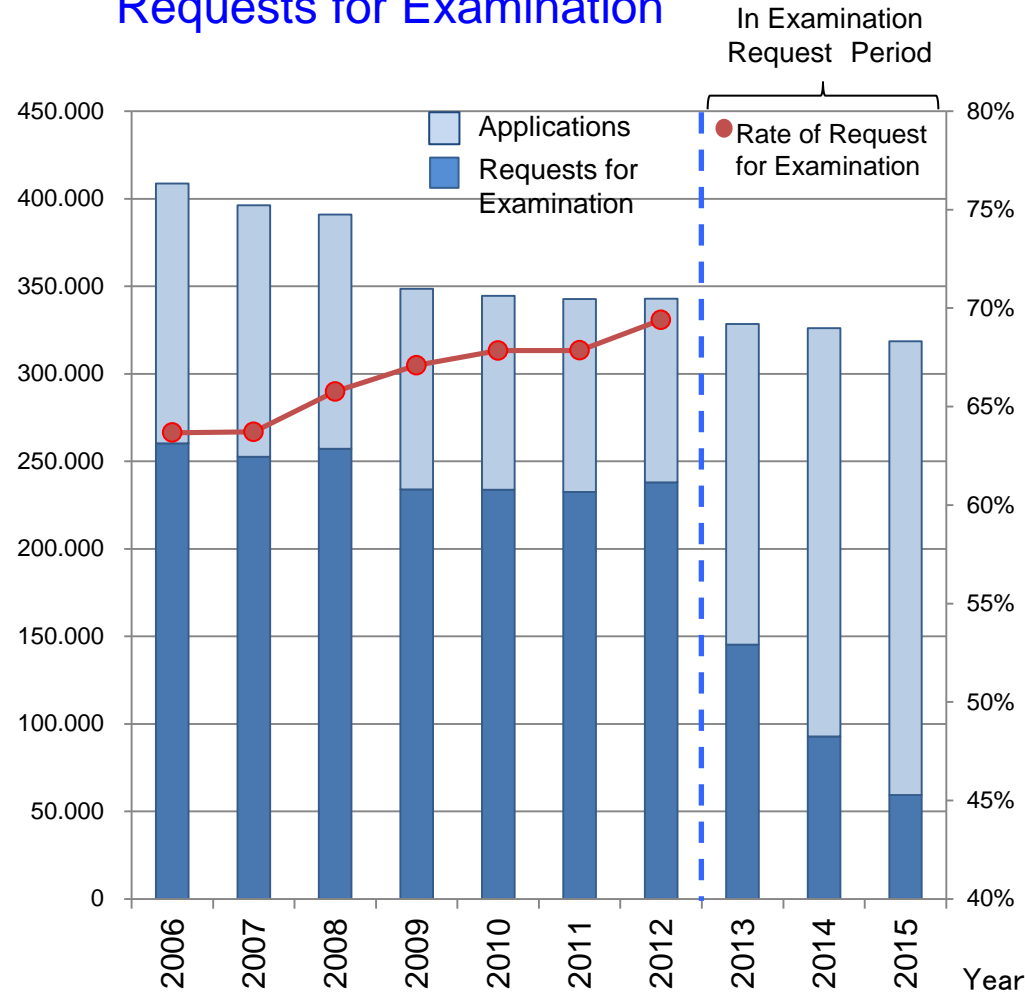


JPO's Status report

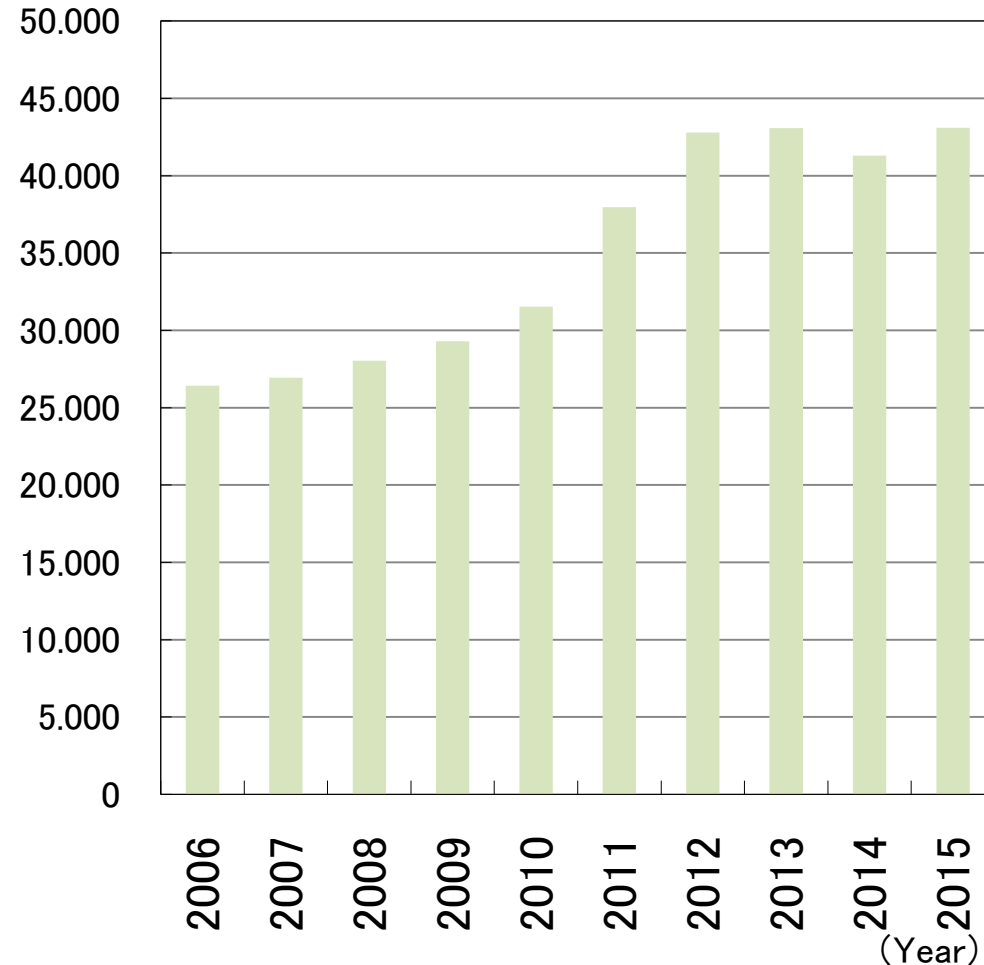
February 2016

JAPAN PATENT OFFICE

The number of Patent Applications and Requests for Examination

