

Supporting Industrial Property for Shared Prosperity

The Japan Funds-in-Trust for Industrial
Property in Asia and the Pacific



Intellectual property (IP) is a great force for human progress.

A well-functioning IP system can help a country harness the innovation and creativity of its people to boost economic and social development.





That conviction underpins the mission of the Japan Funds-in-Trust for Industrial Property in Asia and the Pacific (Japan FIT/IP – Asia-Pacific).

Since 1987, we have been working to improve the life chances of people in developing and least developed countries by enhancing the use and protection of IP.

This short booklet introduces our work and highlights some of our many success stories.

Japan FIT/IP – Asia-Pacific is a collaboration between Japan and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) – the specialized agency of the United Nations that deals with intellectual property issues.

WIPO aims to create a balanced and effective international IP system that enables innovation and creativity for the benefit of all.

An essential part of WIPO's mission is to foster cooperation with and among countries to promote IP as a development tool.



Japan has been one of WIPO's most active country partners for more than three decades.

It has established several funds-in-trust to support WIPO's work. Japan makes regular donations to each fund which WIPO then spends on an agreed program of activities.

Japan FIT/IP – Asia-Pacific concentrates on developing and promoting industrial property – patents, industrial designs and trademarks – in the Asia-Pacific region. There is also a separate fund for industrial property development in Africa and another devoted to copyright and related rights.

In its first 30 years, Japan FIT/IP – Asia-Pacific spent more than 65 million Swiss francs supporting many different projects.



Photo: WIPO / Berrad

Japan FIT/IP – Asia-Pacific undertakes an enormous range of activities.

Our work has changed over the decades, as countries in Asia and the Pacific have developed.

When the Fund began in 1987, many countries in the region did not have well-adapted IP systems, and implementation of IP rights in those countries was sometimes uncertain.



Nowadays, most of our beneficiary countries have solid national frameworks for IP protection in place, and have joined international treaties to protect IP internationally and harmonize procedures.

Our activities have therefore shifted focus. We help our country partners use their IP systems more effectively, developing their institutional capacities and strengthening accountability.



Photo: kokouu / E+ / Getty Images

Much of our work involves strengthening the capacity of IP offices in the region.

We work with IP offices to help them improve their filing and registration systems, enhancing the quality of the services they provide and so reducing costs for the businesses and individuals who rely on those services.

Cooperation among IP offices is an excellent way for them to improve their performance.

For example, patent examiners in different countries can often increase the efficiency and quality of their work by sharing their patent examination results.

We encourage such cooperation by supporting WIPO CASE, a specially designed information system that allows IP offices to share patent documents efficiently and securely.

We also help offices join and operate WIPO's global IP services such as the **Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) System**, the **Madrid International Trademark System** and the **Hague System for Industrial Designs**.

These services make it easier and cheaper to protect industrial property rights in many different countries, meaning that local entrepreneurs can grow their exports and develop their businesses.



Building capacity is not just about investing in technical infrastructure. People are crucial.

We therefore work to help develop the human resources of our beneficiary countries.

In collaboration with the Japan Patent Office, we run regular training courses in Tokyo for IP professionals from both the public and private sectors.

We have trained thousands of people over the years.



We offer internships to help recent graduates in IP law put their knowledge to use at patent firms.

We also offer fellowships that enable exceptionally promising IP practitioners in our partner countries to undertake research projects at Japanese universities.

We support IP experts in the Asia-Pacific region at every stage in their career.



Photo: Courtesy of Anudari Duujii

“Doing IP training at a renowned international patent and law firm in Tokyo was the best opportunity ever for me.”

Anudari Duujii, IP Attorney, Mongolia



Photo: Courtesy of Jose B. Nevado Jr.

“I was exposed to a lot of good practices in Japan, from traditional industries to established SMEs, and from large industries to university technology transfer operations.”

Jose B. Nevado Jr.
 Research Professor, Institute of Human Genetics, University of the Philippines Manila–National Institutes of Health



Photo: Courtesy of Panravee Kabinlapat

“I had an excellent opportunity to learn about the IP system... After learning in Japan, I have a broader perspective on IP management.”

Panravee Kabinlapat
 Licensing Officer, Khon Kaen University, Thailand

Of course, building IP systems and training skilled staff to operate them only makes sense if people and businesses want to use those systems.

Japan FIT/IP – Asia-Pacific aims to ensure that there is healthy demand for IP services in our beneficiary countries.





**We foster
collaboration
among local
industries,
universities and
governments,
and work to raise
their awareness
of IP tools and
services.**

We created IP Advantage – a collection of case studies explaining how people have exploited IP strategically to support economic and social development.

IP Advantage contains well over 200 success stories, with a particular focus on inspiring examples from developing and least developed countries.

The database is available completely free of charge at: www.wipo.int/ipadvantage

And we have also produced a series of video documentaries highlighting the work of Asian entrepreneurs.

