



AIの急速な発展に伴う知的財産活動 の現状と課題

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日本経済は、中東情勢の不安定化に伴うエネルギー価格の高騰やインフレ傾向というリスクを抱えている一方で、世界的なAI関連投資が爆発的に拡大しており、更なる持続的な成長を模索している激動の状況下にあります。

こうした中で、日本経済の好循環を目指し、「稼ぐ力」の強化に向けて様々な取り組みを官民一体で推進しており、特に、イノベーションによる投資の拡大を実現するうえで、知的財産を国内外において活用していくことが重要視されつつあります。

日本特許庁によれば、日本からの特許出願の主要な相手国・地域は、米国が7.2万件、中国が4.5万件、欧州が2.1万件、韓国が1.4万件、ASEANが1.0万件を占めています。また、日本特許庁の特許審査期間は、一次審査通知まで9.4か月、最終処分期間13.2か月であり、一次審査通知までの期間は、欧州特許庁の5.5か月に次ぐ速さ、最終処分期間は、中国国家知識産権局の15.5か月より速くなっています。さらに、発明の課題や解決手段、効果などが含まれる特許文献の蓄積数は、日本特許庁において2024年に到達した国内文献0.54億件、外国文献1.0億件からさらに増加し続け、これらの特許情報は、自社、競合他社、潜在的な連携相手を知る宝の山となっています。

したがって、AIを用いた発明の概要・用語の理解、先行技術文献の検索、本願発明と引用発明の一致点・相違点の提示、明細書・応答書の作成などの更なる特許情報の有効活用とその留意点を見極めていくことが喫緊の課題となります。

私達の東和国際特許事務所は、未来を切り開く技術立国を目指し、「企業で役立つ特許15箇条」を信条としつつ、皆様方の知的財産活動にお役に立てるように不断の努力を重ねて参ります。ご指導ご鞭撻の程、宜しくお願い申し上げます。

Current State and Challenges of Intellectual Property Activities Amid the Rapid Advancement of AI

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The Japanese economy is currently navigating a period of profound change. While it faces risks such as rising energy prices and inflationary pressures stemming from instability in the Middle East, global investment in AI is expanding at an explosive pace, creating new opportunities for further sustainable growth.

Against this backdrop, the public and private sectors are working together on a variety of initiatives aimed at creating a virtuous cycle in the Japanese economy and strengthening its “earning power.” In particular, the effective use of intellectual property both in Japan and abroad is increasingly recognized as essential to expanding investment through innovation.

According to the Japan Patent Office (JPO), the principal countries and regions in which applicants from Japan file patent applications include the United States, with 72,000 applications; China, 45,000; Europe, 21,000; South Korea, 14,000; and ASEAN, 10,000. The JPO’s patent examination pendency is 9.4 months to first action and 13.2 months to final disposition. Its pendency to first action is the second shortest after the European Patent Office’s 5.5 months, while its pendency to final disposition is shorter than the China National Intellectual Property Administration’s 15.5 months. In addition, the volume of patent documents containing information on technical problems, solutions, effects, and other aspects of inventions continues to grow beyond the levels reached at the JPO in 2024—54 million domestic documents and 100 million foreign documents. This body of patent information constitutes a treasure trove for understanding one’s own company, competitors, and potential collaboration partners.

Accordingly, there is an urgent need to determine how patent information can be used more effectively with AI, while also identifying the precautions that such use requires. Potential applications include understanding the substance and terminology of inventions, searching prior art, identifying similarities and differences between a claimed invention and cited inventions, and drafting patent specifications and responses to Office Actions.

At Towa International Patent Firm, we remain committed to supporting Japan as a technology-driven nation that opens the way to the future. Guided by our principles, the “Fifteen Rules for Patents That Deliver Value to Businesses,” we will continue to make every effort to support your intellectual property activities. We sincerely appreciate your continued guidance and support.