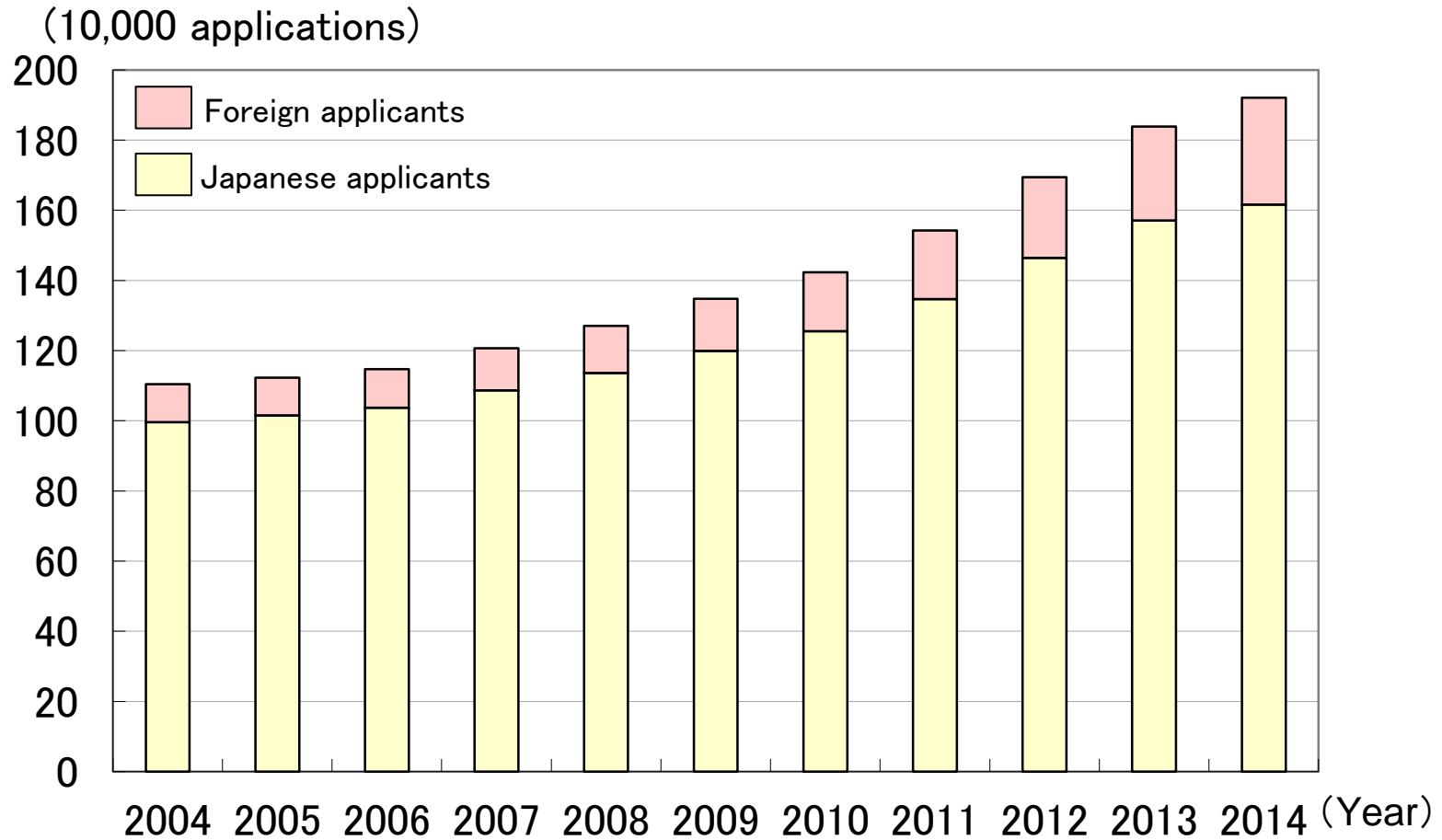


The number of PCT International Applications



(Note) As for the number of Patent Applications, Requests for Examination and PCT International Applications of 2015 are provisional.

