

KIPO, New Alternative International Searching Authority for your PCT Application

18 October 2007

**Gyuwan Choi
Director
International Cooperation Team**



Contents

I. KIPO as an ISA/IPEA

II. Why KIPO ?

I. KIPO as an ISA/IPEA

❖ **Brief history**

- ◆ KIPO was designated as an ISA/IPEA in September 1997.
- ◆ KIPO started its work as an ISA/IPEA on December 1, 1999.

❖ Current status

◆ PCT applications with KIPO as a RO

	2004	2005	2006	2007 Jan-Aug
PCT applications with KIPO as a RO	3,565	4,690	5,919	4,217
Rate of increase	21.2 %	31.6 %	26.2 %	21.7 %

◆ PCT applications with KIPO as an ISA

	2004	2005	2006	2007 Jan-Aug
PCT applications with KIPO as an ISA	3,109	3,870	5,898	5,479
Rate of increase	26.3 %	24.5 %	52.4 %	65 %

II. Why KIPO ?

❖ Quick and Economical Searches

- ◆ The portion of international search reports completed within 18 months of the priority date (as of Dec. 2006)

KIPO	EPO	USPTO
99.7 %	75 %	20 %

- ◆ Search fees and preliminary examination fees

(Unit: USD)

	KIPO	EPO	USPTO
Search fees	232	2,197	300* 1,000
Preliminary examination fees	232	2,170	600** 750

* Payable when a corresponding prior US national application has been filed under 35 USC 111(a)

** Payable when an international search has been conducted by the USPTO

❖ **Highly Qualified Examiners** **- PCT specialists -**

- ◆ At KIPO, we designated a group of PCT specialists who examine PCT applications.
 - The PCT specialists are drawn from a pool of senior examiners who are all proficient in English with an excellent track-record in examinations.
- ◆ Out of 711 patent examiners, 315 have PhDs in various technical fields.
 - Many have R&D experience at private companies such as Samsung Electronics, LG Electronics or Hyundai Motors.
- ◆ As the number of PCT applications increases, KIPO designates more examiners as PCT specialists.
 - PCT specialists : 295 (October 2006) → 384 (September 2007)

❖ Highly Qualified Examiners

- Continuing education for examiners (1)-

- ◆ KIPO has improved the continuing education system for examiners in their respective fields of technology through specialized lectures and seminars.
 - KIPO contracted educational institutes to provide 19 programs for examiners in 2006.
 - 4 in the mechanical field
 - 15 in the chemistry field
 - KIPO ran 103 seminars in 2006.
 - 29 in the mechanical engineering field
 - 32 in the chemistry field
 - 26 in the electric and electronics field
 - 16 in the information and communications field

❖ Highly Qualified Examiners

- Continuing education for examiners (2)-

- ◆ KIPO provides language programs for examiners to make them better prepared for international searches and international preliminary examinations.
 - KIPO runs in-house language programs for English, Japanese, Chinese and Spanish.
 - KIPO has also contracted universities to provide language courses for examiners.
- ◆ KIPO has four English language advisors. They help PCT examiners by editing reports or giving advice on language aspects of reports.
 - KIPO also plans to hire more English advisors in 2007 because of the sharp increase in PCT applications.
 - PCT examiners are required to consult with an English advisor regarding the written opinions and preliminary examination reports of their PCT examinations.

❖ Highly Qualified Examiners - Training for PCT examiners -

- ◆ KIPO has developed training and development programs for PCT examiners. The IIPTI runs two types of PCT-related training courses.
 - Training Courses for New Examiners, which provide basic training for newly appointed examiners
 - Two PCT Examination Training Courses, which target designated and potential PCT examiners, at either a basic level or expert level
 - The basic material for the PCT Examination Training Course is the *Manual for PCT International Search Reports and International Preliminary Examination Reports*.

❖ Access to a Broad Range of Prior Art (1)

- ◆ KIPO examiners routinely search prior art in Korean, English and Japanese.
 - Prior art searches include Korean and Japanese documents as well as English documents (for US and European patents).
 - The importance of Japanese and Korean prior art has elevated the importance of KIPO's role as an ISA.
- ◆ The in-house database at KIPO includes 124 million patents granted by the patent offices of the US, Japan, Europe and elsewhere.

Korean	US	Japanese	European	WIPO	Others	Total
9.9 M	10.4 M	42.2 M	56.9 M	1.6 M	3.6 M	124.6 M

❖ Access to Broad Range of Prior Art (2)

- ◆ Searching for nonpatent literature
 - KIPO has a Nonpatent Literature Search System and a Chemical Abstract Search System.
 - Our examiners also use various commercial search services on the Internet, such as sciencedirectory.com, delphion.com and stn.com.
- ◆ Maintaining and operating the search and examination system
 - Six staff members and five outsourced employees work solely to maintain and operate the search and examination system.
 - Their job includes managing and updating the database, maintaining the software and hardware, and administering the security and other issues related to the system.

