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American applicants filed 24,961 patents in Japan in 2006

Foreign applicants filed 61,614 patents in Japan in 2006. Patents filed by applicants from the U.S. and European accounted for 40.5% and 38.7% respectively of the total patents filed by residents of foreign countries.

Out of the 24,961 patents filed by the US applicants, 7,482 were filed directly with JPO while 17,479 were PCT national phase entries.

As a comparison, Japanese applicants filed 76,940 patents applications with USPTO in 2006.

Number of appeals/trials with JPO in 2006

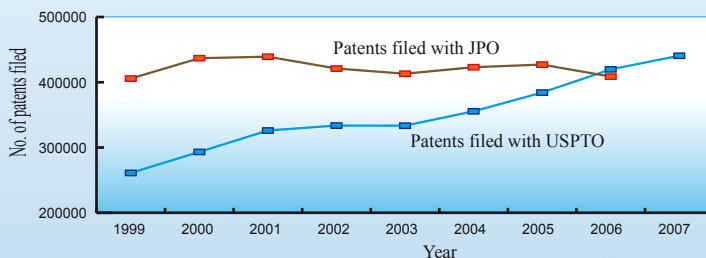
In 2006, there were 25,870 appeals against examiner's decision of refusal at JPO. 6,261 appeals were accepted, 8,200 were rejected or dismissed, and 2,148 were withdrawn or abandoned. 9,632 appeals were granted patents in the reconsideration procedure.

As regarding to trials for invalidation, there were 273 appeals for trials for invalidation in 2006 with JPO (343 in 2005). 194 appeals were accepted, 88 appeals were rejected or dismissed, and 34 appeals were withdrawn or abandoned.

First time in 40 years, patents filed with JPO are less than the patents filed with USPTO

The number of patent applications filed with JPO in 2006 was 408,674, down 4.3 % from previous year while the number of patent applications filed with USPTO was 419,760, up 9 % from previous year.

The data reflects the two trends: 1) Japanese corporations are more conservative in filing domestic patents, and 2) the switch from first-to-invent to first-to-file in US patent law rushes people to file patent applications with USPTO.



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