



THE FIRST TWENTY YEARS OF THE JAPAN FUNDS-IN-TRUST  
FOR INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY AT WIPO (1987-2007)



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INTELLECTUAL  
PROPERTY  
ORGANIZATION



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## Timeline

1987

- First voluntary contribution of 30,840,000 Yen by the Government of Japan to the development cooperation program of WIPO in the industrial property field, and establishment of a separate trust fund (FIT/JP-IP) at WIPO for the receipt and administration of this contribution.

1988

- First meeting organized by WIPO with funds from the voluntary contribution, *Symposium on Industrial Property and Economic and Technological Development*, took place in Hong Kong.

1989

- 50% increase in the voluntary contribution to 46,330,000 Yen.

1993

- First voluntary contribution by the Government of Japan to the development cooperation program of WIPO in the field of copyright and neighboring rights, and establishment of a separate trust fund (FIT/JP-CR) for the receipt and administration of this contribution.

1997

- Doubling of the yearly contribution from 46,330,000 Yen to 92,660,000 Yen, led to two new FIT/JP-IP activities: provision of equipment and fellowships.
- The *WIPO Asian Regional Forum on Intellectual Property Rights in the 21st Century*, resulted in the adoption of a joint statement.

1998

- The *WIPO Asian regional Forum on Intellectual Property Policy Development* resulted in the adoption of a joint statement.
- First training course focused on the enforcement of intellectual property rights.

1999

- 92% increase in the contribution from 92,660,000 Yen to 178,213,000 Yen, was accompanied by an expansion of the main themes addressed by FIT/JP-IP activities.

2001

- The *WIPO Asia-Pacific Regional Forum on the Role of Intellectual Property Offices in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* resulted in the adoption of a joint statement.

2005

- Deployment of the first customization of the *Basic Integrated Industrial Property Databases for Patent, Industrial Designs and Marks Administration* software.

2006

- *WIPO High Level Forum on Intellectual Property Policy and Strategy*
- Establishment of the WIPO Office in Japan.

## Background

In 1987, the Government of Japan through the Japan Patent Office (JPO), made its first voluntary contribution to the World Intellectual Property Organization's (WIPO) development cooperation program in the industrial property field. This contribution, which led to the establishment of a separate trust fund at WIPO (FIT/JP-IP), was used to provide assistance to developing and least developed countries (LDCs) of the Asia-Pacific region in the strengthening and modernization of their industrial property systems. The FIT/JP-IP contribution formed part of the extended development assistance provided by the Government of Japan in the field of intellectual property (IP) through the JPO and other agencies such as the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

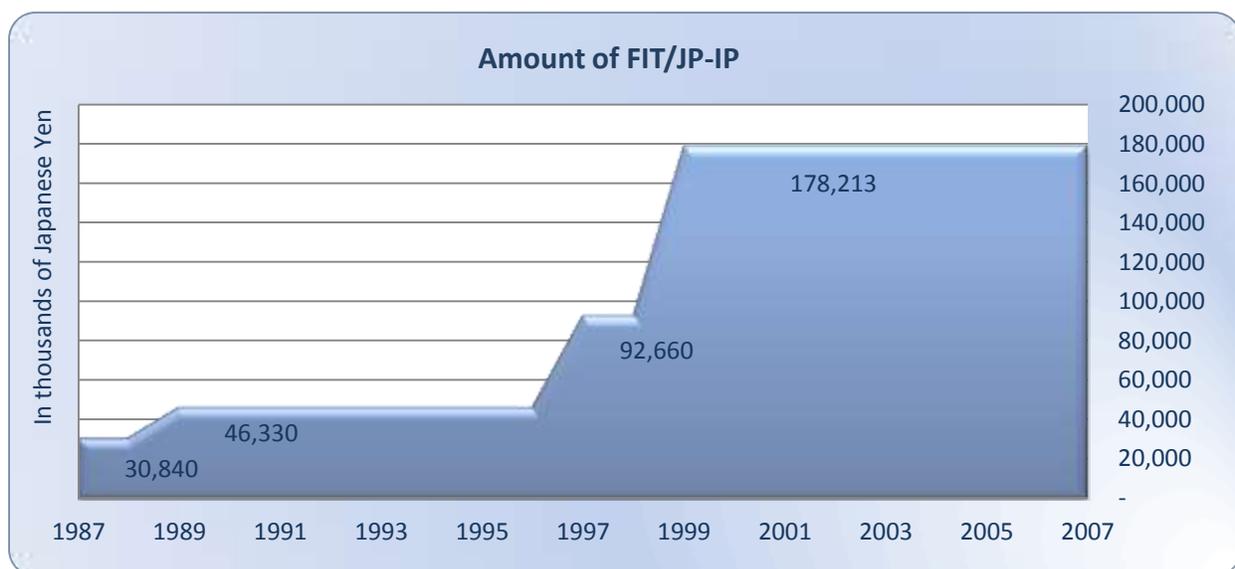
In 1992, the main objectives of the FIT/JP-IP were clearly defined as:

Promoting awareness of the importance of the industrial property system for economic and technological development, and of the benefits to be derived from the effective use of the system.

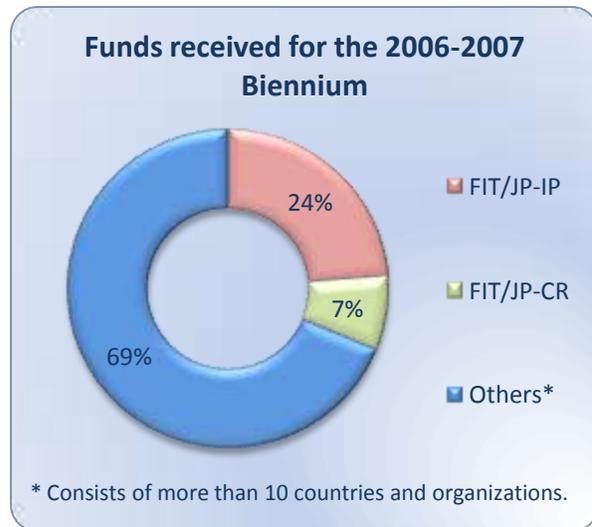
Assisting developing countries in assessing their needs in the field of industrial property and in establishing/strengthening related laws and institutions.

Developing human resources in sectors concerned with the administration and utilization of the industrial property system.

In order to meet the growing and increasing variety of needs from developing countries, the FIT/JP-IP increased almost six-fold from the first voluntary contribution of 30,840,000 Japanese Yen (316,795 Swiss Francs) to the 2007 level of 178,213,000 Japanese Yen (1,895,883 Swiss Francs). The total contribution in the first twenty years of the FIT/JP-IP amounted to 2,043,344,000 Yen (25,094,550 Swiss Francs).