The Number of Existing Patent Rights



1. Accelerated Market Changes

→ **Achieving the World's Fastest and Utmost Quality in Patent Examination**

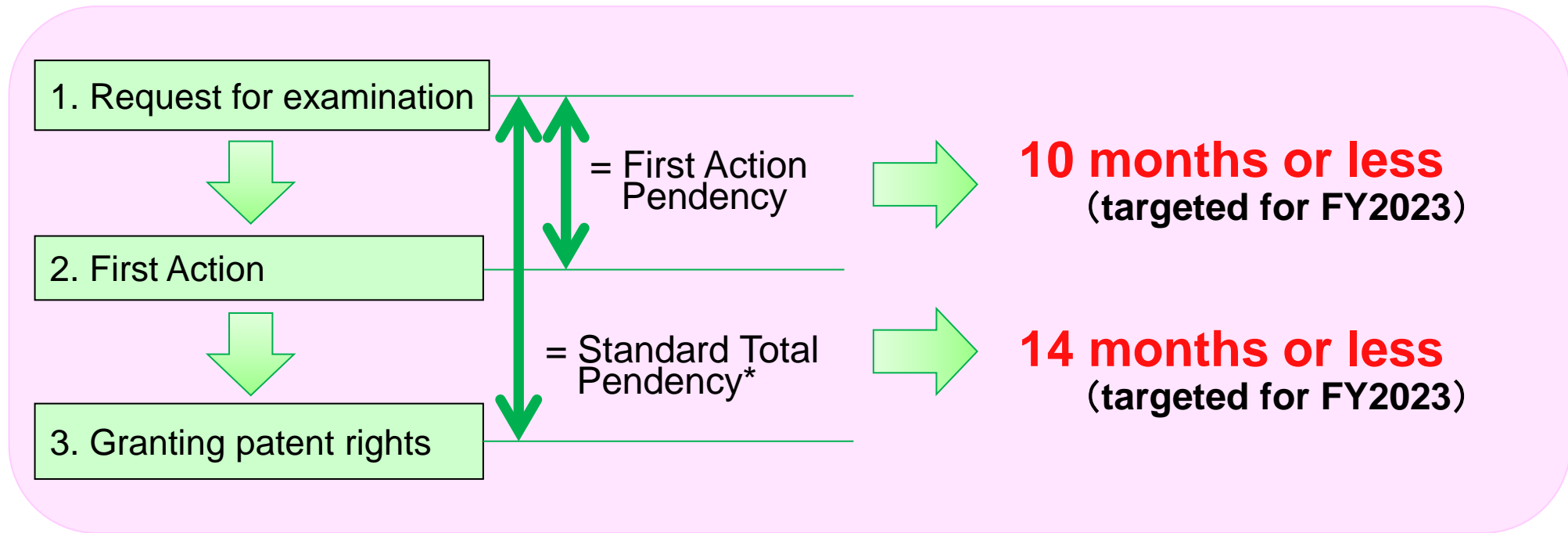
2. Globalized Economy

→ **Promoting globalization of Intellectual property system**

3. Establishing a Self-Sustaining Society

→ **Promoting utilization of intellectual properties in Japanese regional areas.**

1) Accelerating Examination

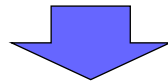


*“Standard Total Pendency” excludes cases in which the JPO requests applicants to respond to second notices of reasons for refusal, for example.

2) Enhancing Quality

Principles of JPO Quality Policy on Patent Examination

- The 3 main tenets of patent quality are:
 - We grant robust, broad and valuable patents.
 - 1. “robust”: so as not to be invalidated afterward,
 - 2. “broad”: to such an extent that they have coverage matching the extent of the technical levels of inventions and their disclosures,
 - 3. “valuable”: so as to be recognized around the world.



