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## Announcement Regarding Change in Japanese Consumption Tax Rate 消費税率変更のお知らせ

We would like to express our sincerest appreciation to all of our clients and colleagues for their continued patronage and support. This is a special announcement regarding the upcoming change in Japanese consumption tax.

On April 1, 2014, the “bill partially amending the consumption tax law in order to fundamentally revise the tax system and thereby secure stable finances for social security” will come into effect in Japan, and as a result the consumption tax rate will be raised from 5% to 8%. In accordance with this change in the law, for our clients in Japan the new tax rate of 8% will apply to our firm’s service fees on all debit notes dated April 1, 2014 onwards. We greatly appreciate your understanding in this matter.

For our clients outside Japan, as before our service fees will be exempt from consumption tax, and therefore there will be no change in the amount indicated on our debit notes.

For all our clients, both in Japan and abroad, we will continue to strive sincerely to provide better and more satisfying services. We would again like to express our deepest thanks for your continued support and understanding.

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謹啓 時下ますますご清祥の段、お慶び申し上げます。  
平素は格別のご高配を賜り、厚く御礼申し上げます。

さて、「社会保障の安定財源の確保等を図る税制の抜本的な改革を行うための消費税法の一部を改正する等の法律」が、来る2014年4月1日から施行されるのに伴い、弊所のサービスにおきましても、請求書に記載の発行日が同年4月1日以降の請求書につきましては消費税率8%を乗じた額を請求させていただきます。何卒、ご理解賜りますよう、お願い申し上げます。

なお、海外のお客様におかれましては、弊所のサービスに対する消費税は従前どおり免除されますので変更ございません。

すべてのお客様が弊所のサービスに対してより一層ご満足いただけますよう、今後とも、誠心誠意尽力して参る所存でございますので、何卒よろしくお願い申し上げます。

謹白

## Cabinet Decides on Bill to Partially Amend Patent Law, etc. 「特許法等の一部を改正する法律案」が閣議決定

The Ministry of Economics, Trade and Industry (METI) announced on March 11, 2014 that the cabinet had decided to implement a bill partially amending the Patent Law, etc. Said bill will be submitted during the 186th regular session of the Diet, which is currently taking place. The amendments to the Patent Law, etc. are intended to bring about international harmonization while also aiming to construct an Intellectual Property system that is easier to use for small and medium-sized enterprises and small-scale businesses that support local economies and employment.

Under this bill, revisions will be made to the Patent Law, the Design Law, the Trademark Law and the Patent Attorney Law, etc., including a number of major changes. These include the establishment of a system for raising opposition to patents under the Patent Law, amendment of the Design Law to include provisions for applying for designs in multiple countries at once, based on Geneva Act of the Hague Agreement Concerning the International Deposit of Industrial Designs, which Japan is currently considering joining; and a broadening of the types of marks eligible for protection under the Trademark Law, with the inclusion of colors and sounds, etc.

経済産業省は2014年3月11日、「特許法等の一部を改正する法律案」が閣議決定されたことを発表した。同法案は、現在開会されている第186回通常国会に提出される。この改正により、国際調和を図りつつ、地域の経済や雇用を支える中小企業・小規模事業者にとって一層使いやすい知的財産制度の構築を目指す。

今回は特許法、意匠表、商標法、弁理士法等の改正が行われる予定であり、特許法では特許異議の申立て制度の創設、意匠法では加入検討中の「意匠の国際登録に関するハーグ協定のジュネーブ改正協定」に基づき複数国に意匠を一括出願するための規定の整備、商標法では保護対象(色彩や音など)の拡充等、大規模な改正を含んでいる。

## JPO Aims to Halve Time Taken to Grant Patent Rights 特許庁、特許の権利化までの期間を半減させる目標を設定

As part of the above-mentioned revisions to Intellectual Property law, the Japan Patent Office has set a target of reducing the time taken for a patent application to be granted patent right to within 14 months, and the time taken for the first examination report to be issued to within 10 months by fiscal 2023. In 2012, the average length of time taken for patent applications to be granted rights was 29.6 months, but improvements to the examination system aim to reduce the necessary time by half. A 14-month period for the grant of patent rights is expected to be on par with the fastest in the world.

Further, while proceeding with measures to increase the speed with which rights are granted, in order to also improve the quality of examinations, a panel of external experts will be assembled to carry out a review into quality control for examinations.