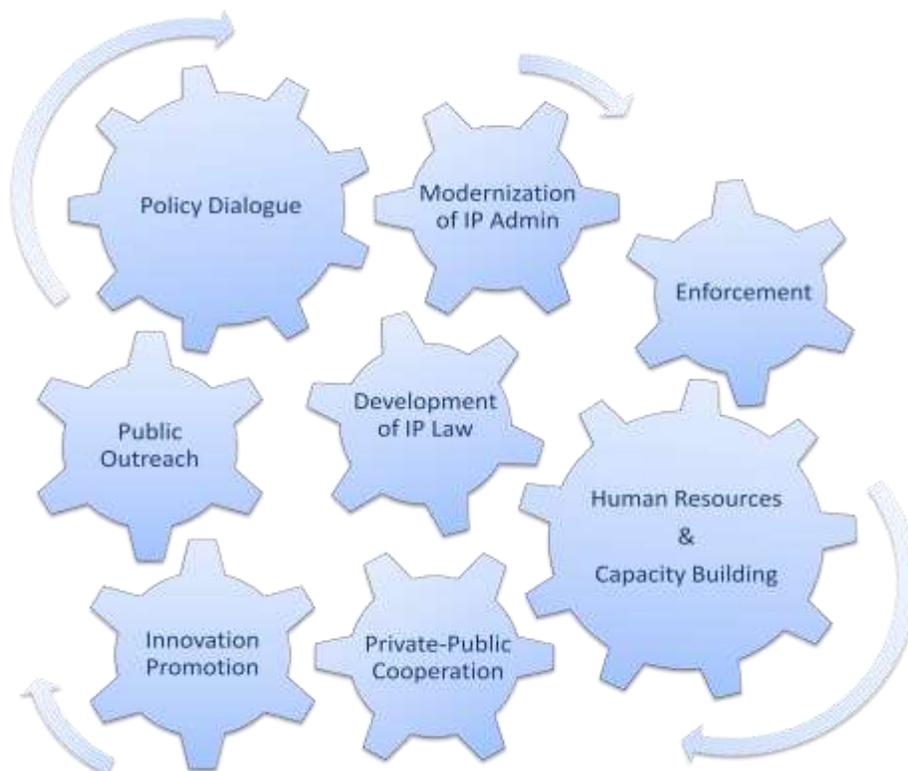


Based on the figures from WIPO's 2006-2007 Financial Management Report, FIT/JP-IP contributions amounted to 24% of total voluntary contributions for that biennium, making Japan the single largest contributor for technical assistance in industrial property matters to developing countries and LDCs. Taking into account the funds-in-trust for copyright and related rights matters (FIT/JP-CR), the full contribution of the Government of Japan amounted to 31 % of all voluntary contributions, making it the largest single contributor to WIPO's development cooperation program for intellectual property (IP)related technical assistance.



Specific activities carried out during the first 20 years of the FIT/JP-IP included: 78 meetings, 800 officials trained through courses in Tokyo, 109 expert missions, 23 fellowships, information technology (IT) equipment provided to 12 countries, software development, seven national projects, studies and information materials. The short-term nature of these activities was due to the one-year financial cycle used for the contribution. Other, complementary and longer term IP-related projects funded by the Government of Japan were carried out through JICA.

The FIT/JP-IP activities were focused on eight themes which developed and had varied degrees of importance over the twenty years.



Theme	Objectives	Main activities
<b>Policy Dialogue</b>	Facilitate dialogue and contact among countries in the Asia-Pacific region and provide a forum where high level stakeholders can meet, discuss and exchange views on policy issues pertaining to the role of IP in economic, social and cultural development.	Meetings
<b>Modernization of Industrial Property Administration</b>	Support IP offices in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• functioning as granting / registration authorities of IPRs;</li> <li>• streamlining administration through rationalization of procedures, utilization of IT and office automation;</li> <li>• disseminating IP information through the use of computer networks.</li> </ul>	Expert missions Provision of IT equipment / Software development National projects Meetings
<b>Enforcement</b>	Support the creation of effective infrastructure for the enforcement of intellectual property rights (IPRs) by strengthening links between IP offices and enforcement agencies and raising awareness among the general public.  Provide information and enhance the understanding of customs/enforcement officials and public prosecutors on the basic principles of IP, and provide exposure to IPRs enforcement policies, procedures and approaches, including practical industry approaches.	Meetings Training Course National Projects
<b>Public Outreach</b>	Assist IP offices in promoting public awareness and further understanding among the general public and specific target groups, about the relevance of IP in society and latest developments in this field.	Information Products Meetings

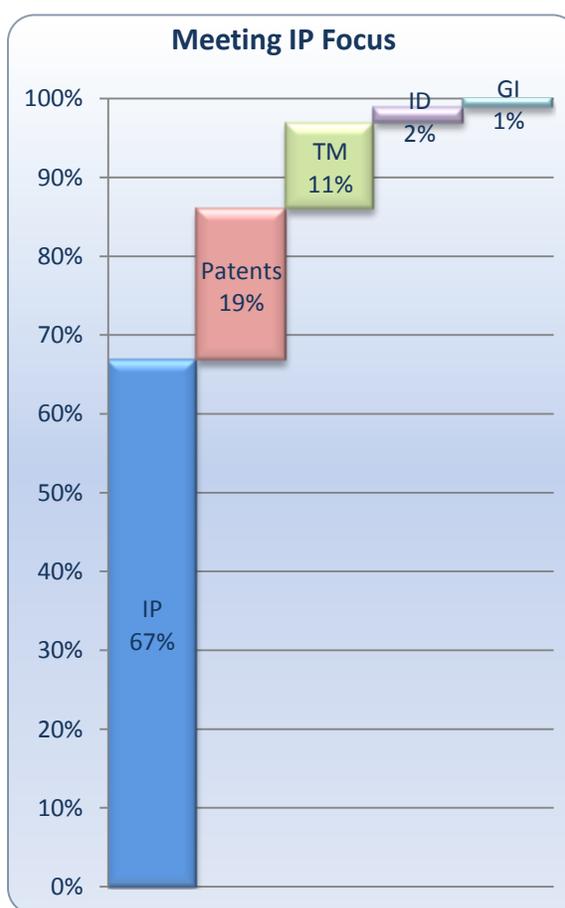
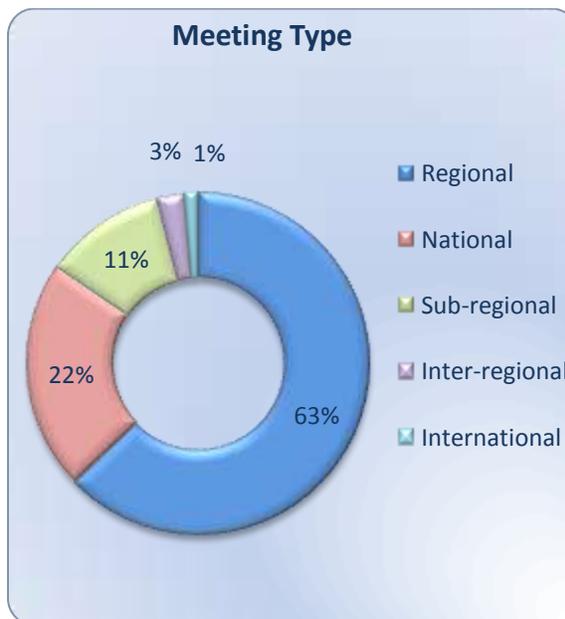
<b>Development of IP Law and Promotion of IPR Protection Systems</b>	<p>Assist IP offices in increasing awareness of the importance and benefits of industrial property laws.</p> <p>Facilitate the use of the PCT, Madrid and Hague systems by users and promote adherence to, and appropriate implementation of, those systems.</p>	<p>Training Course</p> <p>Advisory Missions</p> <p>Meetings</p>
<b>Innovation Promotion</b>	<p>Support IP offices in setting up efficient mechanisms to assist SMEs (particularly start-ups, venture businesses, and R&amp;D institutions) in order to promote the use of the IP system.</p> <p>Facilitate technology transfer and licensing through the promotion of national, regional and global IP exchange and transaction markets.</p> <p>Promote the dissemination of IP information for inventive and innovative activities and the creation of IPRs.</p>	<p>Meetings</p> <p>SMEs Pilot Project</p>
<b>Private- Public Cooperation</b>	<p>Facilitate cooperation between the private and public sectors of industrialized countries and developing countries, for the promotion and development of the use of the industrial property system in the Asia-Pacific Region.</p>	<p>Expert Missions</p> <p>Meetings</p>
<b>Human Resources and Capacity Building</b>	<p>Provide general and specialized training for government officials and IP professionals in cooperation with the JPO and other regional educational institutes.</p> <p>Assist capacity building in IP training and teaching, in cooperation with regional educational institutes.</p> <p>Pursue research in the field of industrial property in cooperation with the JPO.</p>	<p>Training Courses</p> <p>Fellowships</p> <p>Meetings</p> <p>Provision of Reference Material</p> <p>WIPO Office in Japan</p>

