Special Strategic Partnership which implements cooperation across a broad range of fields, including advanced technology, nuclear energy, and defense industries as well as in the area of IP. In particular, KIPO's cooperation with the UAE is developing as a multi-faceted partnership grounded in administrative support and capacity building.

During the Korea-UAE Summit in May 2024, KIPO and the UAE Ministry of Economy signed an "MOU on Capacity Enhancement in the IP Field." Under this MOU, KIPO will directly design and deliver customized training programs for newly appointed UAE patent examiners, covering foundational knowledge of IP systems, patent application procedures, and examination practices. This initiative marks Korea's first-ever export of a formal training program specifically tailored to new examiners of foreign IP offices.

This cooperation builds on a foundation established in 2014 when the two countries signed an MOU on patent examination outsourcing. Since its signing, a total of 19 Korean examiners have been dispatched to the UAE to conduct substantive examinations of local patent applications. The two offices further strengthened institutional cooperation through the successful completion of a joint project to establish the UAE's national patent information system in 2018.

MOU on Reinforced IP Cooperation during the Korea-Cambodia Summit

As a member of ASEAN, Cambodia is emerging as an important partner for Korea, especially as Korean companies are actively expanding their presence in Cambodia's consumer goods sector, such as cosmetics and food. Reflecting this trend, trademark applications filed by Korean entities in Cambodia have grown at an average annual rate of approximately 8.4% from 2013 to 2023, highlighting the need for closer cooperation in trademark protection.

On the occasion of the Korea-Cambodia Summit in May 2024, KIPO and the Ministry of Commerce of the Kingdom of Cambodia signed an "MOU on Reinforced IP Cooperation." The MOU includes provisions on implementing trademark-related clauses under the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), sharing experience and know-

how in the field of digitalization, and exchanging trademark data. In particular, legal foundation has now been established for trademark data exchange which will allow more efficient prior searches through the access of approximately 130,000 registered trademarks in the country. Furthermore, the two offices discussed various avenues of collaboration, including training programs for public officials on AI policy, capacity building for women and SMEs, and the sharing of content.

KIPO's recent bilateral engagements with the UAE and Cambodia illustrate its growing commitment to meaningful international cooperation in the IP field. By supporting examiner training, digital system development, and data sharing, KIPO is contributing to the advancement of global IP ecosystems in ways that mutually benefit both Korea and its partner countries. Building on these experiences, KIPO will continue to expand bilateral cooperation with other countries, fostering inclusive and sustainable growth through IP.

Global Expansion of Korea's IP Administration "KIPOnet"

Industrial Property Information Policy Division

KIPO's comprehensive electronic system, "KIPOnet", digitizes the entire patent administration process—from online application receipt and examination to registration, publication, and trials. With over 35 interconnected subsystems, it enables paperless operations and real-time processing, contributing to greater administrative efficiency and improved service quality. The system operates 24/7 and offers accessible, user-centered IP services for both applicants and examiners. KIPOnet has drawn international attention as a model of digital IP governance, leading to its adoption by multiple partner countries aiming to modernize their IP infrastructure.

Based on its experience with KIPOnet, KIPO has been working with international partners for the modernization of IP administration through system sharing and technical cooperation. To date, KIPOnet, Korea's model of IP administration automation, has been implemented in Mongolia, Azerbaijan, ARIPO, the UAE, Paraguay, and Egypt. In 2024, KIPO held high-level meetings and training programs with Tunisia and the Philippines to strengthen bilateral cooperation in IP automation and support the ongoing digital transformation of their IP systems.

Tunisia High-Level Meeting and Training Program

As part of the "Improvement on Industrial Property Public Administration System in Tunisia (2023–2027)" project, KIPO hosted high-level officials from the Tunisian National Institute for Standardization and Industrial Property (INNORPI)—including its Director General—for bilateral meetings and a training program at KIPO's headquarters in Daejeon. This initiative, implemented in cooperation with the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), aims to support the establishment and long-term operation of the KIPOnet system in Tunisia. Key components of the project include system development, capacity-building for public officials, and the procurement of essential infrastructure.

The two offices were able to exchange views on digital transformation strategies in IP administration and discussed technical approaches to IP automation. The training also provided an opportunity for Tunisia to gain insight into Korea's experience with e-government and digital innovation in the IP sector. In addition, participants visited major industrial research institutions, offering a first-hand look at Korea's broader innovation ecosystem and its integration with advanced IP infrastructure.

Philippines High-Level Meeting and Training Program

As part of its ongoing "Overseas IP Automation Consulting Project," KIPO hosted high-level officials from the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IPOPHL) for bilateral meetings and training sessions. This initiative seeks to lay the groundwork for potential deployment of the KIPOnet system and to support the Philippines in its broader digital transformation efforts.

Discussions covered a range of topics, including Korea's application of AI in patent examination, recent developments in AI-related R&D, and strategies for modernizing national IP administration. The offices also explored possible funding mechanisms for future system development. Site visits to private research complexes, including LG Sciencepark Innovation Gallery and Hyundai Motorstudio, provided insights into Korea's innovation ecosystem and integration with digital IP systems.

KIPO's recent digital cooperation initiatives reflect a broader strategy to promote global innovation through technology-enabled IP systems. KIPO will continue to work with international partners to share its experience in digital IP administration and support the modernization of global patent office infrastructure. These efforts reflect KIPO's ongoing commitment to fostering inclusive and sustainable digital transformation in the international IP landscape.

Future Plan

KIPO Vision & Strategy

To contribute to technological innovation and industrial development by promoting the creation and utilization of IP and strengthening its protection.

Vision

To step forward as a leading IP country through innovation of IP administration.

Strategy

1

Support creation of strong IP that leads industrial innovation

2

Establish an IP protection system responding to changes in the global environment

3

Support innovative growth through promotion of IP utilization

4

Build an IP foundation to lead the future

Performance Goals

1. Support consumer-oriented R&D innovation
2. Provide fair and accurate examination and trial services

1. Establish a system of domestic and overseas IP protection
2. Create a favorable international IP environment by strengthening international cooperation

1. Promote the commercialization and transaction of patent technology from universities, public research institutions and SMEs
2. Promote startup and commercialization based on IP

1. Foster a creative IP workforce
2. Innovate patent administration services to actualize a "Digital Platform Government"

IP Support Systems & Programs 2025

Field	Project/Initiative Name	Beneficiaries	Details
Creation and Use	IP Didimdol	Aspiring Entrepreneurs and Individuals	Support for concretization and IP rights acquisition of outstanding ideas discovered through RIPC, IP Startup Zones, and Creative Economy and Innovation Centers.
	IP Narae	Technology-based Startup Companies	Consulting service support on IP technology and management strategies to enhance IP management systems of startup companies.
	Global IP Star Company Development	SMEs	Comprehensive IP service support, including overseas IP rights acquisition, to help exporting and export-preparing SMEs grow into globally competitive enterprises.
	IP-Linked R&D Strategy Support	SMEs/Mid-sized Companies with Research Organizations, Universities, and Public Institutions	Tailored and engaged support for IP-linked R&D strategies to help companies, universities, and public research institutes secure core and foundational patents.
	Standard Essential Patents Creation Support	Universities, Public Institutions, SMEs, and Midsized Companies	Support for standard essential patent (SEP) strategies across the entire development process to enhance research productivity and improve the technology trade balance.
	Creation and Utilization of High-Quality Patents from Government R&D Support	Universities and Public Institutions	Capacity building support for high-quality patent generation and utilization through IP management diagnostics of universities and public institutions.
	In-depth Analysis of National R&D Patent Trends	R&D Ministries and Specialized Institutions	Provision of Patent-based strategic input during national R&D pre-planning to prevent redundant research in key development fields and enhance quality of the planning process.
	IP Services Growth Support	IP Information Service Companies	Support for establishing development strategies for market-oriented IP information services to implement minimum viable pilot services and improving functionality.
	Women Invention Everywhere	Female Aspiring Entrepreneurs	Discovery of marketable practical everyday inventions by creative women and support for the process of filing, design, prototype production, and commercialization of the product.
	IP Data Gift Policy	Aspiring Entrepreneurs and Small Enterprises within 7 years of startup	Provision of free IP data, categorized by the startup or growth stage, necessary for product development in the IP information service sector for up to 7 years.
	IP Emergency Support	SMEs	Resolution of urgent IP challenges faced by SMEs in management to remove growth barriers in business operations.
	Public-Private Partnership IP Strategy Support	Aspiring Entrepreneurs and Small Enterprises (within 7 years of Startup)	Private sector management of IP and investment in startups, and government support through an IP commercialization package (rights acquisition, commercialization, production, and certification etc.).
	IP Capability Strengthening for Small Businesses	Small Business Owners	Support for small business owners in acquiring rights (e.g., trademarks and recipes) and operation of education and consultation programs to raise IP awareness

Field	Project/Initiative Name	Beneficiaries	Details
	Designation of Institutions for IP Diagnosis	Institutions for Examination of IP Rights	Designation of IP diagnosis institutions to provide R&D direction and strategy to companies and research institutions through comprehensive investigation and analysis of industrial property and related information.
	Patent-Ro Product Innovation Support	SMEs	Strategic support for SMEs to utilize IP for innovative product development and enhancement, business consulting, and market entry assistance.
	Domestic IP Transactions Support	Individuals, SMEs, etc.	Brokerage service support by IP transaction specialists for individuals and SMEs seeking to trade IP such as patent technologies.
	International IP Transactions Support.	SMEs/Mid-sized Companies (in advanced industries)	Support for overseas IP transaction brokerage to help SMEs and mid-sized companies in advanced industries manufacture and sell export products as well as promote competitiveness of core technologies and domestic production.
	Valuation Support for IP Commercialization	Individuals, SMEs, etc.	Financial assistance for the cost IP value assessment of IP owned by individuals and SMEs to help them utilize IP for business feasibility analysis and technology transactions.
	Idea Transaction Support	Individuals, Companies, etc.	Operation of a secure and user-friendly idea trading platform that connects supply and demand of ideas and allows participation by diverse entities.
	Idea Transaction and Commercialization Support in the Carbon Neutrality Field	SMEs in the field of carbon neutrality	Discovery and enhancement of ideas from the general public in the carbon neutrality sector, and provision of IP strategies and product commercialization consulting to SMEs.
	Support for the growth of climate tech through the utilization of public patent technologies	SMEs (Climate tech sector)	Identification and transfer of patented technologies from the public sector to the private sector for carbon-reducing product development and process improvement, along with verification and commercialization support.
	Priority Purchase Recommendation System for High-quality Inventions	Individuals, SMEs	Market entry support for outstanding inventions with patented technology to be recommended for priority purchase by KIPO Commissioner to national institutions, local governments, and public institutions.
	Public IP Commercialization Support	Universities and Public Research Institutions	Full-cycle support for universities and public research institutes to utilize their patent holdings, from creation and technology transfer to commercialization and the establishment of a self-sustaining environment.
	Diagnosis Support for Public Institutions-owned Patents	Universities and Public Institutions	Consulting services to enhance the usability of government R&D patent outcomes through diagnosis and strategic management of patents held by public institutions