特許庁は、上記の法改正と併せて、2023年度までに特許の「権利化までの期間」を14ヶ月以内、「一次審査通知までの期間」を10ヶ月以内に短縮するという目標を設定した。「権利化までの期間」は2012年の平均で29.6ヶ月であったが、これを審査体制の整備により半減させることになる。「権利化まで14ヶ月」というのは世界最速の水準になる見込みだ。

また、迅速化を進める一方で、審査の質の向上を図るため、外部有識者により構成される委員会を新たに設置し、審査の品質管理に関するレビューを受ける仕組みを導入する予定である。

## Results of 2013 User Survey on Patent Examination Quality Released 特許審査の質に関する2013年度ユーザーアンケート報告

On March 11, 2014, the Japan Patent Office released a report regarding a user survey on the quality of patent examinations, etc. Said survey has been conducted yearly since 2012, and this is the second report produced. Investigation and analysis of the data collected was carried out in order to better understand the needs and expectations of users and uphold and improve the quality of patent examinations.

According to the results of the survey, recently (in the past year) 92.5% of the feedback from users regarding the quality of patent examinations at the national phase rated them as above “average.” This is an increase over an 88.2% rating the previous year. Also, regarding user satisfaction, 45.0% of respondents were “satisfied,” a large increase over 31.6% of respondents the previous year. In recent years, there has been a fairly positive user rating regarding the quality of patent examinations at the national phase.

On the other hand, for specific parts of the examination process such as the reduction of discrepancies in examination decisions, the completeness of examiners’ searches of foreign patent literature etc., it is clear that the level of demand from users remains high.

2014年3月11日、特許庁は2013年度の「特許審査等の質についてのユーザーアンケート報告書」を公開した。当アンケートは2012年度から開始され、今年で2回目。ユーザーのニーズや期待を適切に把握して特許審査の質の維持・向上に繋げるべく、調査および分析が行われた。

集計結果によると、最近(1年程度)の国内特許審査の質全般についての評価で「普通」以上の評価が占める割合は92.5%であり、昨年度の88.2%から上昇した。また、「満足」の回答も45.0%と昨年の31.6%から大きく上昇しており、近年の国内特許審査の質についてはある程度高い評価を受けているといえる。

一方で、審査手続における具体的な項目については、審査判断のばらつきの低減、審査官による外国特許文献の調査の充実などについて、引き続きユーザーのニーズが高いことが明らかになった。



## Focused Crackdown by National Police Agency on Copyright Infringement Cases

### 警察庁、著作権法違反事件の一斉集中取締りを実施

On March 3, 2014, the Anti Counterfeiting Association (ACA) announced that a focused crackdown on cases of copyright infringement via file-sharing software etc. was carried out over three days in the latter half of February. The 45 prefectural police agencies conducted 123 searches and arrested 33 individuals on suspicion of copyright infringement regarding movies, music, cartoons, games, comics etc.

Focused crackdowns on copyright infringement via file-sharing software have been carried out five times since they were introduced in 2009. The ACA is a group comprised of the Japan Society for Rights of Authors, Composers and Publishers (JASRAC), the Recording Industry Association of Japan (RIAJ) and others, and in addition to these crackdowns, its activities include sending emails informing people of copyright law and requesting that users delete illegally copied files.

不正商品対策協議会(ACA)は2014年3月3日、ファイル共有ソフト等を使用した著作権法違反事件の一斉集中取締りが2月後半の3日間で実施されたと発表した。45都道府県警察によって123箇所が搜索され、33人が映画・音楽・アニメ・ゲーム・漫画などの著作権法違反を行ったとして検挙された。

ファイル共有ソフト等による著作権法違反の一斉集中取締りは、2009年に始まり今年で5回目。不正商品対策協議会(ACA)は、日本音楽著作権協会(JASRAC)・日本レコード協会(RIAJ)等から構成される団体であり、上記の取締りの他に、啓発メールの送付やユーザーに違法ファイルの削除を求める活動を行っている。

Introduction to Our Firm's Service

当所のサービス紹介

## Research/Analysis/Patent Map 調査・分析・パテントマップ

We offer high-quality service, combining research know-how cultivated in long years of experience and analyzes competence unique to international patent firms.

長年の経験で培った調査ノウハウと、国際特許事務所ならではの分析能力を組み合わせた質の高いサービスを提供します。

[Click here for details](#)

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Please contact us if you have any comments or require any information.

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.

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