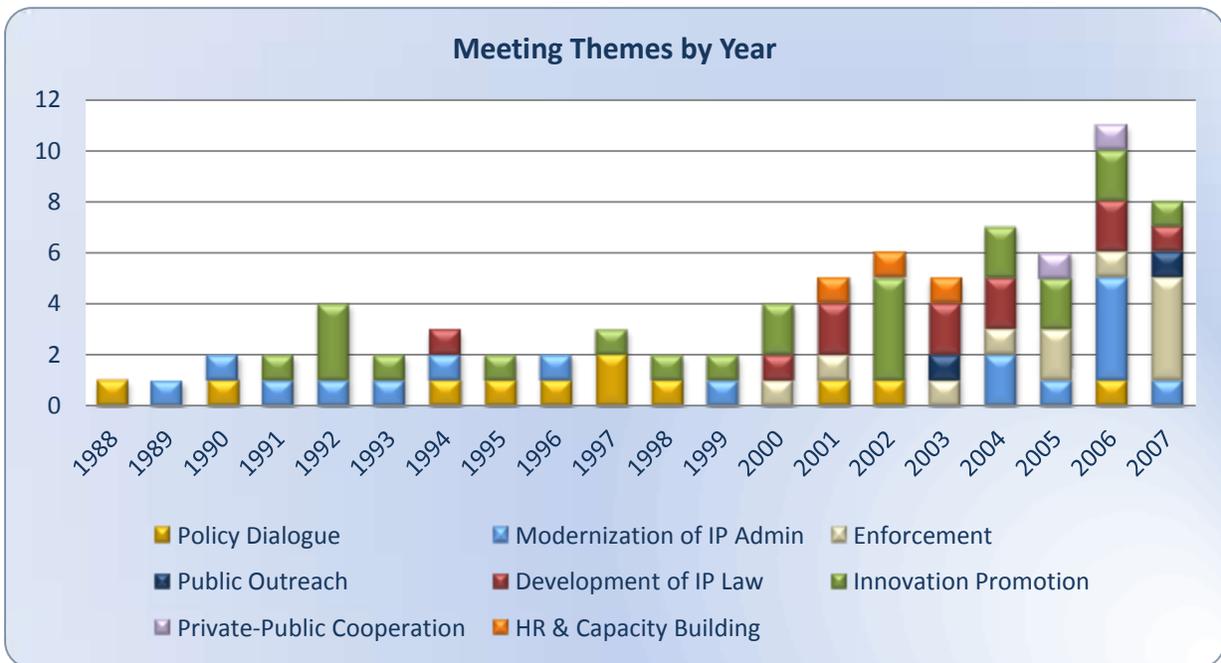
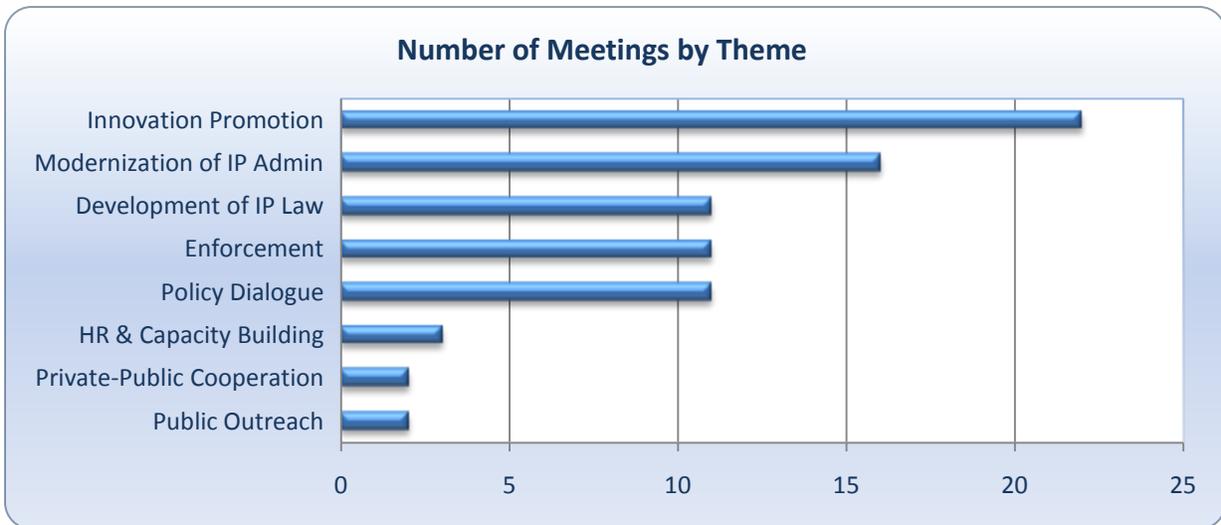
## Meetings

One of the main activities financed by the FIT/JP-IP consisted in meetings with a total of 78 different types and forms organized over the twenty years. During the first decade, meetings were held on average twice a year and at the Asia-Pacific regional level. From 2001 to 2007, national and sub-regional events became more frequent and increased the total average to four meetings per year. The first sub-regional (ASEAN) meeting took place in 2001, followed in 2002 by the first national meeting in China. The number of sub-regional and national meetings subsequently increased; suggesting more specialized events focused on country-specific needs, often as part of integrated national projects.

