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## Commencement of accelerated examination and trial examination as post-disaster reconstruction support 震災復興支援早期審査・早期審理の開始

On August 1, 2011, the JPO launched an initiative to conduct accelerated examination and trial examination as post-disaster reconstruction support with regard to patent, design and trademark applications of businesses, etc. which suffered damages as a result of the earthquake and tsunami in Eastern Japan earlier this year.

This accelerated examination and trial examination program is aimed at assisting the recovery through use of intellectual property of businesses, etc. affected by the disaster. Persons residing or having an address in the specific areas struck by the disaster (Iwate Prefecture, Miyagi Prefecture, Fukushima Prefecture, as well as parts of Aomori, Ibaraki, Tochigi, Chiba, Niigata, and Nagano prefectures) who have suffered damages as a result of the earthquake may apply. The application period is one year after August 1, 2011.

特許庁は、東日本大震災による被害を受けた企業等の特許・意匠・商標の出願等について早期に審査・審理を行う「震災復興支援早期審査・早期審理」を2011年8月1日から開始した。

この早期審査・早期審理は、被災した企業等が知財を活用し復興していくことを支援するものであり、特定被災地域（岩手、宮城、福島、および青森・茨城・栃木・千葉・新潟・長野の一部）に住所又は居所を有する者であって、地震に起因した被害を受けた者が申請できる。申請できる期間は、2011年8月1日から当面1年間である。

## Sony and LG Electronics reach settlement over patent infringement lawsuits

### ソニーとLG電子が特許侵害訴訟で和解

On August 11, 2011, Sony and Korean company LG Electronics revealed that they had reached a settlement with regard to all patent infringement lawsuits that they had filed against each other. The two companies have agreed to withdraw all of the over twenty patent infringement lawsuits that they had repeatedly brought to court against each other, and will collaborate toward concluding cross license agreements which will allow mutual use of the patents.

The lawsuit battle between Sony and LG Electronics, which began in October, 2010 intensified, resulting in the temporary injunction against import to the Netherlands of Sony's home video game console PlayStation 3 (PS3).

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ソニーと韓国のLG電子は2011年8月11日、互いに提起していた特許侵害訴訟の全てについて和解したことを明らかにした。両社は、互いに繰り返してきた20件以上にも及ぶ特許侵害訴訟を全て取り下げることに合意し、特許を相互に利用できるようクロスライセンス契約の締結に向けて協議を行う。

2010年10月から始まったソニーとLG電子の訴訟合戦は激化し、オランダでは一時、ソニーの家庭用ゲーム機「プレイステーション3 (PS3)」が輸入差止めになるなどの事態にもなっていた。

## 1.2 billion cases of illegal download according to RIAJ investigation 違法ダウンロード、年12億件－日本レコード協会調査

On August 8, 2011, the Recording Industry Association of Japan (RIAJ) released a report of the Exploratory Committee for investigation into the situation concerning the use of video websites.

According to this investigation report, approximately seventy percent of the Japanese population use video websites, and approximately half of the video site users have downloaded files. In addition, as many music-related files downloaded from video websites have supposedly illegal contents, the total number of illegal downloads is estimated to reach 1.2 billion cases a year.

2011年8月8日、日本レコード協会は「動画サイトの利用実態調査検討委員会」の報告書を公表した。

同調査報告書によると、国民の約70%が動画サイトを利用しており、動画サイト利用経験者の約半数がファイルのダウンロードを経験している。また、動画サイトからダウンロードされている音楽関連ファイルの多くが違法と考えられるコンテンツであり、違法ダウンロードの総数は年間12億件に上ると推計した。

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PATENT LAW FIRM



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Please acknowledge that the purpose of our column is to provide general information on the field of intellectual property, and that the description here does not represent our legal opinion on a specific theme.

## OSAKA HEAD OFFICE

ADDRESS: DAIWA MINAMIMORIMACHI BLDG.,  
2-6, 2-CHOME-KITA, TENJINBASHI,  
KITA-KU, OSAKA 530-0041, JAPAN

E-MAIL: [iplaw-osk@harakenzo.com](mailto:iplaw-osk@harakenzo.com) (※updated on December 2010)

WEBSITE: <http://www.harakenzo.com>  
<http://www.intellelution.com>  
<http://ip-kenzo.com>

TELEPHONE: +81-6-6351-4384 (Main Number)

FACSIMILE: +81-6-6351-5664 (Main Number)



## OSAKA 2nd OFFICE

ADDRESS: MITSUI SUMITOMO BANK  
MINAMIMORIMACHI BLDG., 1-29,  
2-CHOME, MINAMIMORIMACHI,  
KITA-KU, OSAKA 530-0054, JAPAN

E-MAIL: [iplaw-osk@harakenzo.com](mailto:iplaw-osk@harakenzo.com) (※updated on December 2010)

WEBSITE: <http://www.harakenzo.com>  
<http://www.intellelution.com>  
<http://ip-kenzo.com>

TELEPHONE: +81-6-6351-4384 (Main Number)

FACSIMILE: +81-6-6351-5664 (Main Number)



## TOKYO HEAD OFFICE

ADDRESS: WORLD TRADE CENTER BLDG. 21F  
2-4-1, HAMAMATSU-CHO, MINATO-KU,  
TOKYO 105-6121, JAPAN

E-MAIL: [iplaw-ky@harakenzo.com](mailto:iplaw-ky@harakenzo.com) (※updated on December 2010)

WEBSITE: <http://www.harakenzo.com>  
<http://www.intellelution.com>  
<http://ip-kenzo.com>

TELEPHONE: +81-3-3433-5810 (Main Number)

FACSIMILE: +81-3-3433-5281 (Main Number)

