



特別記念号の発刊を迎えて： 知財活動の地平と東和の志

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このたび、当研究所が発行する『東和知財研究』が、記念すべき通巻30号の発行を終え、特別記念号を発行する運びとなりました。2009年の創刊以来、各国の知財専門家の皆様にご寄稿いただきながら、我が国ひいては国際社会における知的財産の潮流とその実務的・戦略的意義を、継続的に発信してまいりました。まずは、本誌の発展に多大なるご尽力を賜った関係各位に、心より御礼申し上げます。

いま、世界の知財環境は、かつてない速度で変化しています。AIやIoT、量子技術などの技術革新に加え、地政学的緊張、グローバルサプライチェーンの再構築、持続可能性への要請など、企業を取り巻く環境は複雑化の一途をたどっています。こうした中で、知的財産は単なる権利保護の手段にとどまらず、企業価値の源泉として、また戦略的資産としての重要性をさらに高めています。

特に近年では、デザイン、データ、ブランドといった非技術系の無形資産に注目が集まりつつあります。また、スタートアップや大学発ベンチャーなど、知財を軸に成長を志向する主体も多様化しており、知財の支援・運用に求められる機能や視点も大きく拡張しています。

私達の東和国際特許事務所は、こうした変化を真摯に受け止め、「企業で役立つ特許15箇条」の理念を礎に、国内外の皆様の知財活動を支えるべく、不断の努力を重ねております。本誌もまた、実務家・研究者・政策担当者の知見が交差する「知のプラットフォーム」として、これからの30号、そしてその先へと歩みを進めてまいります。

今後とも変わらぬご支援とご鞭撻を賜りますよう、よろしくお願い申し上げます。

In Celebration of the Publication of the Special Commemorative Issue : The Horizon of Intellectual Property Activities and Towa's Aspirations

Chairman, Towa Institute of Intellectual Property
Representative Director, President, Patent Attorney, Towa International Patent Firm

Takashi Tsuno

We are pleased to announce that Towa Intellectual Property Research, published by our institute, has reached its 30th issue and will now be published as a special commemorative issue. Since its inception in 2009, we have continuously disseminated information on the trends in intellectual property in Japan and the international community, as well as their practical and strategic significance, with contributions from intellectual property experts from around the world. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all those who have contributed to the development of this journal.

Today, the global intellectual property environment is changing at an unprecedented pace. In addition to technological innovations such as AI, IoT, and quantum technology, geopolitical tensions, the restructuring of global supply chains, and demands for sustainability are making the environment surrounding companies increasingly complex. Against this backdrop, intellectual property is becoming increasingly important not only as a means of protecting rights, but also as a source of corporate value and a strategic asset. In particular, in recent years, attention has been focused on non-technical intangible assets such as design, data, and brands. Furthermore, the entities seeking growth through intellectual property are diversifying, including startups and university-spinoff ventures, leading to a significant expansion in the functions and perspectives required for intellectual property support and management.

At Towa International Patent Office, we take these changes seriously and, based on the philosophy of "15 Essential Patents for Businesses," we continue to make relentless efforts to support the intellectual property activities of our clients both domestically and internationally. This magazine will also continue to serve as a "knowledge platform" where the insights of practitioners, researchers, and policymakers intersect, as we move forward toward our 30th issue and beyond.

We look forward to your continued support and encouragement.