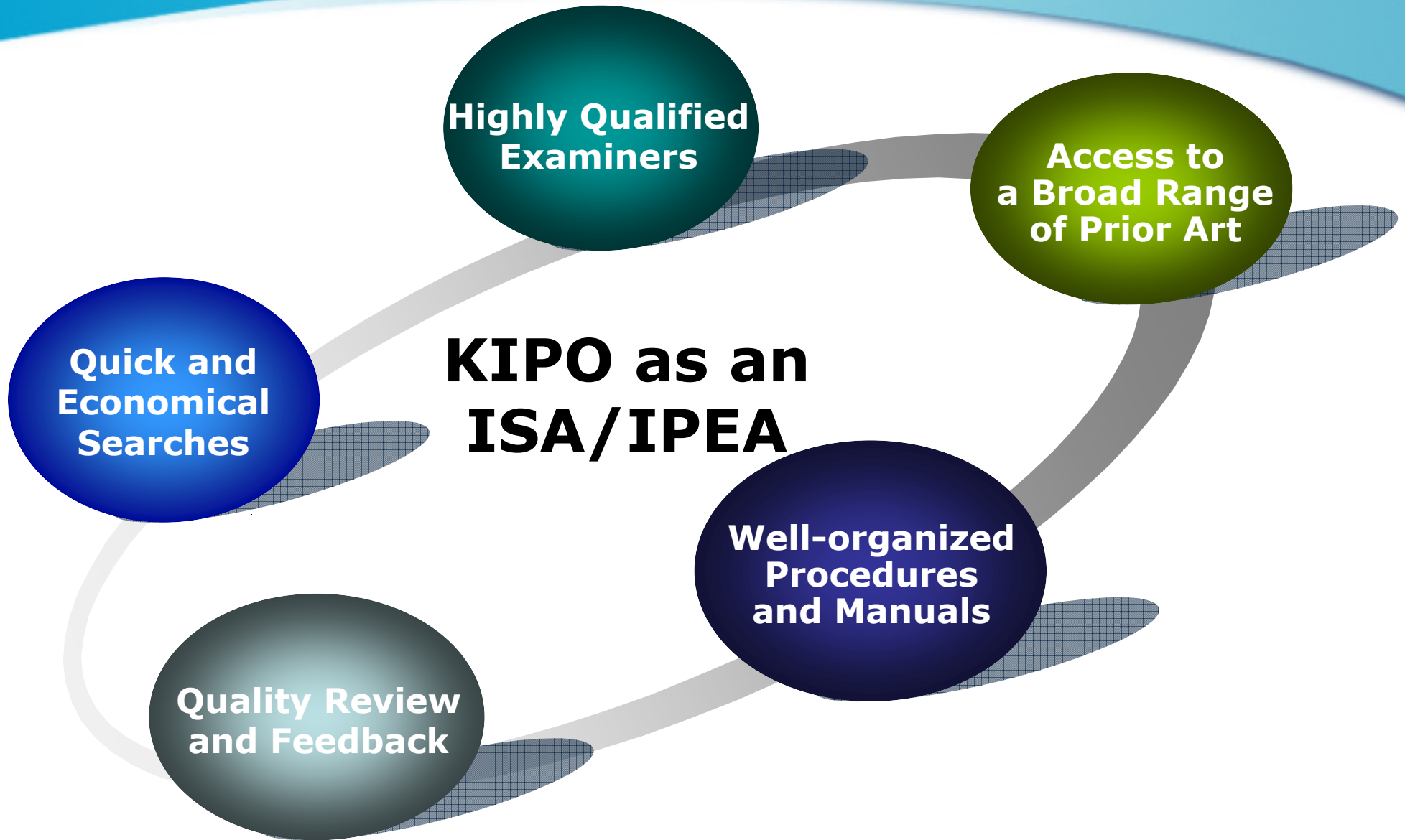
❖ Well-organized Procedures and Manuals

- ◆ Publishing the *Manual for PCT International search Reports and International Preliminary Examination Reports*.
 - The manual details the work processes of PCT examiners and cites relevant PCT regulations and guidelines.
 - The manual also highlights frequent mistakes in examination reports and gives examples from international authorities.
- ◆ Operating the system to help examiners meet their deadlines.
 - KIPO runs an on-line system that informs examiners of the due date of a report.
 - KIPO also maintains a self-monitoring system under which a designated member of staff in each examination bureau monitors and notifies examiners of the due date of PCT reports.

❖ Quality Review and Feedback

- ◆ Examiners submit search reports and preliminary examination reports to a supervisory examiner before issuing the reports.
 - The supervisory examiner conducts a review to ensure the reports comply with regulations and guidelines.
- ◆ After the reports have been issued, the Examination Review Team conducts a quality review of the reports.
 - The Examination Review Team checks whether examiners collectively observe the PCT regulations and examination guidelines.

❖ Here are good reasons !



Thank you

GYUWAN CHOI

gwchoi@kipo.go.kr

Phone: +82 (42) 481-5063

Fax: +82 (42) 472-3459