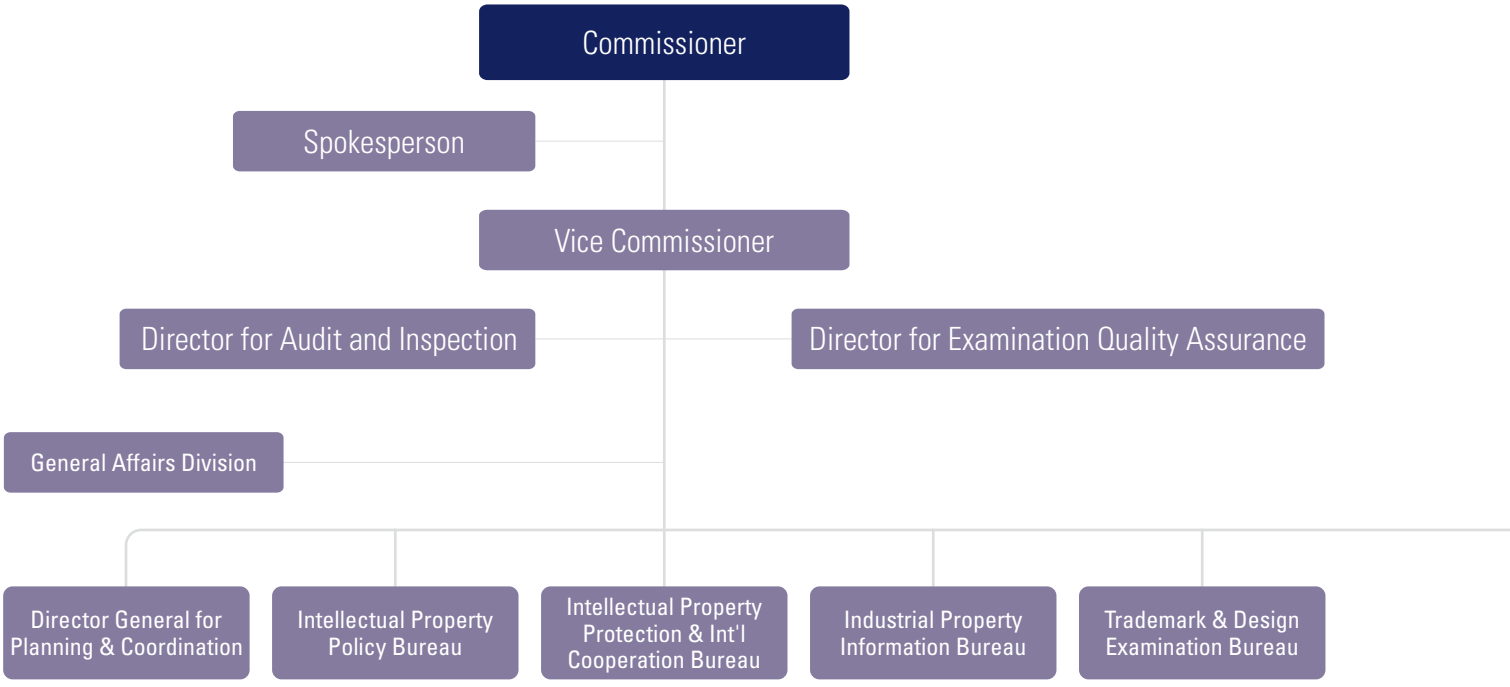
Field	Project/Initiative Name	Beneficiaries	Details
Protection	Trade Secret Protection Centers	Universities & Public Research Institutes, SMEs	Trade secret protection services, such as online and tailored training, distribution of management systems, consulting, legal advisory for leakage disputes, and original authentication services
	Overseas IP Centers	SMEs/Mid-sized Companies (planning to export)	Support for acquiring domestic IP rights and resolving IP issues to enhance export the competitiveness of companies expanding overseas.
	Online Counterfeit Goods Overseas	SMEs/Mid-sized Companies	Monitoring of trademark squatting abroad and support for responding to overseas online counterfeit product distribution.
	Patent/K-Brand Dispute Response Strategies Support	SMEs/Mid-sized Companies (planning to export)	Provision of tailored protection strategies for each stage of international IP disputes, including risk analysis, response to cease-and-desist letters and lawsuits, license renewal, and enforcement.
	Enhancement of IP Risk Response Capabilities of Export-Venturing Companies	SMEs/Mid-sized companies with no export or beginner exporters (less than $100,000 in exports)	Diagnosis and response support for overseas IP dispute risks faced by export-venturing companies entering foreign markets.
	IP Dispute Resolution System	Rights Holders, Licensees, Employee Inventors, and Stakeholders	Provision of dispute mediation, when requested, by a panel of experts in the relevant field aimed at facilitating mutual agreement for dispute resolution.
Finance	IP Mutual Aid	SMEs/Midsized Companies	Operation of a mutual aid system based on inter-company assistance to reduce IP-related costs and enhance business stability for SMEs and mid-sized enterprises.
	IP-backed Collateral/Loans Recovery Support	Banks with IP Collateral Loan Agreements	Mitigation of losses for banks by purchasing collateralized IP in case of loan default following IP-backed lending.
	IP Finance Valuation Support	SMEs	Support for IP valuation costs to help companies secure financing—IP-guaranteed loans, IP-backed loans and IP investment—based on the value of their IP assets.
	Direct IP Investment, IP Company investment etc.	SMEs and venture companies	Direct investment in IP (e.g., patents) or investment in innovation-based companies with patent technologies to promote the innovative growth of SMEs and venture companies (through operation of IP funds under the Korea Venture Investment Corp).
Education and Consultation	IP Digital Education	General Public	Provision of online digital educational content on IP fundamentals and management, including patents, trademarks, and designs.
	Specialized Colleges for IP Professionals Cultivation	University (Graduate) Students	Cultivation of region-specific IP professionals and promotion of IP education to drive the sustainable growth of local innovation-driven companies.
	IP-Talented Entrepreneurs Cultivation	Middle School Students or Adolescents Aged 13-15	Selection and development of gifted student inventors with high creativity into future IP-based entrepreneurs leading next-generation industries

Field	Project/Initiative Name	Beneficiaries	Details
	Invention Education Centers	Elementary, Middle, and High School Students	Expansion of invention education and early cultivation of creative talent through invention education centers.
	IP Meister Program	Vocational High School Students	Support for vocational and Meister high school students in exploring industry field challenges and developing, refining, protecting, and transferring their ideas to become future technical experts
	Support for Invention Education at Full-day Elementary School	Elementary School Students, Invention Education Instructors	Delivery of high-quality invention education to develop the skills required for the future society through "Neulbom Schools," addressing low birth rates and reducing private education burdens.
	Employee Invention System Consultation	SMEs/Midsized Companies	Dispatch of IP experts (e.g., PhD-level consultants) to companies that are trying to implement or are facing difficulties in operating job invention regulations, to assist in establishing the regulations and resolving operational challenges.
	Patent Support Desks	SMEs, Aspiring Entrepreneurs, etc.	Provision of IP consultation services through IP specialists at regional IP Centers.
	Public Patent Attorney Counseling Center	Small Businesses, Disabled Individuals, Basic Livelihood Security Recipients, and Other Socially Vulnerable Groups	Free patent attorney services for socially disadvantaged individuals, including consultations, document preparation for industrial property rights, and legal representation in trials and appeals.
	Patent Information Search and Electronic Application Training	Patent Officers of Companies, Institutions, Research Institutes, Students, and Aspiring entrepreneurs	Customized education on patent information search and electronic filing tailored to different target groups.
	CEO IP Academy for Businesses	Venture and INNOBIZ Entrepreneurs	Providing IP education for venture and INNOBIZ entrepreneurs to strengthen IP capabilities and enhance technological competitiveness.
Events	Invention Day Event	General Public	Designation of May 19 as "Invention Day," commemorating the invention and official use of the world's first rain gauge, with an annual ceremony and awards for outstanding inventors
	Korea Invention Patent Exhibition	General Public	Organization of the Korea Invention Patent Exhibition, the Korea Trademark and Design Rights Exhibition, and the Seoul International Invention Fair.
	International Women's Invention Expo	Women Holders of filed/registered IP Rights	Exposition with booth operation opportunities for domestic and international participants, distribution consulting with major domestic retailers, and live commerce support
	Intellectual Property Data Utilization Startup Competition	General Public	Competition to discover creative ideas using IP information and support startups and commercialization, where outstanding teams are selected for awards, receive free data, and are recommended for startup support programs by the Ministry of Science and ICT.

