



**2017 June Issue (July 10, 2017)**

## LATEST IP NEWS IN JAPAN

### **July 4, 2017**

The Abe administration has announced its decision to appoint Naoko Munakata as the new JPO Commissioner. This is the first time a female has been appointed to the position of JPO Commissioner. Ms. Munakata assumed the position of secretary to the Prime Minister two years ago and originally cut her teeth at the Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry (METI). This decision is part of government efforts to promote gender equality while strengthening efforts regarding intellectual property (IP) to strengthen industrial competitiveness.

[Original Report 1 \(only JP version\)](#) [Original Report 2 \(only JP version\)](#)

### **June 29, 2017**

The JPO issued an Annual Report 2017 covering a wide range of IP topics, such as (a) domestic trends in IP, (b) JPO initiatives, (c) international trends in IP etc. with a variety of statistics. Unfortunately, only the Japanese report is currently available. If you are interested in a particular topic, please feel free to contact us.

[Original Announcement \(only JP version\)](#)

### **May 17, 2017**

The JPO and Heads of Patent Offices from ASEAN countries made a joint statement concerning the Intellectual Property and Agreement on IP Rights Action Plan.

[Original Announcement](#)

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### **May 9, 2017**

The JPO and The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) agreed to cooperate in the fields of patents and standardization to improve the quality of patent examination for standards-related inventions.

[Original Announcement](#)

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### **May 8, 2017**

The JPO issued a report summarizing trends in patent filings for 15 technical fields, including:

- Smart Manufacturing,
- Cloud Services,
- Facilities for Agriculture,
- Genome Editing and Gene Therapy,
- Artificial Organs,
- Cameras for Mobile Applications,
- Tests for Batteries,
- Automobile Technologies for India and ASEAN,
- Fine Bubble Technologies,
- Fiber-reinforced Plastic,
- Cellular Mobile Systems toward LTE-Advanced and 5G,
- Next-generation Video Coding Technologies,
- GaN Power Devices,
- High-efficient Thermal Power Generation and Gas Turbines for Plants, and
- Water Processing.

Unfortunately, only the Japanese report is currently available. If you are interested in a particular topic, please feel free to contact us.

[Original Announcement \(only JP version\)](#)

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### **April 27, 2017**

The JPO announced an action plan to use AI for operations at the JPO. The plan includes utilization of AI or feasible study of AI for:

- The call center / help desk,
- Electronic filing,
- Electronic study of applicants' stamps,
- Confirmation on whether registered trademarks are used in specifications,
- Quality checks of submitted documents (typographical error detection),
- Patent and design classifications,
- Prior art searches and prior design and trademark searches,
- Understanding and recognizing inventions, and

- Decisions on whether inventions are patentable, whether designs are registrable, and whether trademarks are registrable.

Unfortunately, only the Japanese report is currently available. If you are interested in a particular topic, please feel free to contact us.

[Original Announcement \(only JP version\)](#)

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## **April 19, 2017**

The METI issued a report compiled by the Intellectual Property System Study Group for the Fourth Industrial Revolution. The report covers topics such as (a) who owns IP created by AI, (b) Protection of Big Data, (c) International Standardization etc.

[Original Announcement](#)

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Sonoda & Kobayashi Intellectual Property Law · Shinjuku Mitsui Building, Suite 3401 · 2-1-1 Nishi-Shinjuku · Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 161-0434 · Japan

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