■ Enhancement of Quality Management System

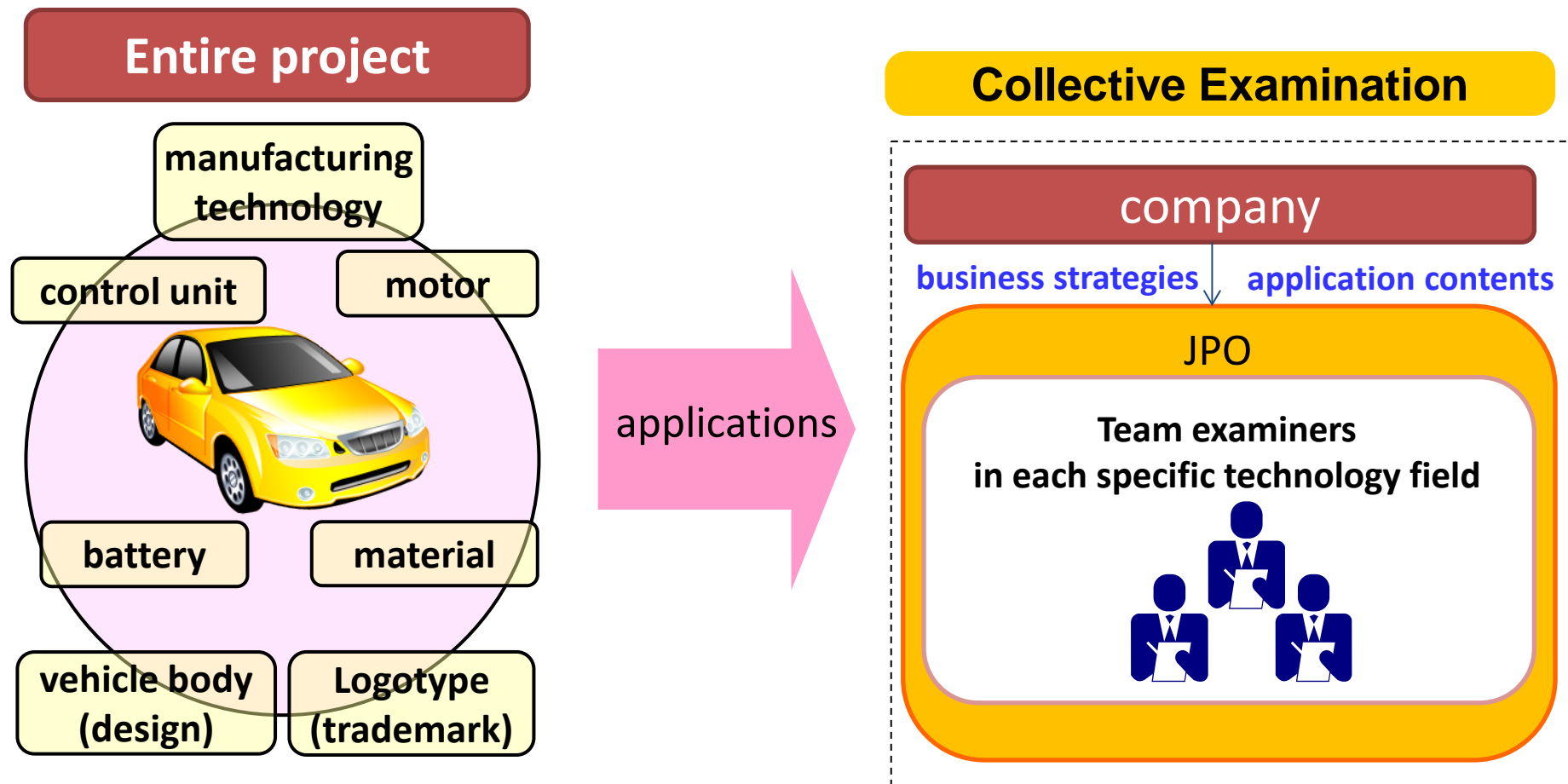
Since April 2014, the JPO has appointed 90 Quality Management Officers. Quality reviews are being conducted the Subcommittee on Examination Quality Management (a committee of external experts).