Again, you can enjoy all these videos for free online: www.wipo.int/about-wipo/en/offices/japan/outreach



Photo: pixelfusion3d / E+ / Getty Images



Last but not least, we aim to raise awareness and build respect for IP among the general public – in Asia and the Pacific and beyond.



A great example of this is our manga comic book *Honmono*, an exciting tale highlighting the dangers of counterfeit goods.

Honmono deals with IP in a way that is both informative and fun, and has proved a huge hit with readers. It has been downloaded thousands of times and translated into more than 15 languages so far.

You can read it online at: www.wipo.int/publications/en/details.jsp?id=218

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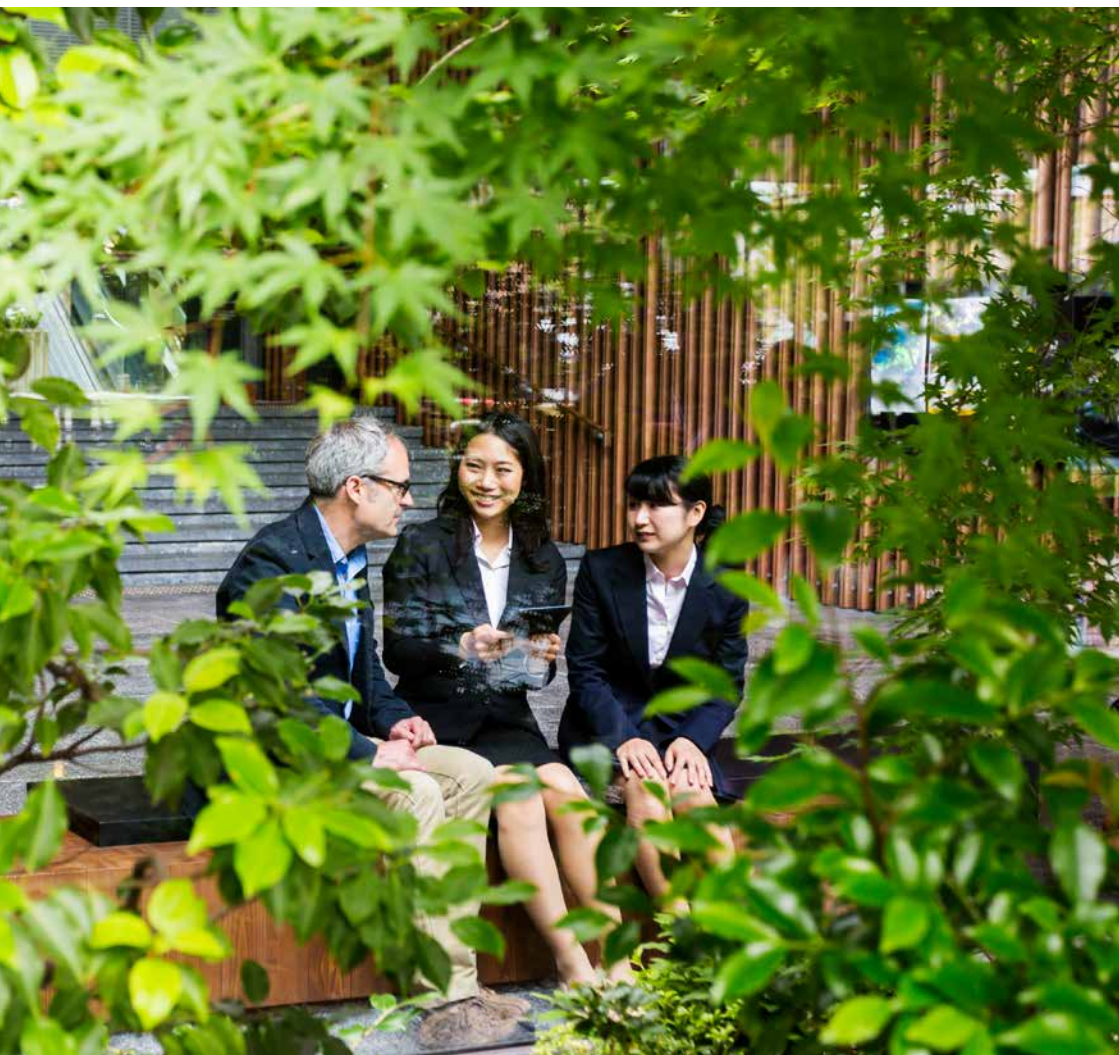
The work of the Japan Funds-in-Trust for Industrial Property in Asia and the Pacific is wide-ranging and extensive.

But underlying all our activities is a single core belief: IP can change lives for the better.

We are proud to have supported development in the region for more than three decades, and we look forward to celebrating many more successes.

Photo: davidf / E+ / Getty Images





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