

**10.6** months

First action pendency for  
patents and utility models

# Innovation

**KIPO fosters IP innovation through fast, reliable and high-quality IP examination services**

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



# Premium Examination Services

We aim to provide high-quality and customer-oriented examination services by improving examination systems, raising the overall quality of each of our IP administration processes (the application, examination and registration stages), and reducing first action pendency.

We offer customized examination services with our three-track patent and utility model examination system, two-track trademark and design examination system, as well as three-track trial system.

The average first office action pendency are as follows:

- Patents and utility models: 14.8 months in 2012 → 13.2 months in 2013 → 11.0 months in 2014 → 10.0 months in 2015 → 10.6 months in 2016
- Trademarks: 8.9 months in 2012 → 7.7 months in 2013 → 6.4 months in 2014 → 4.7 months in 2015 → 4.8 months in 2016
- Designs: 8.8 months in 2012 → 7.3 months in 2013 → 6.5 months in 2014 → 4.4 months in 2015 → 4.7 months in 2016

◀ Dongdaemun Design Plaza (DDP)

It is a complex cultural space opened in Jung-gu, Seoul in 2014, dreaming of 'Mecca of design and creative industries'. It is the world's largest three-dimensional irregular structure that can not find straight lines and pillars throughout the building using advanced special construction method. The silver exterior, reminiscent of a gigantic space ship, is decorated with 45,533 aluminum panels.

► Gilt-bronze Pensive Maitreya Bodhisattva

National treasure No. 78. Height is 83.2 cm. It is believed to have been made in the latter half of the 6th century and is considered to be the best masterpiece of Buddhist art on the Korean peninsula.



# No.1

In the world for resident patent  
applications per GDP and population



# 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 factor of any competent business strategy.

KIPO is dedicated to establishing a competitive and rewarding IP system that nurtures IP creation and utilization by transforming novel ideas into strong IPRs.

# IP Competitiveness

## IP applications

The total preliminary number of IP applications, including patents, utility models, designs, and trademarks, submitted to KIPO in 2016 amounted to 451,622.

Patent applications stood at around 200 in 1949 before jumping to around 5,000 in 1980 and 100,000 in 2000. Over the past 16 years, this number has doubled to more than 200,000.

## Patent application competitiveness

According to the World IP Indicator unveiled by WIPO in December 2016, since 2007, Korea ranked first for 9 consecutive years (Since 2007) in regard to the number of resident patent applications per GDP and population.

## PCT applications

The number of PCT application increased by 11.1 percent, from 14,594 in 2015 to 15,595 in 2016, which is the 5th largest amount by country of origin.

◀ Taekwondo

It is an internationally recognized sports that was created in Korea and spread all over the world. It emphasizes mental discipline such as courtesy and perseverance with physical training.

▶ Green-Glazed Roof Tile with Monster Mask

The ancient people of Korea believed that illness, death, disaster, etc were caused by evil ghosts, and made tiles with the face of monster as one of the ways to chase those ghosts.



**10.2** million  
CHF  
contribution

Korea Funds-In-Trust (FIT)

**26** countries

Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH)

**24** IP sharing  
projects

Appropriate technology and brand development



# Harmonization

**KIPO, in collaboration with key national allies, creates a global community that appropriately values and rewards inventions**

International cooperation is critical in order for the stakeholders to easily acquire and protect IPRs. KIPO contributes to the advancement of IP systems as it works to increase the value of IP holdings by participating in various activities worldwide.

# Worldwide IP Collaboration

## WIPO Korea Funds-In-Trust (FIT)

Since 2004, KIPO has contributed around 10.2 million Swiss francs for the continued operation of WIPO Korea FIT. We apply this fund toward KIPO-WIPO projects that support developing countries.

## Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) with 26 Countries

In order to improve the efficiency and quality of examinations, we have become actively involved in the IP5 and the TM5. In 2014, we successfully hosted the IP5 Annual Meeting to harmonize global patent systems. We are also implementing the Patent Prosecution Highway with 26 countries to reduce the time and costs required to obtain patents internationally.

- PPH participants: Australia, Austria, Canada, China, Colombia, Denmark, EPO, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Israel, Japan, Mexico, Nordic Patent Institute, Norway, Portugal, Russia, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Taiwan, the Philippines, UK and USA

## 24 IP Sharing Projects

In collaboration with WIPO and APEC, we are implementing IP sharing projects to support key national allies through the provision of appropriate technologies and brand development.

Appropriate technologies developed and provided by KIPO are as follows:

- Sugar cane charcoal manufacturing for Chad in 2010;
- Soil brick manufacturing for Nepal in 2010;
- Simple water purifier for Cambodia in 2011;
- Cooking stove for Guatemala in 2012;
- Construction technology to improve insulation in bamboo housing for Nepal in 2012;
- Oil extractor for farms in the province of Tarlac in the Philippines in 2013;
- Bicycle-operated water pump for Pinu in Papua New Guinea in 2013;
- Sewage processing equipment in the Vietnam in 2014;
- Manual extractors for bee farms in Ghana in 2014;
- Natural Dyeing machines in Mongolia in 2015;
- Waste water treatment system in Myanmar in 2015;
- Grease separation system for the Vung Tau province in Vietnam in 2016; and
- Patchouli oil extractor for the Aceh region in Indonesia in 2016.

► Bibimbap

It is a Korean traditional food that mixes vegetables, meat and spices together with rice. The harmony among ingredients is the key to taste.

► Celadon Pitcher in the Shape of a Tortoise

National treasure No. 96. Height 17cm. It is a porcelain kettle made in the 12th century and embodies tortoise sitting on a lotus flower. In the 12th century, China and Korea were the only countries that had the technology to bake ceramics.