Field	Project/Initiative Name	Beneficiaries	Details
	D2B Design Fair	General Public	Provision of a platform for commercialization of original designs and acquisition of strong design rights, thereby fostering prospective designers and supplying creative designs to domestic SMEs.
	Campus Patent Universiade	Domestic College (Graduate) Students	Expansion of patent data utilization and analysis education in universities to cultivate IP talent needed by industry and to connect creative university ideas with the private sector.
	Korea Student Invention Exhibition	Elementary, Middle, and High School Students	Nurturing of creative talented inventors by discovering and awarding students' invention ideas and exhibiting excellent student inventions
	Korea Student Creativity and Innovation Championship	Elementary, Middle, and High School Students	Organization of a competition of team-based invention activities for elementary, middle, and high school students (5–7 members per team) creatively solve given tasks for fostering creativity, teamwork, and leadership.
	Patent Technology Award	General Public	Recognition of outstanding inventions registered at KIPO with awards to encourage the spirit of innovation.
	IP Startup Contest (IP League)	Aspiring Entrepreneurs, Entrepreneurs	Operation the government-wide startup competition "Challenge! K-Startup," selecting (pre-) entrepreneurs with strong IP portfolios and offering follow-up support through awards (e.g., monetary prize, Presidential Award, etc.) and IP/startup support programs by KIPO and the Ministry of SMEs and Startups
Other Programs and Initiatives	Excellent Employee Invention Compensation Certification System	SMEs/Midsized Companies (with an employee invention system and have implemented employee invention compensation within 2 years from the application date)	Provision of various incentives for certified companies, including expedited examination of patents, utility models, and designs; additional discount on registration fees; SGI Seoul Guarantee benefits; and extra points when applying for government support programs.
	Intellectual Property Management Expansion	SMEs that exemplarily practice IP management	Provision of additional incentives to certified companies, including additional points for participation in government support programs.
	Fee Reduction Program	Individuals, SMEs, etc.	Reduction of fees for patent, utility model, and design applications, request for examinations; 70% reduction of the first 3 years of registration fees; and 50% reduction of registration fees from the 4th year to expiration.
	IP-Related Tax Support	SMEs, Midsized Companies, and Large Enterprises	Tax benefits including 1) exemption from income tax on employee invention compensation, 2) income tax/corporate tax reduction for income from technology transfer (licensing), 3) tax credits on patent search and analysis costs for SMEs.

Field	Project/Initiative Name	Beneficiaries	Details
	Patent Trial - National Representative System	Small Businesses, Disabled Individuals, and Other Socially/ Economically Disadvantaged Groups	Provision of court-appointed representatives for parties without legal counsel in IP trial cases who are socially or economically disadvantaged.
Official Development Assistance	Appropriate Technology and Brand Development Support	Cooperatives in developing countries, etc.	Utilization of patent information to provide appropriate technological solutions to the local circumstance and development of brands and business strategies to increase income of communities in developing countries.
	IP Utilization by Government Ministries in Official Development Assistance Projects	Cooperatives in Developing Countries, etc.	Support for sustainable economic development in developing countries through customized patent consulting during joint research periods through collaboration with other ministries (e.g., Ministry of Science and ICT, Rural Development Administration) using patent R&D analysis, including appropriate technology and brand development for seeds targeted for technology development.
	Fund-In-Trust KIPO (WIPO)	Patent-related Personnel in Developing Countries, Youth, Women, SMEs	Capacity building and awareness-raising in IP for developing and least developed countries through contributions to the WIPO Korea Funds-in-Trust.

KIPO Organization Chart



- Director for Planning Finance
- Director for Organization & Management Innovation
- Director for Regulatory Reform & Legal Affairs

- Intellectual Property Policy Division
- Intellectual Property Utilization Division
- Intellectual Property Human Resources Division
- Regional Intellectual Property Division
- Intellectual Property Creation Strategy Division
- Idea Innovation Division

- Intellectual Property Protection Policy Division
- Intellectual Property Dispute Settlement Division
- Technology & Design Police Division
- Trademark Police Division
- International Cooperation Division
- Unfair Competition Investigation Division

- Industrial Property Information Policy Division
- Industrial Property Information System Division
- Industrial Property Data Management Division
- Industrial Property Application Division
- Industrial Property Registration Division
- Industrial Property International Application Division

- Trademark Examination Policy Division
- Design Examination Policy Division
- Home & Daily Goods Trademark Examination Division
- Chemicals & Foods Trademark Examination Division
- Professional Service Mark Examination Division
- General Service Mark Examination Division
- Machinery & Electronics Trademark Examination Division
- International Trademark Examination Division
- Home & Daily Goods Design Examination Division
- Industrial Supplies Design Examination Division
- Korean Wave Trademark Preferential Examination Division

- Artificial Intelligence & Big Data Examination Division
- Internet of Things Examination Division
- Bioscience Technology Examination Division
- Intelligent Robot Examination Division
- Autonomous Driving Technology Examination Division
- Smart Manufacturing Examination Division
- Biological Diagnostics & Analysis Examination Division
- Biopharmaceuticals Examination Division
- Healthcare Technology Examination Division
- Healthcare Data Examination Division

Digital Convergence Examination Bureau

Intellectual Property Trial and Appeal Board

- Board 1-10
- Trial Policy Division / Litigation Division

International Intellectual Property Training Institute

- Education Planning Division
- IP Education Division
- International Education Division

Seoul Branch Office

- General Affairs Support Division
- Electronic Documentation Division

Patent Examination Policy Bureau

- Patent Examination Policy Division
- Patent Legal Administration Division
- Household Goods Examination Division
- Food & Biological Resources Examination Division
- Residential Technology Examination Division
- Home Applications Examination Division
- PCT International Search & Preliminary Examination Division

Electricity & Communications Examination Bureau

- Electrical Systems Examination Division
- Computer Systems Examination Division
- Communications Systems Examination Division
- Electronic Commerce Examination Division
- Broadcasting & Multimedia Examination Division

Chemistry & Biotechnology Examination Bureau

- Organic Chemistry Examination Division
- Pharmaceuticals Examination Division
- Materials Chemistry Examination Division
- Battery Materials Examination Division
- Polymer & Textile Examination Division
- Medical Technology Examination Division
- Environmental Technology Examination Division
- Battery Design Examination Division
- Battery Control & Management Examination Division

Machinery & Metals Examination Bureau

- General Machinery Examination Division
- Mechatronics Examination Division
- Construction Technology Examination Division
- Automobile Examination Division
- Mechanical Power Systems Examination Division
- Transportation Machinery Examination Division
- Measurement Technology Examination Division
- Materials & Metals Examination Division

Semiconductor Examination Bureau

- Semiconductor Fabrication Process Examination Division
- Semiconductor Design Examination Division
- Display Device Examination Division
- Semiconductor Materials Examination Division
- Semiconductor Package and Assembly Examination Division
- Semiconductor Fabrication Equipment Examination Division

Appendix

Applications

Application by IPR type

(unit: cases)

Category	2020	2021	2022	2023	**2024**
Patents	226,759	237,998	237,633	243,310	**246,245**
Utility models	4,981	4,009	3,084	2,746	**2,442**
Subtotal	231,740	242,007	240,717	246,056	**248,687**
Designs	66,354 (68,695)	63,647 (65,922)	55,333 (57,845)	53,738 (55,833)	**54,333 (56,495)**
Trademarks	243,935 (290,207)	270,421 (290,209)	242,368 (290,323)	241,130 (285,637)	**242,545 (287,450)**
Total	542,029 (590,642)	576,075 (598,138)	538,418 (588,885)	540,924 (587,526)	**545,565 (592,632)**

Note: Figures in parentheses include multiple applications.

PCT applications (KIPO as the Receiving Office)

(unit: cases)

Category	2020	2021	2022	2023	**2024**
Number of applications	19,675	20,528	21,916	22,166	**23,641**
Growth rate	4.2%	4.3%	6.8%	1.1%	**6.6%**

International trademark applications under the Madrid System

(unit: cases)

Category	2020	2021	2022	2023	**2024**
Korea as office of origin	1,599	2,012	2,089	2,150	**2,437**
Korea as designated office	13,998	15,400	16,710	14,079	**13,500**

International design applications under the Hague System

(unit: cases)

Category	2020	2021	2022	2023	**2024**
Korea as office of origin	250	279	280	202	**291**
Korea as designated office	1,229	1,140	1,308	1,597	**1,564**

Comparison of domestic and foreign applications

(unit: cases)

Category			2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Patents	Domestic	Cases	180,484	186,245	183,747	191,154	**195,789**
		Ratio	79.6%	78.3%	77.3%	78.6%	**79.5%**
	Foreign	Cases	46,275	51,753	53,886	52,156	**50,456**
		Ratio	20.4%	21.7%	22.7%	21.4%	**20.5%**
	Total		226,759	237,998	237,633	243,310	**246,245**
Utility models	Domestic	Cases	4,595	3,642	2,784	2,400	**2,021**
		Ratio	92.3%	90.8%	90.3%	87.4%	**82.8%**
	Foreign	Cases	386	367	300	346	**421**
		Ratio	7.7%	9.2%	9.7%	12.6%	**17.2%**
	Total		4,981	4,009	3,084	2,746	**2,442**
Designs	Domestic	Cases	62,698 (63,939)	59,880 (61,175)	51,428 (52,814)	49,907 (51,068)	**50,332 (51,721)**
		Ratio	94.5% (93.1%)	94.1% (92.8%)	92.9% (91.3%)	92.9% (91.5%)	**92.6% (91.5%)**
	Foreign	Cases	3,656 (4,756)	3,767 (4,747)	3,905 (5,031)	3,831 (4,765)	**4,001 (4,774)**
		Ratio	5.5% (6.9%)	5.9% (7.2%)	7.1% (8.7%)	7.1% (8.5%)	**7.4% (8.5%)**
	Total		66,354 (68,695)	63,647 (65,922)	55,333 (57,845)	53,738 (55,833)	**54,333 (56,495)**
Trademarks	Domestic	Cases	230,318 (269,332)	255,746 (269,219)	228,219 (268,334)	227,221 (264,779)	**227,273 (265,463)**
		Ratio	94.4% (92.8%)	94.6% (92.8%)	94.2% (92.4%)	94.2% (92.7%)	**93.7% (92.4%)**
	Foreign	Cases	13,617 (20,875)	14,675 (20,990)	14,149 (21,989)	13,909 (20,858)	**15,272 (21,987)**
		Ratio	5.6% (7.2%)	5.4% (7.2%)	5.8% (7.6%)	5.8% (7.3%)	**6.3% (7.6%)**
	Total		243,935 (290,207)	270,421 (290,209)	242,368 (290,323)	241,130 (285,637)	**242,545 (287,450)**
Total	Domestic	Cases	478,095 (518,350)	505,513 (520,281)	466,178 (507,679)	470,682 (509,401)	**475,415 (514,994)**
		Ratio	88.2% (87.8%)	87.8% (87.0%)	86.6% (86.2%)	87.0% (86.7%)	**87.1% (86.9%)**
	Foreign	Cases	63,934 (72,292)	70,562 (77,857)	72,240 (81,206)	70,242 (78,125)	**70,150 (77,638)**
		Ratio	11.8% (12.2%)	12.2% (13.0%)	13.4% (13.8%)	13.0% (13.3%)	**12.9% (13.1%)**
	Total		542,029 (590,642)	576,075 (598,138)	538,418 (588,885)	540,924 (587,526)	**545,565 (592,632)**

Note: Figures in parentheses include multiple applications.