On average, meetings were held over the course of three days and ranged in size from large scale symposiums with more than 200 participants to smaller roundtable meetings with some 20 participants. Events focused on training (workshops) were the most common, except for the period between 1995 and 1999 when symposia, fora and round tables were held intensively.

All meetings were organized by WIPO with the assistance of the JPO and in cooperation with the national IP offices of the countries where they took place. Invitations to the meetings were usually extended to government offices with a view to securing participants at the appropriate level from both public and private sectors. The speakers and trainers at the meetings usually consisted of recognized experts from the public, private and academic sectors, as well as technical staff and other officials from the JPO and WIPO. These experts came from host countries, other countries in the region, and from western, industrialized countries.





## Policy Dialogue

The high-level participants in meetings organized under the policy dialogue theme included heads of IP offices and other IP policy makers, as well as senior representatives from the private sector, industrial organizations, chambers of commerce, research institutions and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). In 2006, The *WIPO High Level Forum on Intellectual Property Policy and Strategy*, held in Tokyo, facilitated policy dialogue on a number of issues including the: effective formulation of national IP strategies; efficient management of IP offices; creation of productive links between research institutions and industry; economic and legal aspects of IP protection; promotion of interdisciplinary IP research and education; and the role of governments in facilitating the use of IP for economic growth. In previous years, the following three regional forums resulted in the unanimous approval of joint statements reflecting and summarizing the major interests and concerns expressed by the high-level and participants.

**WIPO Asian Regional Forum on  
Intellectual Property Rights in  
the 21st Century**

(1997)

- **IP Policy:** Acknowledgement of the crucial role that IP would play in Asia-Pacific countries in the future, and the need for IP systems to balance the interests of right owners and the public interest.
- **Information Network:** The advantages of exchanging information for industrial property administration and the need to improve accessibility, particularly for SMEs.
- **Human Resource Development:** The need for training programs targeting different groups and different areas of IP, with an emphasis on LDCs.
- **IP Strategy:** The importance of integrating industrial property policy as part of economic policy reforms and use it to enhance competitiveness.
- **Business Sector Involvement:** The need to strengthen the link between the industrial property administration and the user community, with the involvement of the business sector.

**WIPO Asian Regional Forum on  
Intellectual Property Policy  
Development**

(1998)

- **Modernization of the IP System:** The need for developing countries to continue modernizing their IP systems for TRIPS implementation within the time limit, and the importance of providing technical assistance towards this end.
- **Industrial and Social Use of IP:** Enhancing ties between IP administrations and industrial, research and educational institutions and users as a means towards industrial and technological development.
- **Global Information Network:** Development of IT systems applicable to the IP administration, and IP information dissemination through the global information network, as policy priorities.
- **Effective Enforcement Mechanism:** Needed for the enforcement of IPRs and exchange of information on experiences to combat piracy and counterfeits.
- **Human Resource Development:** The desirability to enhance organization of more target-oriented human resource development activities.
- **Strengthening Cooperation:** For the protection and administration of IP systems, including IPR enforcement.
- **Global IP Issues:** Need to examine means of addressing the protection of biodiversity resources, indigenous culture and traditional knowledge.

**WIPO Asia-Pacific Regional  
Forum on the Role of IP Offices  
in the 21st Century**

(2001)

- **Benefits to SMEs:** The need for efficient mechanisms to assist SMEs, start-ups, and R&D institutions; and the initiatives which could be taken by IP administrations to institute national norms/standards for the protection of advanced technologies.
- **Progressive Harmonization:** The increasing relevance and benefits of global IP protection systems (PCT and Madrid ) and the reforms needed to face future challenges while sustaining and improving their functionality.
- **Human Resource Development:** The need to develop human resources to improve operations and customer service orientation.
- **Use of IP Information:** The importance and positive implications of the intensive use of computer networks, including the establishment of electronic filing systems.

## Modernization of Industrial Property Administration

Participants at meetings under this theme were mostly staff from national IP offices. During the first decade, the meetings held under this theme were mostly workshops on the search and examination of patent and trademarks, and patent information and documentation. In 1991, the first regional meeting focusing on office automation issues was held in Tokyo, followed by other four related meetings between 1996 and 2007. These meetings provided opportunities to exchange experiences on the use, operation, support and enhancement of national IP offices' automation projects. They served to enhance awareness of the importance of IT and automation in the effective delivery of services by IP offices, in particular among senior management. These meetings also led to an identification of challenges involved in automating IP offices and discussions on emerging issues such as use of open source software.

## Enforcement

From 2000, the FIT/JP-IP financed several regional and national meetings aimed at providing information and improving the knowledge and enhancing the practical skills (through simulation exercises) of national customs/police officials and public prosecutors on the protection and enforcement of IPRs under existing international treaties, including the TRIPS Agreement. These meetings also provided opportunities for senior officials from regional enforcement agencies and representatives of international private sector enforcement-related organizations to review the current situation on the enforcement of IPRs in the countries of the region, and exchange views on IPRs enforcement policies, procedures, tools and approaches. They led to the identification of priority issues (including the need for enhanced public awareness, training of enforcement officials, greater coordination between enforcement agencies at the national level, and intelligence sharing at the regional/international level) which needed to be addressed to strengthen enforcement in the region. They also identified impediments to effective enforcement at borders and possible solutions to the challenges faced through sharing of experiences, and improved networking among the region's enforcement personnel for a more efficient and coordinated approach to the enforcement of IP rights.

## Public Outreach

In 2003 and 2007, regional meetings focused on public outreach and awareness issues were held. The meetings provided an opportunity for communications officers from national IP offices to exchange information and experiences on effective ways to use various media and best practices for the development and implementation of public outreach campaigns and activities.

## Development of IP Law

Meetings under this theme sought to increase understanding of International developments and trends in IP law and the value of intellectual property from a developmental perspective. These meetings were not only aimed at government officials but also at IP agents and representatives from universities, research institutes and industry. The meetings helped improve awareness of the importance of industrial property protection for promoting exports and attracting foreign investment. They promoted adherence to and proper implementation of WIPO administered treaties by clarifying issues related to accession and operation, and by enhancing understanding of the best use of the PCT and Madrid

systems in order to fully realize their economic and commercial benefits. The meetings also provided a forum to exchange information and experience regarding the implementation and administration of these systems.

### Innovation Promotion

Most of the meetings organized under the FIT/JP-IP in its first twenty years addressed innovation promotion issues such as the effective use of the patent system and technology transfer arrangements to strengthen research, develop and commercialize new technologies, promote trade and investment, and strengthen the competitiveness of enterprises. The first meeting specifically aimed at SMEs was a regional workshop held in 2000 in the Philippines, while the first national seminar specifically aimed at entrepreneurs was held two years later in China. These meetings targeting entrepreneurs, SME managers and staff of SME support institutions imparted basic information about the IP system and practical management strategies on protecting and commercializing IP assets to enhance the competitiveness of SMEs.