■ Complete update of Examination Guidelines

The Examination Guidelines were updated to make descriptions more clear and concise, and enable them to be accepted globally.

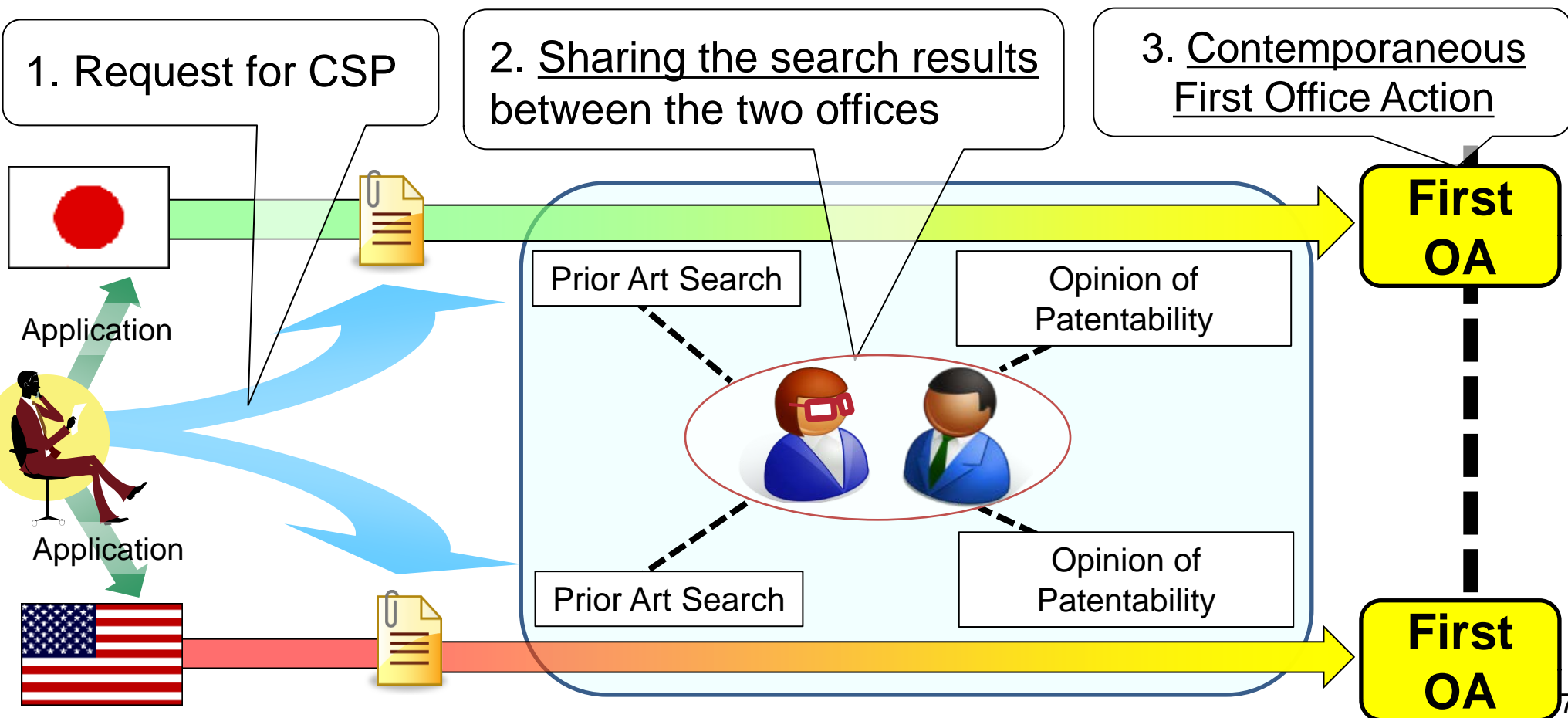
■ Ensuring Highly capable human resources