Patent and utility model applications by technological field in 2024

(unit: cases)

Classification	Patents			Utility models		
	Domestic	Foreign	**Subtotal**	Domestic	Foreign	**Subtotal**
Electrical machinery, apparatus, energy	19,167	4,229	**23,396**	115	68	**183**
Audio-visual technology	6,795	1,732	**8,527**	34	9	**43**
Telecommunications	2,523	627	**3,150**	20	2	**22**
Digital communication	7,999	2,824	**10,823**	1	-	**1**
Basic communication processes	573	283	**856**	-	1	**1**
Computer technology	15,842	2,761	**18,603**	8	12	**20**
IT methods for management	14,153	379	**14,532**	14	-	**14**
Semiconductors	8,841	3,288	**12,129**	2	12	**14**
Optics	2,556	2,239	**4,795**	13	8	**21**
Measurement	9,381	1,900	**11,281**	35	7	**42**
Analysis of biological materials	590	191	**781**	3	-	**3**
Control	4,137	476	**4,613**	30	-	**30**
Medical technology	10,157	2,022	**12,179**	97	42	**139**
Organic fine chemistry	3,878	2,606	**6,484**	3	-	**3**
Biotechnology	3,708	2,877	**6,585**	2	1	**3**
Pharmaceuticals	3,028	2,362	**5,390**	2	-	**2**
Macromolecular chemistry, polymers	1,515	1,765	**3,280**	-	-	**-**
Food chemistry	4,862	341	**5,203**	8	-	**8**
Basic materials chemistry	2,715	1,664	**4,379**	8	1	**9**
Materials, metallurgy	3,491	1,737	**5,228**	1	-	**1**
Surface technology, coating	2,325	1,450	**3,775**	8	6	**14**
Micro-structural and nano-technology	14	19	**33**	-	-	**-**
Chemical engineering	3,530	914	**4,444**	25	11	**36**
Environmental technology	3,698	421	**4,119**	54	12	**66**
Handling	4,898	760	**5,658**	134	26	**160**
Machine tools	3,851	953	**4,804**	53	14	**67**
Engines, pumps, turbines	2,033	690	**2,723**	22	8	**30**
Textile and paper machines	1,422	491	**1,913**	12	6	**18**
Other special machines	6,208	1,251	**7,459**	179	10	**189**
Thermal processes and apparatus	2,911	359	**3,270**	40	10	**50**
Mechanical elements	2,386	881	**3,267**	46	12	**58**
Transport	9,650	1,411	**11,061**	149	10	**159**

(unit: cases)

Classification	Patents			Utility models		
	Domestic	Foreign	**Subtotal**	Domestic	Foreign	**Subtotal**
Furniture, games	4,509	615	**5,124**	314	61	**375**
Other consumer goods	4,794	1,350	**6,144**	251	49	**300**
Civil engineering	7,743	468	**8,211**	179	12	**191**
Others	9,906	2,120	**12,026**	159	11	**170**
Total	195,789	50,456	**246,245**	2,021	421	**2,442**

Note: Figures for 2024 are preliminary.

Patent applications in biotechnology

(unit: cases)

Category	2020		2021		2022		2023		**2024**	
	Cases	Ratio	Cases	Ratio	Cases	Ratio	Cases	Ratio	**Cases**	**Ratio**
Domestic	7,878	71.0%	8,010	67.2%	7,844	63.8%	8,126	64.8%	**7,776**	**65.6%**
Foreign	3,218	29.0%	3,918	32.8%	4,443	36.2%	4,419	35.2%	**4,070**	**34.4%**
Total	11,096	100%	11,928	100%	12,287	100%	12,545	100%	**11,846**	**100%**

Note1: Figures for 2024 are preliminary.
Note2: Based on the following biotechnological categories of the Eighth Edition of the International Patent Classification: A01H; A01K 67/00~67/04; A01N 63/00~65/00; A61K 8/97~8/99; A61K 8/64~8/68; A61K 35/12~35/76; 36/00~36/9068; A61K 38/00~38/58, 39/00~39/44, 48/00, 51/00~51/10; C02F; C07H 19/00~21/04; C07K; C12C~M; C12N; C12P; C12Q; C12S; G01N 33/50~33/98.

Patent applications in business methods

(unit: cases)

Category	2020		2021		2022		2023		**2024**	
	Cases	Ratio	Cases	Ratio	Cases	Ratio	Cases	Ratio	**Cases**	**Ratio**
Domestic	12,251	96.5%	15,019	96.4%	15,836	97.1%	14,683	97.3%	**14,153**	**97.4%**
Foreign	449	3.5%	557	3.6%	473	2.9%	402	2.7%	**379**	**2.6%**
Total	12,700	100%	15,576	100%	16,309	100%	15,085	100%	**14,532**	**100%**

Note1: Figures for 2024 are preliminary.
Note2: Based on the Ninth Edition of the International Patent Classification.

Applications by residents of foreign countries/regions in 2024

(unit: cases)

Countries/Regions	Patent & Utility models		Designs		Trademarks		Total
	Domestic	PCT	Domestic	Hague	Domestic	Madrid	
United States of America	1,505	14,100	976 (1,207)	174 (448)	3,039 (5,315)	2,937 (4,913)	**22,731 (27,488)**
Japan	3,855	10,027	622 (749)	134 (242)	1,400 (2,537)	1,429 (3,187)	**17,467 (20,597)**
China	911	4,979	1,370 (1,451)	360 (696)	6,878 (7,838)	2,047 (3,307)	**16,545 (19,182)**
Germany	633	3,024	82 (93)	110 (401)	142 (278)	1,158 (2,775)	**5,149 (7,204)**
Switzerland	247	1,394	68 (176)	186 (407)	173 (282)	775 (1,543)	**2,843 (4,049)**
France	171	1,305	113 (119)	139 (222)	279 (413)	825 (1,852)	**2,832 (4,082)**
United Kingdom	87	1,232	138 (187)	18 (81)	357 (742)	614 (1,498)	**2,446 (3,827)**
Netherlands	260	866	93 (95)	70 (182)	82 (119)	222 (491)	**1,593 (2,013)**
Taiwan, Province of China	908	125	45 (46)	-	483 (588)	-	**1,561 (1,667)**
Italy	56	473	27 (48)	113 (268)	148 (263)	698 (1,444)	**1,515 (2,552)**
Singapore	151	203	106 (120)	8 (15)	595 (837)	234 (539)	**1,297 (1,865)**
Sweden	124	554	31 (88)	31 (82)	37 (90)	190 (514)	**967 (1,452)**
Canada	37	424	37 (44)	10 (14)	178 (319)	192 (407)	**878 (1,245)**
Australia	10	214	42 (42)	3 (3)	159 (251)	271 (626)	**699 (1,146)**
Israel	69	362	-	14 (19)	61 (65)	78 (127)	**584 (642)**
Denmark	28	247	64 (94)	18 (29)	24 (56)	167 (366)	**548 (820)**
Belgium	8	322	6 (14)	33 (57)	21 (35)	108 (249)	**498 (685)**
Spain	26	147	2 (2)	13 (26)	52 (62)	235 (442)	**475 (705)**
Finland	17	268	15 (15)	9 (9)	10 (36)	60 (164)	**379 (509)**
Austria	35	219	4 (17)	6 (31)	10 (25)	86 (193)	**360 (520)**
Ireland	19	176	5 (5)	13 (40)	38 (73)	93 (202)	**344 (515)**
Luxembourg	21	131	21 (25)	4 (7)	24 (47)	72 (152)	**273 (383)**
India	16	108	5 (5)	-	58 (72)	62 (119)	**249 (320)**
Norway	-	139	-	11 (35)	13 (16)	53 (144)	**216 (334)**
New Zealand	-	46	16 (16)	-	32 (54)	85 (165)	**179 (281)**
Russian Federation	5	51	3 (3)	5 (6)	18 (23)	81 (234)	**163 (322)**
Turkiye	-	25	1 (1)	4 (10)	21 (29)	102 (191)	**153 (256)**
United Arab Emirates	1	8	5 (8)	2 (2)	89 (136)	46 (93)	**151 (248)**
Thailand	5	33	-	2 (4)	83 (107)	24 (29)	**147 (178)**
Viet Nam	2	1	7 (7)	1 (1)	73 (82)	62 (89)	**146 (182)**
Poland	1	50	-	9 (24)	11 (14)	51 (127)	**122 (216)**
Argentina	-	1	-	-	114 (114)	-	**115 (115)**
Cayman Islands	2	17	1 (1)	-	87 (268)	1 (1)	**108 (289)**
Cyprus	1	7	-	-	8 (17)	75 (152)	**91 (177)**

(unit: cases)