National meetings were also held between 2002 and 2006 to strengthen the capacity of IP offices and other SME support institutions to undertake sustainable IP awareness, promotional and educational programs addressing the IP-related needs of SMEs. These meetings provided a forum to share best practices in raising awareness and creating customized training materials on use of IP by SMEs.

### Private-Public Sector Cooperation

In 2005, a Regional symposium was held in Sri Lanka to address ways in which the public and private sectors could cooperate to strengthen and optimally use the IP system for economic/commercial benefits. This symposium identified measures to strengthen private-public sector cooperation in the field of IP and deepened awareness of the critical role of technology management offices to effectively commercialize IP in research institutions and academia. The following year, a regional workshop was held in Singapore to train patent agents/attorneys and scientists/technologists from universities and research institutes on drafting patent applications for national and international filing. The aim was to create a core team/faculty of trainers who could contribute to developing patent drafting skills at the national level.

Between 2004 and 2006, the FIT/JP-IP also financed the participation of delegates from developing countries in the Asia - Pacific region to the International Patent Licensing Seminar, organized by the National Center for Industrial Property Information (NCIPI) and the JPO. In 2004, participants also visited the NCIPI to observe patent information dissemination facilities, those from 2005 visited Hitachi, Ltd. to study its use and management of the IP system, and those from 2006 went on to attend the High Level Policy Forum on IP Policy and Strategy, organized by WIPO and the JPO. These events discussed changing trends in IP licensing, and highlighted the increasing importance of IP strategy based on appropriate valuation and exploitation of IP assets. The exchange of views from academia, businesses and legal perspectives contributed to increased knowledge on best practices in managing technology licensing offices and increased awareness on how to effectively support and develop university spin-off businesses.

## Human Resources and Capacity Building

In 2001, the regional training course targeting trainers/instructors of industrial property at national or regional training institutions was organized in China. Similar regional courses followed in 2002 and 2003 in the Republic of Korea. The training courses provided opportunities to exchange information on topical and emerging issues and on experiences in the teaching and training in IP. Participants discussed and reviewed the important elements of teaching and training methodologies in the context of the needs of the knowledge-based economy, including the development of curricula and training materials. The courses led to an enhanced knowledge of training and teaching methodologies for IP issues, and a greater awareness of emerging IP issues and ways to address those in a teaching and training context.

## Results and Evaluation

The meetings financed by the FIT/JP-IP served as fora to exchange knowledge and information, share experiences and discuss industrial property issues. They led to a greater understanding of trends in the IP field, benefits of the protection of IPRS and international registration systems and measures necessary for their effective implementation. They also identified opportunities for further cooperation among stakeholders in the Asia-Pacific region.

In 2002, WIPO and the JPO agreed to undertake a yearly evaluation exercise of the relevance and impact of the events organized under the FIT/JP-IP through an evaluation survey handed out to participants at meetings. The results of the surveys were very positive, on average between 2002 and 2007:

- 97 percent were satisfied with the meeting which they attended;
- 97.5 percent found the subjects relevant to their professional/business responsibilities;
- Similarly high percentages were obtained regarding the quality of speakers and documents.
- Virtually all considered that the contacts established at the meeting attended would be useful in terms of future networking and collaboration in their business capacities.
- Specific comments confirmed appreciation of WIPO, local organizers and invited speakers, and expressed expectations that similar activities would be continued and further enhanced.

High level participants at fora organized formally expressed their appreciation for the contribution that the FIT/JP-IP had made in the past years “for the benefit of the developing countries of the region to improve and modernize their industrial property systems”.

## Expert Advisory and Training Missions

Based on requests from national IP offices to WIPO, between 1987 and 2007 the FIT/JP-IP financed 109 short-term expert missions, each usually lasting between 10-14 days. The first expert mission was dispatched to Malaysia in 1987, while China received the highest number of expert missions (19 in total between 1991 and 2006). During the first decade missions were mostly dispatched to South-East Asian countries; however, the geographic coverage was later expanded to countries such as Sri Lanka (2002), Bhutan (2004) and Nepal (2005).



The terms of reference for these missions were determined in consultation with recipient governments to ensure that their highly technical content was completely tailored to the specific needs of the IP office in question. The experts were usually from the JPO and WIPO, though experts from other organizations or the private sector were sometimes dispatched as well. Most of the advice and training was aimed at the staff of IP offices or other government officials, though on occasion representatives from the private sector (for example patent attorneys and trademark agents) were also beneficiaries.

During the first three years, assessment missions focused on studying the existing status of the administration, examination and registration procedures for the processing of patent, trademarks/service marks and industrial design applications. Officials taking part in expert missions prepared reports identifying areas that could be further strengthened and towards which the future delivery of effective assistance could be directed.

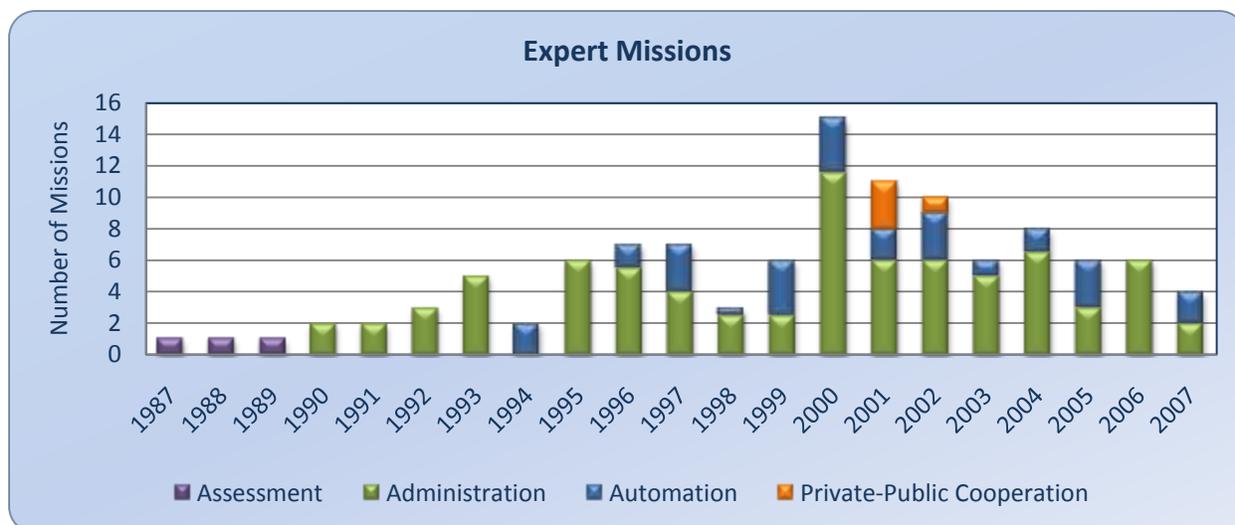
Based on these findings, tailored follow-up training and advisory missions and other programs were undertaken to train the staff of IP offices on the optimum use of the international IP registration and classification systems following (or in preparation for) accession to WIPO administered treaties. This was clearly the case in Malaysia where accession to the PCT in August 2006 was followed by a national workshop and training program in May 2007, and accession to the Nice and Vienna Agreements in September 2007 was followed by a training mission for trademark examiners on the use of the Nice and Vienna Classifications in December 2007.

