



Trilateral Joint Statement on IP & Environmental Issues

On March 17, 2022, the Trilateral Patent Offices co-organized its first ever *Trilateral Symposium on Intellectual Property (IP) and Environmental Issues*. The purpose of the symposium was to raise awareness about how IP is being used to solve environmental issues and highlighted model cases of pioneering inventors who utilized IP in the field of carbon-neutral technology.

The symposium held via videoconference, was led by the Japan Patent Office (JPO), in collaboration with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the Industrial Trilateral: BusinessEurope (BE), the Japan Intellectual Property Association (JIPA), the American Intellectual Property Law Association (AIPLA), and the Intellectual Property Owners Association (IPO).

At the symposium, companies from Japan, Europe and the United States presented their IP strategies, with the Japanese representative highlighting the IP strategies to obtain basic patents independently and then conduct joint research, the European SME underlining strategies to become global energy players from spin-offs and the US representative focusing on IP strategies protecting products and designs. At the Q&A and panel discussion afterwards, the following beneficial aspects of IP were underscored:

- that the IP system is essential in promoting the development of carbon-neutral technologies, as it provides incentives for inventors and promotes research and development
- that the IP system helps protect inventors from having their technology easily imitated by others, while at the same time, allowing for learning from and improving upon the inventions of others, thus encouraging the dissemination of new technological information.
- that small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and start-ups are among the key drivers in the field of carbon-neutral technology development, and the IP system is an essential tool to use to overcome the difficulties of bringing their inventions to market.
- that IP rights can effectively support companies in their growth and development.
- that the IP system can help guide policy making and investments towards carbon neutrality objectives by facilitating access to technology-related information.

- that IP can be properly protected in multiple jurisdictions, using international treaties, work-sharing initiatives, and acceleration programs to allow carbon-neutral patented products to expeditiously and cost-effectively reach global communities.
- that IP rights are key assets that enable inventors, start-ups, and SMEs to secure capital and find partners to develop their inventions.

The Trilateral Patent Offices acknowledged the need to continue promoting the beneficial aspects of the IP system and enhancing international cooperation to provide incentives for innovation.

Trilateral Symposium on IP & Environmental Issues
hosted by the Japan Patent Office
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