

Creation and commercialization of IP

-
- Expanded basis for IP creation
 - Nurture of student and women inventors
 - Utilization of IP



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Expanded basis for IP creation

Facilitation of IP creation at national universities and research institutes



The 1st National R&D IP Forum

In 2007, KIPO developed a model that enables organizations to diagnose and evaluate their patent management capabilities. The model was distributed to universities and research institutes for the purpose of assessing and enhancing their capabilities. The model includes a total of 65 diagnostic indexes in three fields.

In other initiatives, we developed a model of standard contracts for cooperation between industry and academia, published guidelines for contracts involving mutual research, and launched a study to see how patent indexes can be used in assessing the accomplishments of professors and researchers at 40 universities and research institutes.

We have also been supporting national universities and research institutes in the acquisition of core patents, especially by facilitating the production of patent maps in technological fields that pertain to the specialization of those particular universities and research institutes. In 2007, this type of support was extended to 20 research labs at Seoul National University and the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology.



The 2007 Korea Invention and Patent Exhibition

We also arranged for educational courses on patent information to be formally conducted at the graduate and undergraduate level. The graduate courses are offered at Seoul National University, the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology, Yonsei University, and Korea University. The undergraduate courses are offered at 37 universities, including Yonsei University and Korea University.

One of our achievements in 2007 was the establishment of a standard model of compensation for employee inventions at universities. The new model reflects the major details of the revised *Invention Promotion Act*. We also gave a number of presentations on employee inventions.

A national R&D forum on IP was held as a means of searching for outstanding IP models at national universities and research institutes. The forum facilitated the sharing of IP management experience and other related information.

To improve the capability of universities in managing IPRs, we dispatched patent management advisors to 10 universities. The advisors help the universities organize their IP regulations. We also provide IPR consultations to professors and students and give various presentations on IPRs.

On the issue of international patents, we have arranged for public patent attorneys to give consultations and we support the cost of applying for international patents in cases of outstanding research. Moreover, we provide customized consultations on patent strategies through the R&D Patent Center <www.ipr-guide.org>.

Support for IP creation in local regions

As part of the infrastructure for creating local IP, we continued our efforts in 2007 to run 31 regional IP centers, the purpose of which is provide local residents with a patent information service, featuring IPR consultations, presentations, and educational programs.

Similarly, we continued to run 17 local IPR supporters associations for students, academics, patent attorneys and so on. The associations promote the creation of IP among local residents and are a source of ideas for new projects.

We also conducted IPR forums in conjunction with 17 metropolitan regions, including Seoul. These IPR forums, which include presentations on various aspects of the IPR field, are aimed at helping local residents become more knowledgeable about IPRs and IPR procedures.

We have launched many other projects to promote local brands. For instance, we allow a collective mark to be used as a geographical indication for local specialties; we use brand maps as a basis for advising local governments on brand management; and we support the advertising and marketing of local specialties.

Our patent information consulting project continued to yield positive results in 2007. The project is aimed at promoting IP creation through the analysis and use of patent information. To finance this project, we matched the funds of nine local governments, including the governments of Daejeon Metropolitan City and Gyeonggi Province.

To improve the competitiveness of SMEs, our examiners made on-site visits to companies with outstanding potential for innovation and offered them consultations on the management of patents, brands, and industrial designs.

Finally, we endeavored to help SMEs become more aware of IP management. In particular, we held a patent management course for SMEs, established a research group that focuses on IP management, and, with the help of consultants, searched for model cases of IP management.

Creation and Commercialization of IP

Nurture of student and women inventors



The 42nd Invention Day Ceremony



The 2007 Korean Student Creativity Olympiad



The 2007 Women Inventors Exhibition

To develop creative human resources for the future, we continued our efforts to nurture young inventors. Between 1995 and 2006, for example, we ran 182 regional creativity classes. These classes form the infrastructure for student invention education in each region. In 2006, we also continued to run our cyber invention education center and a bricks and mortar training center to improve the proficiency of invention teachers and to decentralize invention education throughout all the regional areas. In another initiative, we continued to offer invention scholarships for talented students who participate in invention activities. By the end of 2007, an aggregate of 1,831 students had received this scholarship. Moreover, as in previous years, we organized a number of invention events for youth, such as the Korea Student Invention Exhibition, the Korean Student Creativity Olympiad and the University Invention Competition.

Women inventors were also the focus of our efforts to nurture creative human resources. As encouragement to women inventors, we conducted a lecture tour on women's IPRs and offered a course on the inventiveness of women. We also organized events such as a competition and exhibition for women inventors to promote the economic activities of women patent holders.

Utilization of IP

In 2007, we facilitated the commercialization of patented technologies in various ways. For example, we increased the financial support for commercialization through the Patented Technology Commercialization Committee, which comprises members of relevant government organizations.

Furthermore, we extended a scheme piloted the previous year by signing agreements with four private financial institutions to provide loans to SMEs and venture businesses with excellent technologies. These loans may be secured solely on the strength of the patent rights.

To encourage the transfer and trade of patented technologies, we pursued several initiatives in 2007. First, we continued our previous practice of assisting SMEs and research institutes by subsidizing fees for the appraisal of patented technology.

We also reorganized the IP-Mart by developing a technology auctioning system and a traders matching system. The reorganization, which was designed to favor technology buyers, has greatly reinforced the IP-Mart's function of promoting and supporting technological trade.

Moreover, we continued to expand the patented technology database; and, as in the previous year, we joined various specialist organizations in analyzing the trends in technology transfers for private companies.

To promote the use of government-owned patented technologies, we now permit companies to use such technology for up to two years without charge, provided the technologies have been dormant for more than three years. Furthermore, we developed an online system of signing contracts related to the use of government-owned patents.

In other activities, we subsidized the valuation of patents held by more than 1,100 universities and public research institutes. And we organized a patent distribution festival, where we gave presentations and consultations on technology to support the transfer of outstanding patented technologies.

The early buyer recommendation scheme was expanded in 2007 to support outstanding patented products in the SME marketplace. In particular, we expedited the scheme so that government agencies can purchase patented products in advance.

Finally, we continued to support the commercialization of outstanding patented products by organizing various events such as the Korea Invention and Patent Festival and the Exhibition for the Hundred Most Outstanding Patented Products.



The homepage of the IP-Mart



The 2007 Patent Distribution Festival



Award ceremony for the Hundred Most Outstanding Patented Products