These administration-related missions offered an opportunity to learn about the Japanese experience in streamlining office procedures to achieve expeditious processing of applications and registration. They provided in-depth information and training on classification, search and examination (formal and substantive) standards and procedures for patents, trademarks/service marks and industrial designs. Issues dealt with included procedures of opposition, disputes and cancellations of improper registration, appeals and grounds for refusal of registration. Emphasis was placed on the use of patent and trademark information and documentation, and the use of international classifications in the search and examination processes. Advice and training on methods to improve search, examination, and retrieval of information through the use of computer databases were also an important component of these missions. These expert missions provided national IP offices a better understanding of international protection systems and measures needed to accede to, implement and fully benefit from these systems. They also increased the offices' capacity and skills in IP administration, examination procedures.

Administration-related expert missions were also used to increase links between the private and public sectors. In 2001 and 2002, experts from the Japanese private sector undertook expert advisory missions to India, the Philippines and Thailand at the requests of these governments. The experts provide training to enterprises on patents, trademarks, the use of patent and patent information services (including technology forecasting and patent mapping) and technology transfer and licensing of IPRS. These missions aimed at facilitating cooperation between the private sectors of Japan and recipient countries. They also increased local awareness and improved skills in these issues. Other expert missions targeting the private sector provided training on patent claim drafting and information on biotechnology patents and business method patents.

The first office automation-related missions were dispatched to China and the Republic of Korea in 1994 and India in 1996. The JPO was a pioneer in the adoption of a paperless patent system through office automation. Electronic filing of applications was introduced at the JPO in December 1990 and by the end of the following year 95% of all patent and utility model applications were being filed electronically. JPO experts could therefore provide a wealth of information and advice on office computerization matters. These missions, which began seven years before WIPO established its official automation assistance program in 2001, imparted the necessary skills to improve the ability of staff from national IP offices ability to implement the automation projects needed to improve the functioning and services offered by the offices.





Specific issues addressed by expert advisory and training missions on administration and automation matters included:

Patents	Trademarks	Automation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Benefits and operational aspects of the PCT and measures that could be taken to accede to it.</li> <li>• PCT administration, including management and processing of international applications.</li> <li>• The use of Japanese abstracts in English in patent examination.</li> <li>• Patent examination in specific fields such as: biotechnology, chemical, electronics, integrated circuits for electronics, genetic engineering, mechanical engineering and medical science.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Classification of multi-functional goods and of services.</li> <li>• Reclassification of existing trademark registrations from national classification systems to the international Classification based on the Nice agreement.</li> <li>• Well-known marks: definition, legal and regulative framework for protection, relationship between well-known marks and domain names, examination standards and practices.</li> <li>• Benefits and operational aspects of the Madrid system measures that could be taken to accede to it.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transition from paper filing to electronic filing: IT data security and verification of authenticity; transfer, from and to applicants, of certified documents related to applications; graphic data handing; database management and other considerations.</li> <li>• Trends in the use of industrial property information and databases generated by industrial property offices and relevant organizations.</li> <li>• Ddevelopment of a database for intellectual property information leading to the establishment of an intellectual property digital library (IPDL).</li> </ul>

## Provision of Equipment and Software Development

Based on the findings of expert advisory missions and at the requests of receiving offices, in 1997 the FIT/JP-IP began arrangements to provide IT equipment, CD-ROM documentation and related training to national IP offices in the Asia-Pacific region. This assistance for the infrastructure development aimed at assisting in the modernization, institution building and training of national IP offices. The countries benefiting from this activity included: Bhutan, Cambodia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Viet Nam. The equipment provided included:



- PC workstations
- Notebook computers
- Memory units for computers
- Image servers
- Network servers and routers
- Printers
- Scanners
- Heavy-duty photocopy machines
- Facsimile machines
- Video/multimedia projectors
- Conference room equipment (systems for simultaneous interpretation, microphones, headphones, control panels, loudspeakers)
- Software
- Internet access

The equipment was used for processing industrial property applications thereby contributing to improving the efficiency of the IP offices' regular services to the IP community and strengthening their capacity to be more service-oriented. It also increased the offices' capacity to undertake IP awareness activities (seminars, workshops) and assisted in the dissemination of IP information through the use of computer networks.

Based upon findings of expert advisory missions, the FIT/JP-IP financed the development and implementation of the *Basic Integrated Industrial Property Database for Patents, Industrial Designs and Marks Administration* (IPDB) software. The proposal for this development was made in 2001 and the deployment of the first customized version (for the Department of Intellectual Property of Thailand), was operational in April 2005. A generalized version of the software was developed in parallel and finalized at the same time. In 2007, a post-deployment expert mission to Thailand carried out an objective assessment of the impact of the IPDB software, and provided advice and technical support for its sustainable operation and continuous improvement.

## National Projects

Based on government requests and findings from expert missions, in 2003 the FIT/JP-IP began financing a series of national projects to address the specific needs of national IP offices in the Asia-Pacific region, particularly those from LDCs(\*). The national projects combined a series of activities (such as training and advisory missions, national meetings, study visits, provision of equipment, and software customization) to create a completely customized and integrated project for each country.

Lao PDR* (2003)	Indonesia (2004)	Cambodia* (2005)	Mongolia (2005)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•To modernize the industrial property office.</li> <li>•Included the preparation of manuals / procedures for the administration of industrial property; and a study visit to observe the administration of trademarks, patents, utility models, and industrial designs in Thailand.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•To prepare IP public awareness materials.</li> <li>•Included the creation of a TV advertisement and CD-ROM explaining the concept of IPRs and describing the roles of the IP office; and upgrading of the IP Office’s website.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•To strengthen patent and trademark operations.</li> <li>•Included: provision of equipment; customization of the WIPO Trademark Software (TMS); and advice on the use and establishment of a patent information system,</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•To strengthen public awareness and outreach capacities.</li> <li>•Included the: establishment of an IP Information Center; provision of office equipment and reference/ public awareness material; and a national seminar.</li> </ul>

Nepal* (2005)	Bhutan* (2006)	Malaysia (2007)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•To modernize the IP legal framework, strengthen IP administration and enhance knowledge of IP among policy makers.</li> <li>•Included legislative advice and assistance; a study visit for policy makers to WIPO headquarters; and on-the-job-training on international classifications for trademark examiners</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•To modernize IP laws and regulations in preparation for accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO).</li> <li>•Included assistance and advice on: preparing rules under the revised Industrial Property Act; developing an office manual; modernizing work procedures; staff training; establishing a patent information unit; and developing a “user-friendly” website.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•For the enforcement of intellectual property rights.</li> <li>•Included: a review of the legislative framework applicable to IPR enforcement, backlog in criminal prosecutions and existing cooperation among enforcement agencies; advice on the establishment of an IP Court; and training for enforcement agencies.</li> </ul>

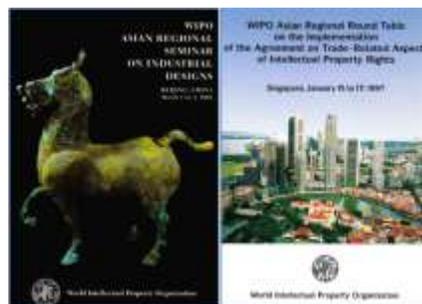
## Information products

In the early years, the FIT/JP-IP aimed to make available the vast amount of information discussed and examined in the meetings it sponsored by publishing the papers presented at these meetings. Recent developments in information technology led to an increase in the use of computer generated slides rather than traditional papers as means of presenting at conferences and allowing free and easy access to meeting documents over the Internet.