Countries/Regions	Patent & Utility models		Designs		Trademarks		Total
	Domestic	PCT	Domestic	Hague	Domestic	Madrid	
Saudi Arabia	-	35	4 (4)	-	49 (162)	-	**88 (201)**
Malaysia	12	13	2 (2)	-	36 (44)	14 (22)	**77 (93)**
Indonesia	3	-	1 (1)	-	45 (50)	23 (32)	**72 (86)**
Brazil	-	30	1 (1)	1 (1)	19 (22)	21 (27)	**72 (81)**
Virgin Islands (British)	-	6	4 (4)	-	47 (98)	10 (22)	**67 (130)**
Hungary	3	19	1 (1)	4 (4)	1 (2)	19 (31)	**47 (60)**
Mexico	3	16	-	-	25 (38)	1 (1)	**45 (58)**
Czech Republic	2	17	-	2 (4)	1 (1)	22 (44)	**44 (68)**
Portugal	1	19	2 (2)	1 (3)	1 (3)	18 (28)	**42 (56)**
Mongolia	6	-	26 (26)	-	8 (8)	2 (6)	**42 (46)**
Liechtenstein	11	15	-	2 (3)	4 (4)	5 (11)	**37 (44)**
Malta	-	9	-	2 (11)	4 (4)	18 (36)	**33 (60)**
Slovenia	2	10	-	-	2 (2)	19 (46)	**33 (60)**
Greece	-	13	-	6 (6)	1 (1)	12 (32)	**32 (52)**
Chile	-	3	-	-	24 (28)	4 (8)	**31 (39)**
Philippines	1	14	-	-	6 (10)	8 (9)	**29 (34)**
Ukraine	1	2	-	-	3 (4)	16 (25)	**22 (32)**
South Africa	1	9	1 (1)	-	9 (9)	-	**20 (20)**
Estonia	1	2	1 (1)	4 (4)	1 (2)	10 (19)	**19 (29)**
Uzbekistan	3	-	3 (3)	-	9 (11)	4 (8)	**19 (25)**
Iceland	-	4	-	1 (1)	-	13 (26)	**18 (31)**
Bulgaria	1	-	-	3 (4)	3 (3)	11 (21)	**18 (29)**
Lithuania	-	3	-	1 (1)	4 (5)	10 (14)	**18 (23)**
Bangladesh	5	-	3 (3)	-	7 (7)	-	**15 (15)**
Romania	-	4	1 (1)	-	3 (12)	6 (12)	**14 (29)**
Slovakia	-	7	-	1 (2)	-	6 (18)	**14 (27)**
Mauritius	-	1	-	-	12 (14)	1 (1)	**14 (16)**
Kazakhstan	-	1	4 (4)	-	1 (1)	7 (8)	**13 (14)**
Antigua and Barbuda	-	13	-	-	-	-	**13 (13)**
Costa Rica	-	2	-	-	10 (18)	-	**12 (20)**
Jordan	1	-	-	-	11 (16)	-	**12 (17)**
Panama	2	-	-	-	7 (18)	2 (3)	**11 (23)**
Kuwait	-	-	2 (2)	-	9 (18)	-	**11 (20)**
Republic of Moldova	-	-	-	-	-	11 (15)	**11 (15)**

(unit: cases)

Countries/Regions	Patent & Utility models		Designs		Trademarks		Total
	Domestic	PCT	Domestic	Hague	Domestic	Madrid	
Colombia	-	-	-	-	8 (10)	3 (4)	**11 (14)**
Monaco	-	-	-	-	8 (9)	3 (5)	**11 (14)**
Sri Lanka	2	-	1 (1)	-	8 (8)	-	**11 (11)**
Cambodia	3	-	2 (2)	-	2 (3)	3 (3)	**10 (11)**
Kyrgyzstan	-	-	1 (1)	-	8 (8)	1 (1)	**10 (10)**
Serbia	-	1	-	1 (2)	3 (3)	4 (32)	**9 (38)**
Isle of Man	-	-	-	-	7 (19)	2 (2)	**9 (21)**
Pakistan	2	1	2 (2)	-	3 (3)	1 (2)	**9 (10)**
Ghana	2	-	7 (7)	-	-	-	**9 (9)**
Nigeria	3	-	6 (6)	-	-	-	**9 (9)**
Bahamas	-	-	-	-	8 (17)	-	**8 (17)**
Barbados	3	3	-	-	2 (5)	-	**8 (11)**
San Marino	-	5	-	-	1 (2)	2 (4)	**8 (11)**
Myanmar	1	-	-	-	4 (4)	3 (3)	**8 (8)**
Latvia	-	5	-	-	-	2 (4)	**7 (9)**
Cuba	-	7	-	-	-	-	**7 (7)**
Saint Kitts and Nevis	-	-	6 (6)	-	1 (1)	-	**7 (7)**
Samoa	4	2	-	-	1 (1)	-	**7 (7)**
Croatia	-	-	-	-	-	6 (14)	**6 (14)**
Morocco	-	1	-	-	3 (6)	2 (7)	**6 (14)**
Bermuda	-	-	-	-	5 (7)	-	**5 (7)**
Seychelles	2	-	-	-	3 (4)	-	**5 (6)**
Azerbaijan	-	-	-	-	4 (4)	1 (1)	**5 (5)**
Lao People's Democratic Republic	-	-	-	-	-	5 (5)	**5 (5)**
The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China	-	1	-	-	4 (4)	-	**5 (5)**
Zimbabwe	-	-	2 (2)	-	1 (1)	2 (2)	**5 (5)**
Georgia	-	-	-	1 (7)	-	3 (8)	**4 (15)**
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	-	2	-	-	1 (1)	1 (6)	**4 (9)**
Armenia	-	-	3 (3)	1 (2)	-	-	**4 (5)**
Nepal	-	-	1 (1)	-	3 (3)	-	**4 (4)**
Syrian Arab Republic	-	1	3 (3)	-	-	-	**4 (4)**
Uruguay	-	-	-	1 (1)	3 (3)	-	**4 (4)**
Guernsey	-	-	-	-	-	3 (6)	**3 (6)**

(unit: cases)

Countries/Regions	Patent & Utility models		Designs		Trademarks		Total
	Domestic	PCT	Domestic	Hague	Domestic	Madrid	
Qatar	-	-	-	-	3 (6)	-	**3 (6)**
Algeria	-	1	-	-	1 (1)	1 (3)	**3 (5)**
Belarus	-	-	1 (1)	-	-	2 (2)	**3 (3)**
Cameroon	-	-	3 (3)	-	-	-	**3 (3)**
Jamaica	-	-	-	-	3 (3)	-	**3 (3)**
Paraguay	-	-	-	-	1 (1)	2 (2)	**3 (3)**
Jersey(U.K.)	-	-	-	-	2 (12)	-	**2 (12)**
Fiji	-	-	-	-	2 (6)	-	**2 (6)**
Yemen	-	-	1 (1)	-	1 (3)	-	**2 (4)**
Dominican Republic	-	-	-	-	1 (1)	1 (1)	**2 (2)**
Ecuador	-	-	-	-	2 (2)	-	**2 (2)**
Gibraltar	-	2	-	-	-	-	**2 (2)**
Lebanon	-	1	-	1 (1)	-	-	**2 (2)**
Macao	-	-	-	-	2 (2)	-	**2 (2)**
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	-	-	-	-	-	1 (7)	**1 (7)**
Curacao	-	-	-	-	1 (3)	-	**1 (3)**
Bahrain	-	-	-	-	1 (1)	-	**1 (1)**
Belize	-	1	-	-	-	-	**1 (1)**
Benin	-	-	1 (1)	-	-	-	**1 (1)**
Ethiopia	1	-	-	-	-	-	**1 (1)**
Liberia	1	-	-	-	-	-	**1 (1)**
Oman	-	1	-	-	-	-	**1 (1)**
Peru	-	-	-	-	1 (1)	-	**1 (1)**
Saint Lucia	1	-	-	-	-	-	**1 (1)**
Senegal	-	-	-	-	-	1 (1)	**1 (1)**
Tajikistan	1	-	-	-	-	-	**1 (1)**
Others	-	1	-	-	1 (1)	-	**2 (2)**
Total	9,296	41,581	4,001 (4,774)	1,533 (3,418)	15,272 (21,987)	13,481 (26,985)	**85,164 (108,041)**

Note: Figures in parentheses include multiple applications.

Examinations

Patents and utility models

(unit: cases)

Category			2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Patents	Office Action	Approval of registration	11,483	12,900	12,851	12,019	**13,450**
		Notice of preliminary rejection or amendment	170,299	164,312	155,927	160,912	**186,382**
		Other notices	1,990	1,709	504	514	**575**
		Withdrawal or abandonment	2,723	3,055	3,511	4,205	**3,690**
		Total	186,495	181,976	172,793	177,650	**204,097**
	Final Decision	Approval of registration	126,228	134,338	125,619	124,947	**122,382**
		Rejection or cancellation	47,331	46,074	41,538	44,168	**39,761**
		Withdrawal abandonment, annulment, or rejection	3,997	4,298	5,335	6,421	**5,647**
		Total	177,556	184,710	172,492	175,536	**167,790**
Utility models	Office Action	Approval of registration	216	144	146	111	**117**
		Notice of preliminary rejection or amendment	4,007	3,192	2,724	2,457	**2,385**
		Other notices	14	8	6	5	**13**
		Withdrawal or abandonment	99	97	74	33	**59**
		Total	4,336	3,441	2,950	2,606	**2,574**
	Final Decision	Approval of registration	1,994	1,801	1,419	1,280	**1,106**
		Rejection or cancellation	2,254	1,854	1,524	1,414	**1,133**
		Withdrawal abandonment, annulment, or rejection	174	152	118	62	**101**
		Total	4,422	3,807	3,061	2,756	**2,340**

Designs and trademarks

(unit: cases)

Category			2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Designs	Office Action	Publication/approval of registration	31,232 (32,640)	36,682 (38,470)	34,907 (36,636)	30,406 (31,725)	**30,288 (31,906)**
		Notice of preliminary rejection	27,068 (29,055)	28,415 (30,537)	26,783 (29,546)	23,169 (25,198)	**22,493 (24,552)**
		Other notices	-	-	-	-	**-**
		Total	58,300 (61,695)	65,097 (69,007)	61,690 (66,182)	53,575 (56,923)	**52,781 (56,458)**
	Final Decision	Approval of registration	51,407 (54,101)	58,103 (61,383)	54,687 (57,883)	48,317 (51,473)	**45,992 (48,941)**
		Rejection	7,095 (7,776)	7,864 (8,396)	7,743 (8,406)	6,527 (7,131)	**5,778 (6,430)**
		Total	58,502 (61,877)	65,967 (69,779)	62,430 (66,289)	54,844 (58,604)	**51,770 (55,371)**
Trademarks	Office Action	Publication/approval of registration	94,942 (108,405)	118,905 (133,969)	133,505 (149,427)	160,149 (181,197)	**154,070 (174,723)**
		Notice of preliminary rejection	67,433 (99,287)	80,913 (113,232)	88,165 (123,366)	103,381 (148,228)	**98,845 (140,689)**
		Other notices	-	-	-	-	**-**
		Total	162,375 (207,692)	199,818 (247,201)	221,670 (272,793)	263,530 (329,425)	**252,915 (315,412)**
	Final Decision	Approval of registration	133,882 (173,499)	162,874 (201,381)	167,261 (204,848)	221,979 (273,040)	**202,025 (252,096)**
		Rejection	28,219 (37,267)	31,697 (39,962)	31,000 (38,996)	42,708 (54,565)	**39,290 (50,445)**
		Total	162,101 (210,766)	194,571 (241,343)	198,261 (243,844)	264,687 (327,605)	**241,315 (302,541)**

Note: Figures in parentheses include multiple applications.

