

# JAPAN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ASSOCIATION

Asahi-Seimei Otemachi Bldg. 18F.  
6-1, Otemachi 2-Chome  
Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-0004 JAPAN



Tel: 81 3 5205 3433  
Fax: 81 3 5205 3391

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The Honorable Benoit Battistelli  
President  
European Patent Office

Re: JIPA Comments on the "Status report on the collaborative search and examination pilot"

Dear President Battistelli:

We, the Japan Intellectual Property Association, are a private user organization established in Japan in 1938 for the purpose of promoting intellectual property protection, with about 900 major Japanese companies as members. When appropriate opportunities arise, we offer our opinions on the intellectual property systems of other countries and make recommendations for more effective implementation of the systems. (<http://www.jipa.or.jp/english/index.html>)

Having learned that the "Status report on the collaborative search and examination pilot", published by the European Patent Office (EPO) in the Web-site of EPO, on October 8, 2012. We would like to offer our opinions as follows. Your consideration on our opinions would be greatly appreciated.

JIPA again thanks the EPO for this opportunity to provide these comments and welcomes any questions on them.

Sincerely, yours,

Yoichi Okumura

President

Japan Intellectual Property Association

Asahi Seimei Otemachi Bldg.18F

6-1 Otemachi 2-chome Chiyoda-ku Tokyo, 100-0004,

JAPAN

**JIPA Comments on the “Status report on the collaborative search and examination pilot”**

JIPA has closely and carefully studied the status report, publicized on the EPO website, under the title of "Status report on the collaborative search and examination pilot". JIPA hereby presents its comments on this proposed initiative.

JIPA appreciates that the CS/E is an initiative to enhance the reliability of the ISR and WO/ISA.

However, since there is a language barrier for Japanese applicants to participate in CS/E, we need to verify the cost return of this initiative (e.g., translation costs). Accordingly, we would appreciate seeing quantitative information that indicates whether or not the reliability is actually enhanced (e.g., decreasing number of OAs in national phase, grant rate, and timeliness of ISR).

Further, JIPA would like EPO to consider ideas for encouraging and promoting participation by applicants having a language barrier, and hopes that the costs (including fees) for applicants would not increase when this CS/E is institutionalized.

Finally, the most desirable thing for users is the improvement and equalization of the quality of search results by each of the patent offices and international authorities. In addition to this initiative, JIPA wishes EPO to consider the improvement of machine translations and the true unification of patent classification codes (CHC).

(EOD)