Providing various career paths based on training suited to the level of each examiner.



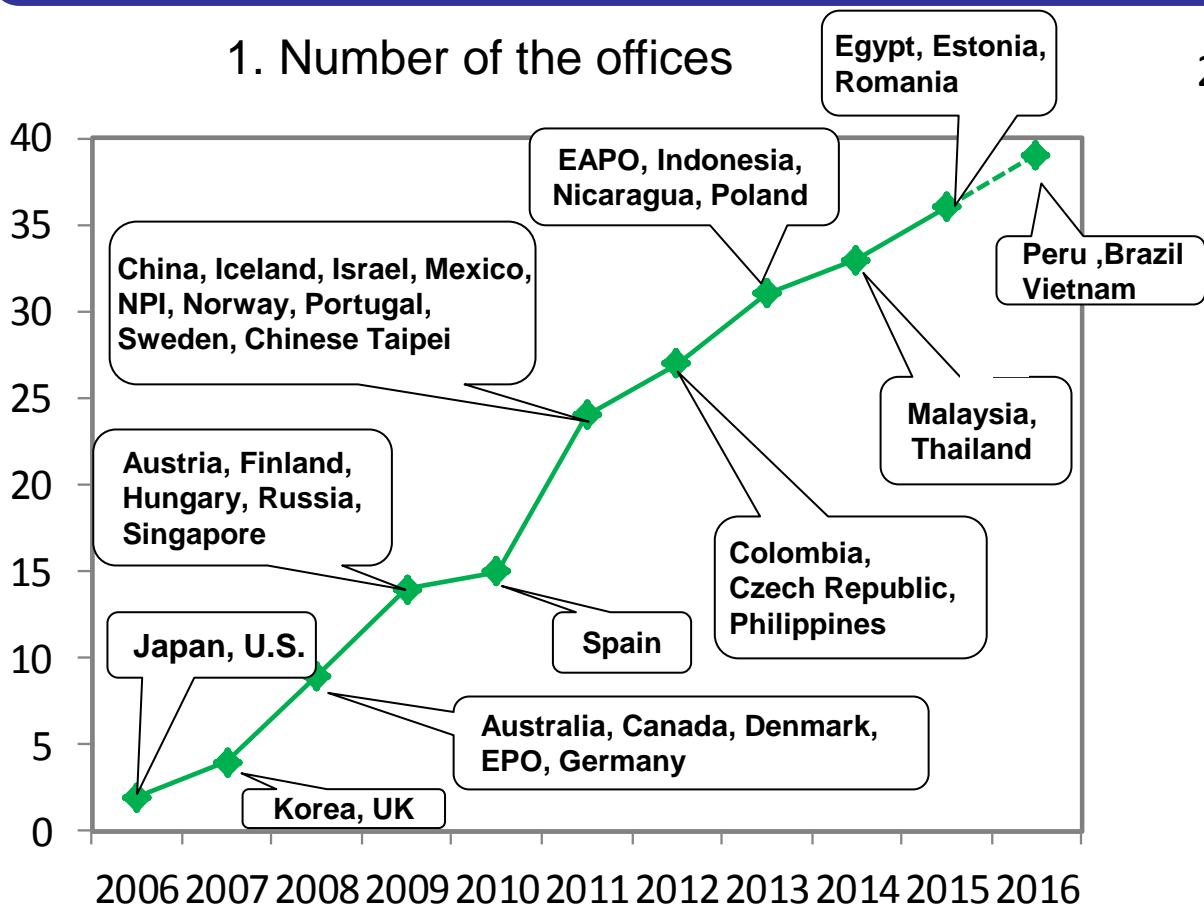
In line with corporate business activities, examiners will collaborate on examinations.