Average first office action pendency

(unit: months)

Category	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Patents / Utility models	11.1	12.2	14.4	16.1	**16.1**
Trademarks	8.9	10.8	13.9	13.1	**12.6**
Designs	4.6	5.2	4.8	4.0	**4.6**

Average total pendency

(unit: months)

Category	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Patents / Utility models	15.8	16.0	18.4	20.1	**23.1**
Trademarks	13.2	14.7	17.7	17.6	**17.5**
Designs	6.2	6.4	6.0	5.2	**5.9**

PCT international search reports and preliminary examinations undertaken by KIPO

(unit: cases)

Category	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
International Search Reports	28,547	28,359	29,935	29,285	**31,218**
International Preliminary Examinations	100	124	105	118	**101**

Note: Based on KIPO data

Registrations

Registrations by IPR type

(unit: cases)

Category	2020	2021	2022	2023	**2024**
Patents	134,766	145,882	135,180	134,734	**127,806**
Utility models	2,056	1,817	1,452	1,249	**1,049**
Subtotal	136,822	147,699	136,632	135,983	**128,855**
Designs	50,694	57,545	54,775	49,291	**46,980**
Trademarks	116,153	136,629	135,333	173,989	**158,090**
Total	303,669	341,873	326,740	359,263	**333,925**

Note: Trademark registration renewals are excluded.

Comparison of domestic and foreign registrations

(unit: cases)

Category			2020	2021	2022	2023	**2024**
Patents	Domestic	Cases	103,881	110,351	99,202	99,315	**95,165**
		Ratio	77.1%	75.6%	73.4%	73.7%	**74.5%**
	Foreign	Cases	30,885	35,531	35,978	35,419	**32,641**
		Ratio	22.9%	24.4%	26.6%	26.3%	**25.5%**
	Total		134,766	145,882	135,180	134,734	**127,806**
Utility models	Domestic	Cases	1,842	1,618	1,288	1,098	**895**
		Ratio	89.6%	89.0%	88.7%	87.9%	**85.3%**
	Foreign	Cases	214	199	164	151	**154**
		Ratio	10.4%	11.0%	11.3%	12.1%	**14.7%**
	Total		2,056	1,817	1,452	1,249	**1,049**
Designs	Domestic	Cases	45,169	50,878	47,518	42,019	**39,894**
		Ratio	89.1%	88.4%	86.8%	85.2%	**84.9%**
	Foreign	Cases	5,525	6,667	7,257	7,272	**7,086**
		Ratio	10.9%	11.6%	13.2%	14.8%	**15.1%**
	Total		50,694	57,545	54,775	49,291	**46,980**

(unit: cases)

Category			2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Trademarks	Domestic	Cases	94,892	116,997	115,442	150,166	**135,025**
		Ratio	81.7%	85.6%	85.3%	86.3%	**85.4%**
	Foreign	Cases	21,261	19,632	19,891	23,823	**23,065**
		Ratio	18.3%	14.4%	14.7%	13.7%	**14.6%**
	Total		116,153	136,629	135,333	173,989	**158,090**
Total	Domestic	Cases	245,784	279,844	263,450	292,598	**270,979**
		Ratio	80.9%	81.9%	80.6%	81.4%	**81.1%**
	Foreign	Cases	57,885	62,029	63,290	66,665	**62,946**
		Ratio	19.1%	18.1%	19.4%	18.6%	**18.9%**
	Total		303,669	341,873	326,740	359,263	**333,925**

Patent and utility model registrations by technological field in 2024

(unit: cases)

Classification	Patents			Utility models		
	Domestic	Foreign	**Subtotal**	Domestic	Foreign	**Subtotal**
Electrical machinery, apparatus, energy	8,432	2,547	**10,979**	83	25	**108**
Audio-visual technology	3,883	1,297	**5,180**	20	1	**21**
Telecommunications	1,514	444	**1,958**	6	-	**6**
Digital communication	2,581	1,621	**4,202**	1	-	**1**
Basic communication processes	381	307	**688**	-	-	**-**
Computer technology	6,510	1,843	**8,353**	4	3	**7**
IT methods for management	6,063	264	**6,327**	3	-	**3**
Semiconductors	5,805	3,446	**9,251**	2	8	**10**
Optics	2,290	1,710	**4,000**	8	10	**18**
Measurement	4,879	1,329	**6,208**	26	5	**31**

(unit: cases)

Classification	Patents			Utility models		
	Domestic	Foreign	**Subtotal**	Domestic	Foreign	**Subtotal**
Analysis of biological materials	262	119	**381**	1	-	**1**
Control	1,961	252	**2,213**	12	-	**12**
Medical technology	4,837	1,468	**6,305**	55	21	**76**
Organic fine chemistry	2,377	1,718	**4,095**	-	-	**-**
Biotechnology	1,602	1,214	**2,816**	-	-	**-**
Pharmaceuticals	1,076	840	**1,916**	-	-	**-**
Macromolecular chemistry, polymers	1,086	1,237	**2,323**	-	-	**-**
Food chemistry	2,123	154	**2,277**	3	-	**3**
Basic materials chemistry	1,894	1,310	**3,204**	-	-	**-**
Materials, metallurgy	1,620	989	**2,609**	3	-	**3**
Surface technology, coating	1,317	1,092	**2,409**	-	3	**3**
Micro-structural and nano-technology	20	10	**30**	-	-	**-**
Chemical engineering	1,833	580	**2,413**	9	4	**13**
Environmental technology	1,682	205	**1,887**	24	2	**26**
Handling	2,621	582	**3,203**	73	3	**76**
Machine tools	2,005	782	**2,787**	24	5	**29**
Engines, pumps, turbines	1,369	591	**1,960**	12	3	**15**
Textile and paper machines	759	331	**1,090**	4	2	**6**
Other special machines	3,035	780	**3,815**	59	1	**60**
Thermal processes and apparatus	1,553	187	**1,740**	15	3	**18**
Mechanical elements	1,518	734	**2,252**	18	12	**30**
Transport	5,743	874	**6,617**	44	8	**52**
Furniture, games	2,470	436	**2,906**	144	19	**163**
Other consumer goods	2,709	981	**3,690**	125	13	**138**
Civil engineering	5,354	367	**5,721**	117	3	**120**
Others	1	-	**1**	-	-	**-**
Total	95,165	32,641	**127,806**	895	154	**1,049**

Note: Figures for 2024 are preliminary.

Patent registrations in biotechnology

(unit: cases)

Category	2020		2021		2022		2023		2024	
	Cases	Ratio	Cases	Ratio	Cases	Ratio	Cases	Ratio	**Cases**	**Ratio**
Domestic	4,969	79.0%	4,913	76.4%	3,481	67.9%	3,845	68.2%	**3,372**	**65.9%**
Foreign	1,321	21.0%	1,514	23.6%	1,643	32.1%	1,794	31.8%	**1,743**	**34.1%**
Total	6,290	100%	6,427	100%	5,124	100%	5,639	100%	**5,115**	**100%**

Note1: Figures for 2024 are preliminary.
Note2: Based on the following biotechnological categories of the Eighth Edition of the International Patent Classification: A01H; A01K 67/00~67/04; A01N 63/00~65/00; A61K 8/97~8/99; A61K 8/64~8/68; A61K 35/12~35/76; 36/00~36/9068; A61K 38/00~38/58, 39/00~39/44, 48/00, 51/00~51/10; C02F; C07H 19/00~21/04; C07K; C12C~M; C12N; C12P; C12Q; C12S; G01N 33/50~33/98.

Patent registrations in business methods

(unit: cases)

Category	2020		2021		2022		2023		2024	
	Cases	Ratio	Cases	Ratio	Cases	Ratio	Cases	Ratio	**Cases**	**Ratio**
Domestic	4,581	94.3%	5,898	94.9%	5,892	95.2%	6,148	96.5%	**6,063**	**95.8%**
Foreign	277	5.7%	316	5.1%	300	4.8%	223	3.5%	**264**	**4.2%**
Total	4,858	100%	6,214	100%	6,192	100%	6,371	100%	**6,327**	**100%**

Note1: Figures for 2024 are preliminary.
Note2: Based on the Ninth Edition of the International Patent Classification.

Registrations by resident of foreign countries/regions in 2024

(unit: cases)

Countries/Regions	Patents & Utility models		Designs		Trademarks		**Total**
	Domestic	PCT	Domestic	Hague	Domestic	Madrid	
United States of America	8,643	1,007	1,486	337	2,814 (5,299)	2,771 (5,441)	**17,058 (22,213)**
Japan	8,701	1,049	641	211	1,102 (2,202)	1,272 (2,837)	**12,976 (15,641)**
China	3,100	363	910	562	4,113 (4,730)	1,595 (2,810)	**10,643 (12,475)**
Germany	2,291	294	79	459	151 (282)	1,164 (3,155)	**4,438 (6,560)**
France	929	81	140	308	235 (418)	794 (2,027)	**2,487 (3,903)**
Switzerland	1,014	123	108	348	112 (181)	709 (1,822)	**2,414 (3,596)**
United Kingdom	716	74	145	113	384 (771)	628 (1,847)	**2,060 (3,666)**

(unit: cases)