The JP-FIT/IP began to fund the translation, customization and printing of selected WIPO outreach products. A number of products were translated into the national languages of: Indonesia, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Viet Nam. These products addressed issues pertaining to patents, trademarks, industrial designs, traditional knowledge and WIPO registration services; and are aimed at target audiences ranging from IP officials, to inventors, SMEs and children.

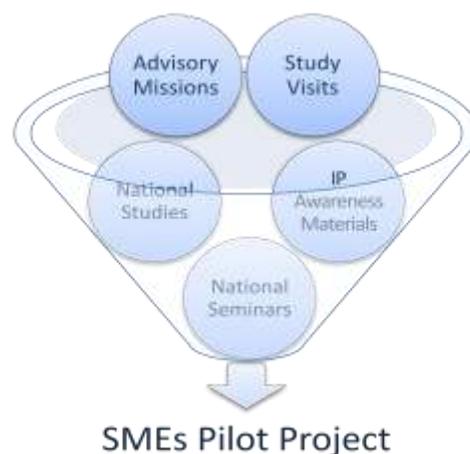
Some WIPO outreach products, such as the short guides under the *IP for Business* collection, were also customized to include more specific information on national IP laws and practices. The translation/customization and of IP awareness materials and their wide dissemination, made possible by the print-runs funded by the FIT/JP-IP, contributed to enhanced public understanding of intellectual property among actual and potential users of the system. This also strengthened the capacity of IP offices to undertake outreach activities and enhance public awareness of basic IP concepts.

In 2007, the FIT/JO-IP began financing a new series of short documentaries highlighting the IP success stories of inventors, designers and entrepreneurs from the Asia Pacific region. The first two documentaries were produced in the Philippines and featured Dr. Ramon Barba, inventor of a chemical spray to induce flowering in mango trees, and Mr. Tony Tan Caktiong, founder of Fast food Chain, “Jollibee”. These attractive documentaries are an effective tool in fostering greater respect for IP rights and serve as an inspiration to future inventors, designers and entrepreneurs.



## SMEs Pilot Project

The pilot project for innovative SMEs was launched in early 2003 and completed in late 2004. The project was composed of several activities (advisory missions, study visits, national studies, creation of IP awareness materials, and national seminars) aimed at strengthening the national capacity of Bhutan, Nepal and Sri Lanka to undertake sustainable IP awareness, promotional and educational programs geared to meet the IP-related needs of SMEs.



## Provision of Reference Material

In 2001, copies of *Experience of Japan – Contribution by the Patent System to Industrial Development of Japan*, published by the Institute of Intellectual Property (IIP) in Tokyo, were distributed to participants attending meetings organized under the FIT/JP-IP. Upon request, the book was also made available to national IP offices and national/ regional IP institutes.

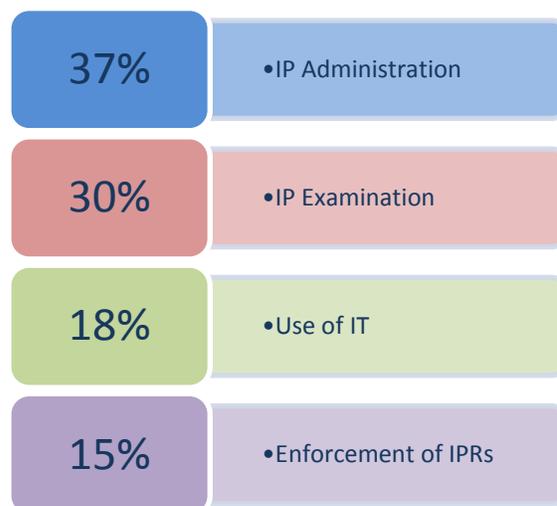
In 2004, with the aim of supporting the promotion of IP education, training and teaching through the provision of core reference materials on industrial property, a list of essential reference material was developed. Between 2005 and 2007, the FIT/JP-IP financed the acquisition of this basic reference material for institutions in Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam. These donations to libraries of IP offices and relevant institutions enhanced their capacity to provide basic information to students and users of the IP system.

## WIPO Office in Japan

In September 2006, the WIPO Office in Japan was established in Tokyo. Largely financed through the FIT/JP-IP, the Office was expected to conduct intellectual property research and undertake activities in Japan to support the implementation of programs financed by FIT/JP. The first research study organized by the Office, *Impact of the Intellectual Property System on Economic Growth* was completed in 2007. The findings were presented by experts from the six participating countries at an open symposium held in Tokyo, and the final reports were made available on the WIPO website.

## Training Courses

Since the very beginning of the FIT/JP-IP, study visits for government to the JPO were organized forming the foundations of what would later develop into the specialized training courses. The training courses generally lasted two weeks and were conducted in English at JPO headquarters in Tokyo. While most of the trainees come from countries of the Asia- Pacific region, in later years participants from LDCs from Africa and the Middle East also benefited from the training courses. Most training courses dealt with IP administration and examination issues and were aimed at administrators and examiners in IP offices.



Over the years, five core training courses were developed on:

### 1. Industrial Property Administration

This course aimed at familiarizing trainees with basic notions, current international situations and topical matters of significance in the field of IP administration. Common topics include a general orientation on the industrial property system in Japan, information on classifications for patents, trademarks and designs, and issues regarding well known marks. Courses specifically dealing with the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) and the strategic planning for the acquisition and management of IPRs in the user sector were also held.

### 2. Examination practices of industrial property

This course covered examination practices in the fields of industrial property, namely, patents, trademarks and industrial designs. Topics dealt with include examination practices in general (such as investigation of novelty, inventive step, industrial applicability and re-examination in the case of patents) as well as examination practice in the JPO. In 2006 the course was split into a Basic Program and an Intermediate/Advanced Program. Advanced courses for patent examiners providing practical training and technical instruction on the examination of patent applications in specific fields of technology were held for pharmaceutical technology, biotechnology, and computer programs.

