

actively involved in the development of the laws and regulations by taking this circumstance as surroundings of business.

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## The Present State and the Future of the IP Information System Supporting R&D Activities

Intellectual Property Information System Committee

In the current so called pro-patent age, the role of IP information can never be underestimated in order to establish a cycle of creating intellectual property and as a result to galvanize the Japanese industry as proposed in the Outline of Intellectual Property Strategy.

The Promotion Plan concerning Creation, Protection and Utilization of Intellectual Property (called the IP Promotion Plan) presented by the government proposes the following information-related measures to enhance the use of intellectual property at universities and enterprises: (i) further provision of data owned by the Japan Patent Office, (ii) improving the Industrial Property Digital Library (IPDL), (iii) encouraging the use of IPDL and patent information services in the private sector, (iv) establishing an integrated retrieval system for both patent information and non-patent information such as academic papers. This would entail efforts to work out ways to make use of these systems and services effectively and thereby support R&D activities in a timely manner.

Furthermore, Trilateral Patent Offices and WIPO are actively promoting global standardization of IP information and infrastructure that allows easy utilization of various data and services provided by both the Patent Offices of major countries and the private PI suppliers is being established at a rapid pace.

Under these circumstances, firms are making use of IP information more than ever in order to support their management decisions, and their expectation for a reliable IP information system is growing larger and larger.

This article, with a view to the above, examines the recent features, challenges and the ideal state of the IP information system to support R&D activities.

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