Countries/Regions	Patents & Utility models		Designs		Trademarks		Total
	Domestic	PCT	Domestic	Hague	Domestic	Madrid	
Netherlands	652	77	101	153	77 (146)	277 (618)	**1,337 (1,747)**
Italy	300	27	69	191	97 (158)	636 (1,420)	**1,320 (2,165)**
Taiwan, Province of China	561	74	40	-	380 (491)	-	**1,055 (1,166)**
Sweden	391	43	35	49	50 (139)	223 (667)	**791 (1,324)**
Singapore	144	13	61	6	315 (508)	175 (420)	**714 (1,152)**
Australia	118	16	44	-	109 (147)	269 (658)	**556 (983)**
Canada	216	28	32	15	130 (219)	118 (270)	**539 (780)**
Denmark	142	14	53	29	22 (50)	137 (343)	**397 (631)**
Israel	235	25	9	21	17 (21)	66 (156)	**373 (467)**
Austria	171	28	4	53	14 (49)	97 (285)	**367 (590)**
Belgium	162	15	5	16	21 (40)	125 (271)	**344 (509)**
Spain	76	7	1	13	36 (45)	208 (395)	**341 (537)**
Finland	126	9	12	10	6 (13)	91 (349)	**254 (519)**
Ireland	97	18	23	7	21 (32)	61 (122)	**227 (299)**
Luxembourg	85	12	27	-	26 (50)	71 (197)	**221 (371)**
Norway	71	7	3	17	10 (22)	63 (204)	**171 (324)**
India	52	5	4	-	36 (52)	45 (101)	**142 (214)**
New Zealand	22	4	12	-	31 (48)	72 (148)	**141 (234)**
Turkiye	13	-	-	15	17 (25)	78 (152)	**123 (205)**
Russian Federation	33	4	5	2	11 (12)	63 (149)	**118 (205)**
Viet Nam	2	1	4	1	28 (37)	52 (118)	**88 (163)**
United Arab Emirates	15	1	-	5	51 (73)	12 (15)	**84 (109)**
Thailand	19	2	1	-	32 (37)	14 (21)	**68 (80)**
Poland	17	-	-	12	-	38 (103)	**67 (132)**
Virgin Islands (British)	1	-	-	-	56 (66)	10 (21)	**67 (88)**
Cayman Islands	10	2	-	-	39 (127)	5 (11)	**56 (150)**
Malaysia	19	-	-	-	25 (30)	8 (13)	**52 (62)**
Cyprus	4	-	-	-	5 (11)	37 (111)	**46 (126)**
Czech Republic	15	2	-	8	2 (3)	16 (24)	**43 (52)**
Mexico	12	-	-	-	18 (24)	12 (14)	**42 (50)**
Brazil	13	3	1	1	14 (25)	6 (9)	**38 (52)**
Greece	12	5	-	4	5 (14)	8 (16)	**34 (51)**
Liechtenstein	12	2	-	8	-	12 (19)	**34 (41)**

(unit: cases)

Countries/Regions	Patents & Utility models		Designs		Trademarks		Total
	Domestic	PCT	Domestic	Hague	Domestic	Madrid	
Indonesia	1	-	-	-	18 (22)	14 (32)	**33 (55)**
Chile	5	1	-	-	27 (31)	-	**33 (37)**
Saudi Arabia	10	5	-	-	17 (70)	-	**32 (85)**
Morocco	-	-	-	5	1 (1)	25 (398)	**31 (404)**
Hungary	8	1	-	2	-	18 (35)	**29 (46)**
Malta	6	1	-	9	2 (4)	10 (21)	**28 (41)**
Antigua and Barbuda	23	3	-	-	-	-	**26 (26)**
Barbados	20	1	1	-	2 (7)	-	**24 (29)**
Portugal	10	1	1	-	1 (1)	7 (19)	**20 (32)**
Bulgaria	-	-	-	3	-	16 (32)	**19 (35)**
The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China	-	-	-	-	19 (23)	-	**19 (23)**
Seychelles	-	-	-	-	8 (8)	5 (18)	**13 (26)**
Lithuania	3	-	-	2	-	7 (17)	**12 (22)**
Argentina	-	-	-	-	12 (15)	-	**12 (15)**
South Africa	9	1	-	-	2 (3)	-	**12 (13)**
Azerbaijan	-	-	-	-	12 (12)	-	**12 (12)**
Bermuda	1	-	-	-	9 (21)	1 (1)	**11 (23)**
Bahamas	-	-	-	-	11 (14)	-	**11 (14)**
Ukraine	2	1	-	-	1 (1)	7 (7)	**11 (11)**
Slovenia	3	-	-	1	-	5 (27)	**9 (31)**
Croatia	1	-	-	-	-	8 (15)	**9 (16)**
Monaco	-	-	-	-	3 (4)	6 (12)	**9 (16)**
Mongolia	-	-	2	-	6 (7)	1 (1)	**9 (10)**
Qatar	-	-	-	-	8 (29)	-	**8 (29)**
Panama	-	-	-	2	5 (11)	1 (3)	**8 (16)**
Iceland	3	-	-	-	-	5 (10)	**8 (13)**
Philippines	1	-	-	-	-	7 (11)	**8 (12)**
Estonia	-	-	-	1	1 (2)	5 (11)	**7 (14)**
Slovakia	1	-	-	-	-	6 (9)	**7 (10)**
Costa Rica	3	-	-	-	3 (8)	-	**6 (11)**
Mauritius	1	-	-	-	4 (8)	1 (1)	**6 (10)**
Egypt	-	-	-	-	3 (3)	3 (6)	**6 (9)**
Latvia	-	-	-	-	-	6 (9)	**6 (9)**
Colombia	2	-	-	-	4 (6)	-	**6 (8)**
Uruguay	-	-	-	-	1 (1)	5 (6)	**6 (7)**
Uzbekistan	-	-	1	-	5 (6)	-	**6 (7)**
Nigeria	-	-	6	-	-	-	**6 (6)**
Romania	-	-	1	-	2 (12)	2 (2)	**5 (15)**
Kazakhstan	-	1	2	-	-	2 (3)	**5 (6)**
Belarus	1	-	-	-	-	4 (4)	**5 (5)**
Pakistan	1	-	1	-	3 (3)	-	**5 (5)**

(unit: cases)

Countries/Regions	Patents & Utility models		Designs		Trademarks		Total
	Domestic	PCT	Domestic	Hague	Domestic	Madrid	
Jersey (U.K.)	2	-	-	-	-	2 (11)	**4 (13)**
Syrian Arab Republic	-	-	3	-	1 (2)	-	**4 (5)**
Cuba	3	1	-	-	-	-	**4 (4)**
Ghana	-	-	4	-	-	-	**4 (4)**
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	-	-	-	-	1 (1)	2 (19)	**3 (20)**
Gibraltar	1	-	-	-	-	2 (8)	**3 (9)**
San Marino	-	-	-	-	-	3 (9)	**3 (9)**
Jordan	-	-	-	-	3 (6)	-	**3 (6)**
Armenia	-	-	-	2	-	1 (1)	**3 (3)**
Georgia	-	-	-	-	1 (1)	2 (2)	**3 (3)**
Macao	-	-	-	-	3 (3)	-	**3 (3)**
Myanmar	2	1	-	-	-	-	**3 (3)**
Oman	-	-	-	-	-	3 (3)	**3 (3)**
Republic of Moldova	-	-	-	-	-	3 (3)	**3 (3)**
Serbia	-	-	-	-	-	2 (14)	**2 (14)**
Angola	-	-	-	-	-	2 (8)	**2 (8)**
Samoa	1	-	-	-	1 (3)	-	**2 (4)**
Kuwait	-	-	-	-	2 (3)	-	**2 (3)**
Benin	-	-	2	-	-	-	**2 (2)**
Cook Islands	-	-	-	-	2 (2)	-	**2 (2)**
El Salvador	-	-	-	-	2 (2)	-	**2 (2)**
Faroe Islands	-	-	-	-	-	2 (2)	**2 (2)**
Isle of Man	-	-	-	2	-	-	**2 (2)**
Peru	2	-	-	-	-	-	**2 (2)**
Montenegro	-	-	-	-	1 (3)	-	**1 (3)**
Curacao	-	-	-	-	-	1 (2)	**1 (2)**
Saint Kitts and Nevis	-	-	-	-	-	1 (2)	**1 (2)**
Bangladesh	-	-	1	-	-	-	**1 (1)**
Belize	1	-	-	-	-	-	**1 (1)**
Cambodia	-	-	1	-	-	-	**1 (1)**
Dominican Republic	1	-	-	-	-	-	**1 (1)**
Kyrgyzstan	-	-	1	-	-	-	**1 (1)**
Liberia	-	-	1	-	-	-	**1 (1)**
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	1	-	-	-	-	-	**1 (1)**
Nepal	1	-	-	-	-	-	**1 (1)**
Puerto Rico	-	-	-	-	1 (1)	-	**1 (1)**
Saint Lucia	-	-	-	-	-	1 (1)	**1 (1)**
Sri Lanka	-	-	-	-	1 (1)	-	**1 (1)**
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	-	-	-	-	-	1 (1)	**1 (1)**
Vanuatu	-	-	-	-	1 (1)	-	**1 (1)**
Total	29,342	3,453	4,083	3,003	10,822 (16,959)	12,243 (28,155)	**62,946 (84,995)**

Note: Figures in parentheses include multiple applications

Trials and Appeals

Requests for trial and appeal

(unit: cases)

Category		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Appeal against examiner's decision to reject application	Patents	2,110	2,196 (2,196)	1,589 (1,589)	1,700 (1,700)	**1,380 (1,380)**
	Utility models	59	33 (33)	28 (28)	22 (22)	**12 (12)**
	Designs	50	49 (49)	41 (41)	39 (39)	**134 (134)**
	Trademarks	1,021 (1,615)	1,104 (1,724)	748 (1,115)	1,073 (1,563)	**1,196 (1,885)**
	Subtotal	3,240 (3,834)	3,382 (4,002)	2,406 (2,773)	2,834 (3,324)	**2,722 (3,411)**
Appeals against examiner's decision to dismiss amendment	Patents	-	-	-	-	**-**
	Utility models	-	-	-	-	**-**
	Designs	-	1 (1)	-	1 (1)	**1 (1)**
	Trademarks	-	1 (1)	1 (1)	-	**1 (2)**
	Subtotal	-	2 (2)	1 (1)	1 (1)	**2 (3)**
Appeals against examiner's decision of cancellation	Patents	-	-	-	-	**-**
	Utility models	-	-	-	-	**-**
	Designs	3	3 (3)	1 (1)	2 (2)	**2 (2)**
	Trademarks	-	-	-	-	**-**
	Subtotal	3	3 (3)	1 (1)	2 (2)	**2 (2)**
Trials for correction	Patents	119	150 (150)	109 (109)	125 (125)	**124 (124)**
	Utility models	3	4 (4)	-	1 (1)	**3 (3)**
	Designs	-	-	-	-	**-**
	Trademarks	-	-	-	-	**-**
	Subtotal	122	154 (154)	109 (109)	126 (126)	**127 (127)**
Invalidation	Patents	383	408 (408)	374 (374)	336 (336)	**365 (365)**
	Utility models	20	12 (12)	11 (11)	14 (14)	**9 (9)**
	Designs	188	152 (152)	160 (160)	151 (151)	**164 (164)**
	Trademarks	372 (433)	291 (342)	264 (323)	231 (282)	**283 (332)**
	Subtotal	963 (1,024)	863 (914)	809 (868)	732 (783)	**821 (870)**

