

**JPO/U.S. Bar Liaison Council Meeting,
January 16, 2009**

Measures to monitor the quality of examination

**Quality Management Office
Japan Patent Office**

Request for Improvement in “the Quality of Patent Examination”

1. Request for “High Quality” Examination from Applicants:

- Strengthen the Quality Management System in the Efforts towards Expeditious and Efficient Patent Examination (“IP Strategic Program 2007”)

2. International Work-Sharing Initiative:

~ Reduction of Duplication of Work

- PPH (Patent Prosecution Highway)
- JP-FIRST (JP-Fast Information Release Strategy)
- Promotion of strategic utilization of PCT (PCT-Guidelines Chap.21 “A Common Quality Framework”)

Credibility of Judgment & Procedures by Examiners

1. Accurate Judgment as a Person Skilled in the Art

- Understanding of Technology
- Appropriate prior-art search
- Consistency among Examiners in the Art

2. Proper Implementation

- Application of Examination Guidelines
- Consistency among Examiners

3. Efficient Communication with Applicants / Attorneys

- Clarity of Office Actions

Maintenance and Improvement of the Quality of Patent Examination in the JPO

1. Training for Examiners

- 2 to 4-years training to become an examiner
- Training programs in law, technology

2. Enhancement of Prior Art Search

- Establishing or improving databases, search-tools
- Maintenance of search classifications

3. Proper Implementation

- Examination Guidelines, PCT-Handbook
- Consultation with other examiners, group leaders

4. Enhancement of Quality Management System

Quality Management Measures for Patent Examination in the JPO

Measures:

1. Operational Quality Control in Each Art Unit

- i) Consulting among examiners, with group-leaders.
- ii) Checking by the director of the art unit.

2. Quality Management System

(“Quality Management Office” & Q-M Committee)

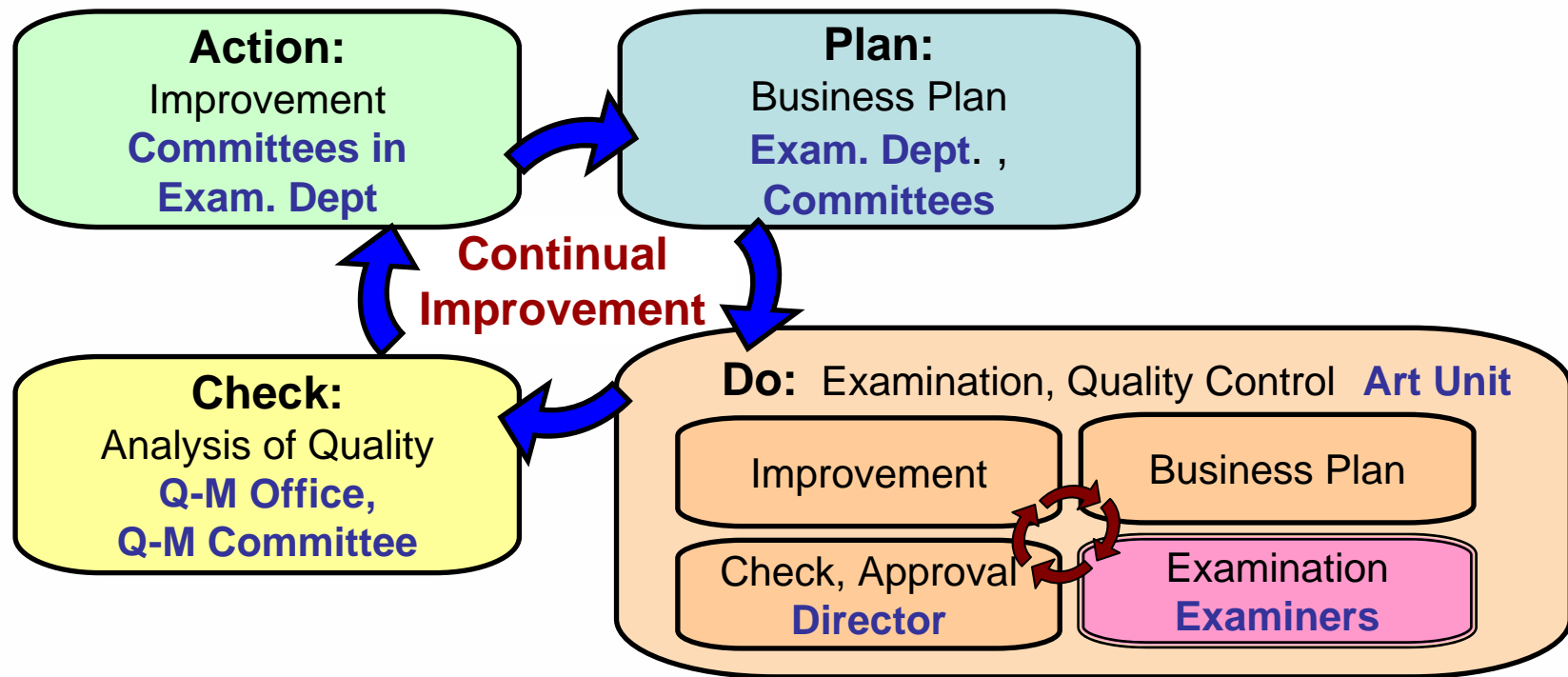
- i) Cross-sectional methods to improve the quality.
 - Internal review (Sampling and inspection of office actions)
 - User review (User Survey, Interview with applicants)
- ii) Supporting Quality Control measures in each art unit.

