

Meeting of US Patent Bar/JPO Liaison Council, October 15, 2007

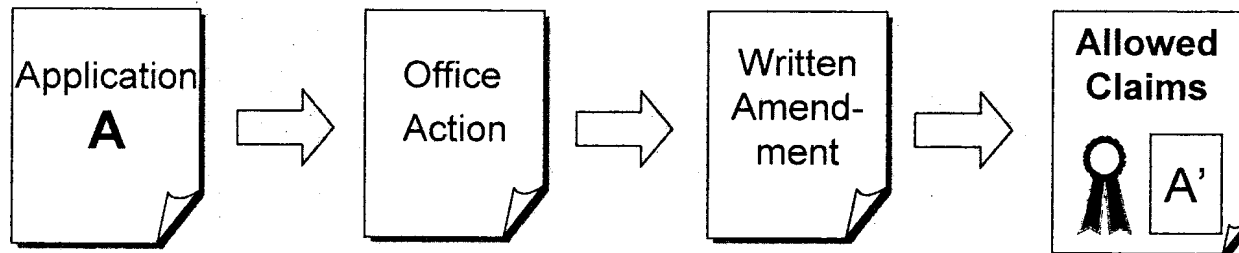
Current Status and Future of the Patent Prosecution Highway

**Toshimichi Moriya
Deputy Commissioner
Japan Patent Office**



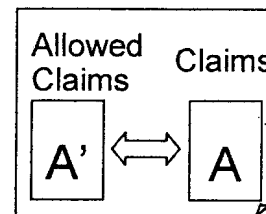
Outline of PPH

First Office (OFF)

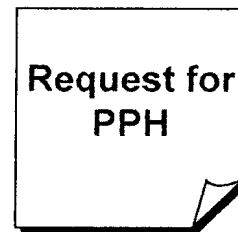
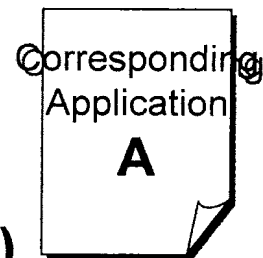


Provide prosecution history documents of the first office (if not available via network)

Copies of office actions



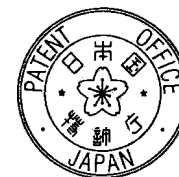
Claims X must sufficiently correspond to Allowed Claims X'



Accelerated Exam

Additional Search and Examination

Second Office (OSF)



Status of JP-US PPH (1)

- Launched pilot program in July 2006 and will continue until January 3, 2008.
- Number of requests (Oct.1, 2007)
 - US -> JP : 142
 - JP -> US : 172
- Number of requests since PCT applications became eligible for PPH.
 - (for the period May 18 to Oct. 1, 2007)
 - US -> JP: 11/22 (PCT/total)
 - JP -> US: 40/94 (PCT/total)
- Period from request to First Action:
 - Approx. 2-3 months
 - (In both the JPO and the USPTO)



- | Status of JP-US PPH (2)
 - Comments of applicants
 - Useful because the examination was expeditiously completed
 - Quite useful because the procedure is simpler than the usual procedure for accelerated examination because the PPH procedure does not require an explanation regarding the patentability of each claim
 - Had difficulty explaining the PPH to attorneys



Status of JP-US PPH (3)

- Positive comments of JPO examiners
 - The workload was reduced because the US applicants reduced the scope of claims (which had been too broad).
 - I could focus additional searches only on the points that were not disclosed in the documents cited by the US examiners.
 - The Office Actions of the other Office (i.e., USPTO) are helpful in understanding cited documents.



Future of the PPH

- The PPH network is expanding.
 - JP-KR PPH started in April 2007
 - JP-UK PPH started in June 2007
 - US-UK PPH started in September 2007