(unit: cases)

Category		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Trials to confirm scope of IP right	Patents	374	445 (445)	300 (300)	770 (770)	**261 (261)**
	Utility models	17	11 (11)	14 (14)	11 (11)	**9 (9)**
	Designs	169	155 (155)	142 (142)	123 (123)	**132 (132)**
	Trademarks	108 (129)	112 (123)	88 (104)	132 (138)	**102 (116)**
	Subtotal	668 (689)	723 (734)	544 (560)	1,036 (1,042)	**504 (518)**
Cancellation trials on trademark registration	Patents	-	-	-	-	**-**
	Utility models	-	-	-	-	**-**
	Designs	-	-	-	-	**1 (1)**
	Trademarks	2,497 (3,003)	2,395 (2,827)	2,411 (2,802)	2,459 (2,782)	**2,503 (3,150)**
	Subtotal	2,497 (3,003)	2,395 (2,827)	2,411 (2,802)	2,459 (2,782)	**2,504 (3,151)**
Opposition of patent/ utility model	Patents	146	154 (154)	149 (149)	186 (186)	**161 (161)**
	Utility models	9	6 (6)	2 (2)	1 (1)	**-**
	Designs	-	-	-	-	**-**
	Trademarks	-	-	-	-	**-**
	Subtotal	155	160 (160)	151 (151)	187 (187)	**161 (161)**
Grand total	Patents	3,132	3,353 (3,353)	2,521 (2,521)	3,117 (3,117)	**2,291 (2,291)**
	Utility models	108	66 (66)	55 (55)	49 (49)	**33 (33)**
	Designs	410	360 (360)	344 (344)	316 (316)	**434 (434)**
	Trademarks	3,998 (5,180)	3,903 (5,017)	3,512 (4,345)	3,895 (4,765)	**4,085 (5,485)**
	Grand total	7,648 (8,830)	7,682 (8,796)	6,432 (7,265)	7,377 (8,247)	**6,843 (8,243)**

Note1: Figures in parentheses include multiple applications.

Note2: Opposition of patents / Utility model has been enforced from March, 2017

* Rejection refers to appeals against examiners' decisions of refusal and appeals against examiners' decisions to dismiss utility models.

** Invalidation refers to invalidation trials and trials for invalidation of corrections.

Successful petitions

(unit: cases)

Category		2020		2021		2022		2023		2024	
		Acceptance	Ratio	Acceptance	Ratio	Acceptance	Ratio	Acceptance	Ratio	**Acceptance**	**Ratio**
Ex partes	Patents	1,341	39.9	1,008	36.8	747	33.2	578	29.9	**531**	**29.1**
	Utility models	45	24.9	16	28.1	11	29.7	7	25.0	**5**	**26.3**
	Designs	20	40.8	8	26.7	27	33.8	9	29.0	**14**	**25.9**
	Trademarks	693 (1,063)	55.9 (60.4)	536 (884)	57.0 (61.0)	456 (733)	56.0 (56.9)	477 (821)	55.4 (64.0)	**432 (685)**	**58.2 (64.7)**
	Subtotal	2,099 (2,469)	43.4 (46.1)	1,568 (1,916)	41.6 (44.8)	1,241 (1,518)	39.0 (41.5)	1,071 (1,415)	37.5 (43.2)	**982 (1,235)**	**37.2 (41.8)**
Inter partes	Patents	382	42.8	361	47.5	382	52.0	355	52.4	**511**	**48**
	Utility models	8	24.2	13	37.1	10	45.5	11	37.9	**9**	**42.9**
	Designs	140	53.8	141	46.2	154	46.7	177	51.8	**164**	**52.2**
	Trademarks	1,877 (2,351)	70.6 (72.4)	2,268 (2,627)	78.8 (79.1)	1,792 (2,030)	77.7 (77.4)	2,463 (2,718)	81.9 (81.5)	**1,735 (2,036)**	**75 (75.5)**
	Subtotal	2,407 (2,881)	62.6 (65.0)	2,783 (3,142)	69.9 (71.1)	2,338 (2,576)	68.9 (69.5)	3,006 (3,261)	74.1 (74.4)	**2,419 (2,720)**	**65.2 (66.4)**
Grand total	Patents	1,723	40.5	1,369	39.1	1,129	37.8	933	35.7	**1,042**	**36.1**
	Utility models	53	24.8	29	31.5	21	35.6	18	31.6	**14**	**35**
	Designs	160	51.8	149	44.5	181	44.1	186	49.9	**178**	**48.4**
	Trademarks	2,570 (3,414)	65.9 (68.2)	2,804 (3,511)	73.4 (73.6)	2,248 (2,763)	72.0 (70.6)	2,940 (3,539)	76.0 (76.6)	**2,167 (2,721)**	**70.9 (72.4)**
	Total	4,506 (5,350)	51.9 (54.7)	4,351 (5,058)	56.2 (58.1)	3,579 (4,094)	54.4 (55.6)	4,077 (4,676)	59.0 (61.0)	**3,401 (3,955)**	**53.6 (56.1)**

Note1: Figures in parentheses include multiple applications.

Note2: The successful petitions refer to the number of petitions granted. These figures exclude cases where the registration was decided on the basis of an examiner's reconsideration before a trial and invalidation of a patent process. The figures in parentheses indicate the percentage of the petitions granted.

· Ex partes: Appeals against examiners' decisions of refusal / Appeals against examiners' decisions of cancellation / Appeals against examiners' decisions to dismiss amendments / Trials for correction

· Inter partes: Invalidation trials / Trials to confirm scope of IP rights / Trials for invalidation of correction / Trials for granting non-exclusive licenses / Trials for invalidation of registrations for extension of patent right term / Trials for invalidation of registration for renewals of trademark right term / Cancellation trials on trademark registrations / Cancellation trials on registrations of exclusive or non-exclusive licenses / Trials for invalidation on registrations for conversion of classification of goods

Comparison of domestic and foreign trial requests

(unit: cases)

Category		2020	2021	2022	2023	**2024**
Patents	Domestic	2,064	2,293	1,633	2,164	**1,499**
	Foreign	1,068	1,060	888	953	**792**
Utility models	Domestic	102	63	51	48	**33**
	Foreign	6	3	4	1	**-**
Designs	Domestic	386	337	323	286	**313**
	Foreign	24	23	21	30	**121**
Trademarks	Domestic	2,780	2,726	2,512	2,807	**2,922**
	Foreign	1,218	1,177	1,000	1,088	**1,163**
Total		7,648	7,682	6,432	7,377	**6,843**

Note: Multiple applications for trademarks and designs are treated as single applications.

Income and Expenditures / KIPO Staff

Income

(unit: USD)

Category	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Income from fees	484,871,681	533,627,760	471,906,646	475,832,558	**411,047,619**
Income carried over from the previous year	9,997,345	48,094,637	78,923,259	45,039,535	**11,329,252**
Internal income and others	109,041,593	70,221,721	116,525,316	139,237,984	**72,303,401**
Total	603,910,619	651,945,020	667,356,804	660,110,078	**494,680,272**

Expenditures

(unit: USD)

Category	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Non-personnel resources (projects)	400,492,035	426,200,090	477,916,930	503,641,085	**359,329,252**
Personnel resources	122,678,761	130,149,617	119,738,924	120,303,101	**113,821,088**
Deposit for special fund	33,516,814	5,680,937	23,734,177	23,255,814	**12,925,170**
Total	556,687,611	562,030,644	621,390,823	647,200,000	**486,075,510**

KIPO staff

(unit: number of positions)

Category		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Examiners	Patents and utility models	830	861	876	876	**873**
	Designs and trademarks	198	194	214	213	**224**
Administrative judges		107	107	107	106	**106**
Administrative staff		632	649	597	596	**593**
Total		1,767	1,811	1,804	1,791	**1,796**

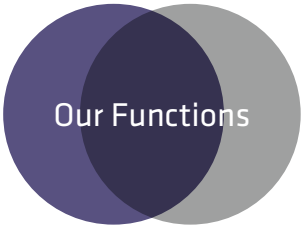
Academic and professional credentials of KIPO examiners

(unit: number of staff)

Category		Ph. D	Master's degrees	Patent attorney certificate only	Lawyer certificate only	Professional engineer certificate only
Examiners	Patents and utility models	296	173	25	2	19
	Trademarks	13	9	4	3	0
	Designs	3	5	0	0	0
	Total	**312**	**187**	**29**	**5**	**19**

About KIPO

The Korean Intellectual Property Office is the governmental authority in charge of affairs regarding patents, utility models, industrial designs, and trademarks. It was established in 1949 as an external bureau of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry under the name of Patent Bureau. In 1977, the Patent Bureau became an independent office of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and took the name of Korean Industrial Property Office. In 2000, it was renamed the Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO).



The main functions of KIPO include: the examination and registration of intellectual property rights; the conducting of trials on intellectual property disputes; the management and dissemination of information on intellectual property rights; the promotion and enhancement of public awareness of invention activities; the advancement of international cooperation; and the training of experts on intellectual property rights.

In response to the competitive global environment where intellectual property is becoming increasingly valuable, we aim to advance Korea and its position in the world through innovative intellectual property.

We support technological innovation and industrial development by promoting the creation, protection, and utilization of intellectual property. We strive to provide world-class intellectual property services; to promote the economic and industrial use of intellectual property; and to create an environment respectful of the intellectual property system.

Korean Intellectual
Property Office

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Korean Intellectual Property Office

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