Other Topics:

Exchanging information among countries (Trilateral, Five-Offices)

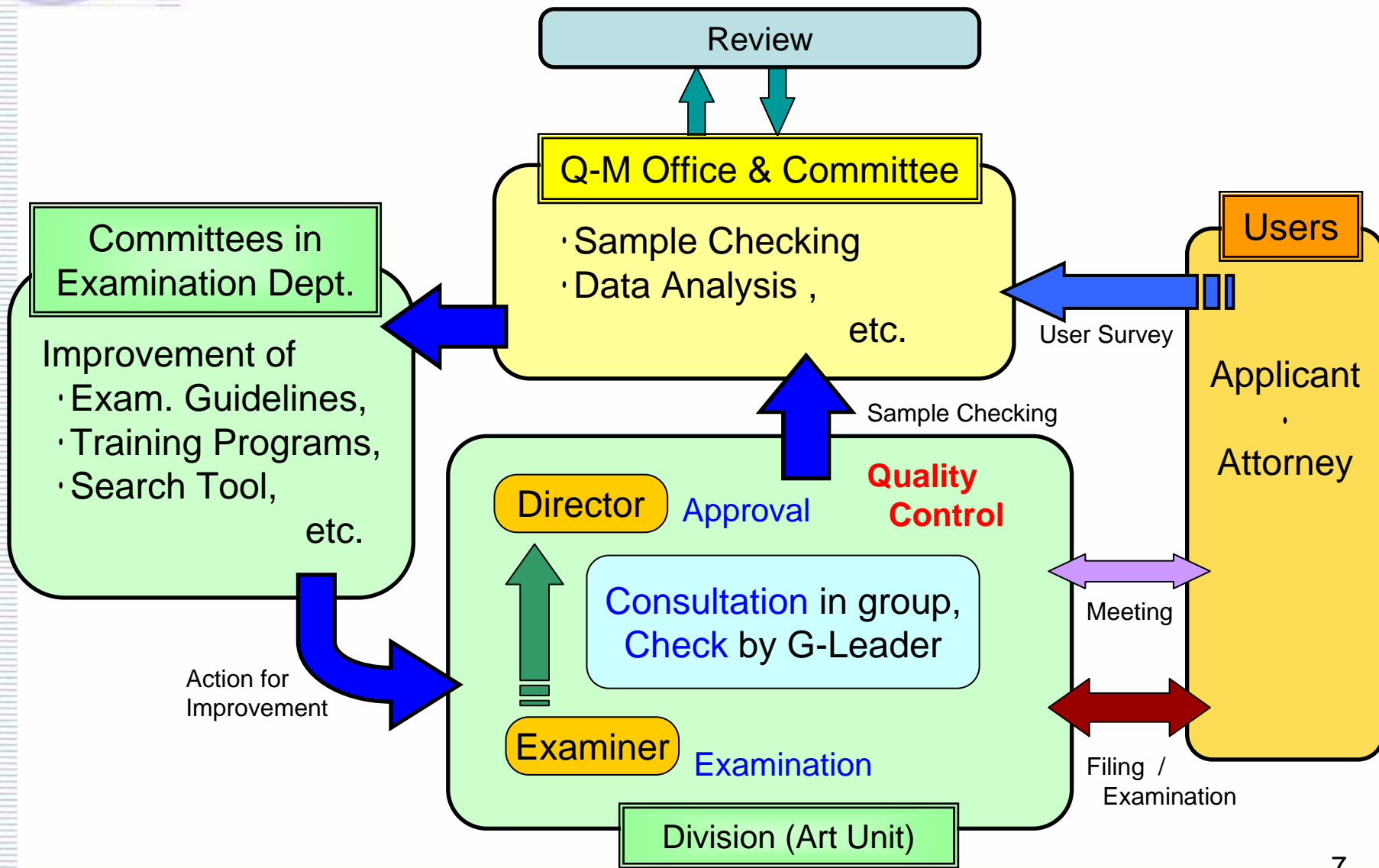
PDCA-Cycle for Patent Examination

(Quality Management Cycle)



Quality Control Cycle

Quality Management System in JPO



1. Feedback to Committees in Examination Depts.

(with Suggestions for Improvement)

- Reflect to quality-related measures by committees
Continuous Improvement by Q-M Cycle

2. Feedback to Examiners, Directors in Art Unit

- Reminders for Examination and Approval
Support for Quality Control measures in each Art Unit

Thank you