### 3. The Use of IT in Industrial Property Administration

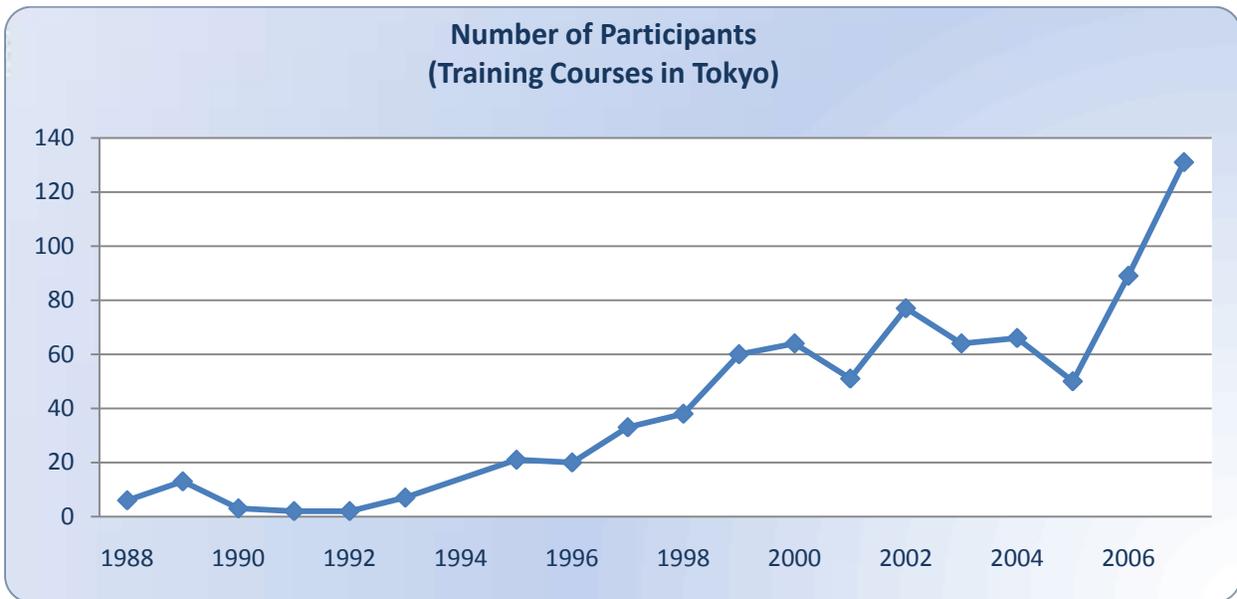
This course dealt with administrative aspects of industrial property with particular emphasis on policy and automation matters. Topics covered include: the considerations to be made in formulating industrial property policies; methodologies to enhance productivity in industrial property administration; computerization of industrial property information; and steps involved in the office automation process. The course aimed at familiarizing trainees with the latest IT

developments. Hands-on experience in the strategic application of information technology to intellectual property administration was provided through interactive sessions using training facilities including networked personal computers and visits to the user sector entities. The course also offered an opportunity to exchange views and concerns among the trainees on matters related to intellectual property and information technology and thereby enhanced their professional capacities to play key roles in planning and managing the use of IT in the IP administration of their respective countries.

#### 4. The Enforcement of IPRs

This course was first offered in 1998 and aimed at familiarizing trainees with basic notions, current international situations and topical matters of significance in the enforcement of IPRs. Hands-on experience complemented lectures through visits to customs authorities, courts and legal offices, and through interactions with experts from the JPO, the police and the private sector. The exchange of views and concerns between trainees from IP offices and those from enforcement-related agencies enhanced the trainees' professional capacities so as to contribute to the establishment of effective IP enforcement systems in respective countries.

The number of participants increased from 6 in 1988 to 60 in 1999, and reached 131 in 2007. The participants (approximately 800 in total) came from more than 20 countries.



The training courses enhanced professional skills and increased expertise of officials engaged in IP administration, patent examiners, police, customs and other enforcement officials. By encouraging networking among participants, the courses also led to the establishment of long-term contacts between IP professionals in the region. The intensive exchange of information among participants on the current status of their respective offices, their trials and lessons learned, also contributed to a greater appreciation of the experiences and challenges faced by different countries in the region.

## Fellowships

In 1997 the first two fellowships under the FIT/JP-IP fellowship program were awarded to a senior lecturer from Delhi University and to a senior manager from China's State Intellectual Property Office (SIPO) of China. Since then, two long-term (usually six months) fellowships were financed every year except for 2004. The fellowships were awarded to teachers or trainers of industrial property in industrial property offices, and faculty members engaged in the training or teaching of industrial property at universities. The objective of this activity was to provide fellows with new perspectives of industrial property based on which they could develop their future teaching/training materials. This "training of the trainers" equipped fellows with the necessary tools to play a leading role in the dissemination of industrial property knowledge in their own countries.

The fellows underwent training at the JPO, the Asia and Pacific Industrial Property Center (APIC) of the Japan Institute of Invention and Innovation (JIII), the Research Center for Advanced Science and Technology (RCAST) of the University of Tokyo (1997-2002), and the Tokyo Institute of Technology (2003-2007). Apart from the training and field visits to companies or other IP-related institutions, each fellow carried out a research project during the fellowship. In the early years of the program, research subjects focused on lessons from the industrial property system in Japan, and on international comparative studies of industrial property laws and practices. In later years, the research shifted to other topics such as the contribution of IP to economic development, latest developments in industrial property administration; and trends in the utilization of the industrial property system by the user sector.

In the first 20 years of the FIT/JP-IP, 23 long-term fellowships were financed for research fellows from 13 countries. The fellowships have led to a strengthening of the pool of IP experts in the region who can undertake teaching and research assignments on advanced IP issues.



## Administration

The yearly administration of the FIT/JP-IP followed the cycle represented in the diagram below:



1. A work plan was established detailing the objectives and activities to be carried out during the year.
2. A programming meeting was held between WIPO and JPO officials to discuss the work plan and exchange views on the best means of implementing the proposed activities.
3. The work plan was approved by the Government of Japan and the necessary funds were transferred to the trust fund to be administered by WIPO.<sup>1</sup>
4. The approved activities were executed. Their smooth planning, organization and implementation was facilitated by one or more Japanese officials at WIPO (financed by FIT/JP-IP funds).
5. At the end of the year, WIPO submitted a report to the JPO detailing the implementation of the planned activities. An evaluation meeting was held between WIPO and JPO officials to review and evaluate the activities carried out during the year and determined whether the objectives set out for those activities were achieved. A review was also conducted, on the basis of the experience gained from the implementation of the activities that year, of the needs of developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region in relation to industrial property. From 2001, the evaluation and programming meetings were combined into a single Evaluation/Programming meeting.

Close cooperation and understanding between WIPO and JPO contributed to the estimable results of the activities carried out under the FIT/JP-IP.

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<sup>1</sup> The funding follows the Japanese fiscal year which begins on April 1<sup>st</sup> and ends on March 31<sup>st</sup> of the following year.

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