- JPO and USPTO launched the Collaborative Search Pilot Program (US-JP CSP) on August 1st, 2015.
- Examiners in JPO and USPTO conduct their own search on applications that have been filed in both JPO and USPTO. The offices share their search results and opinions.
- Examiners in JPO and USPTO notify applicants of their First Office Actions around the same time.
- Applicants can acquire earlier, contemporaneous, stronger and more stable patent rights.

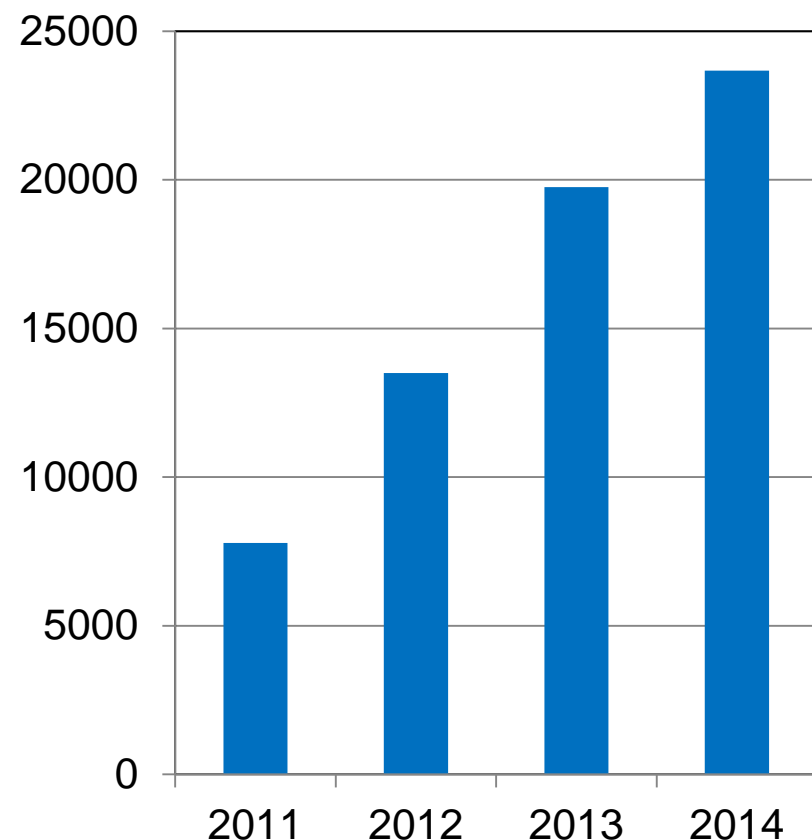


➤ Since the JPO proposed the PPH, implementing it with the United States in 2006 for the first time in the world, the number of countries/regions participating in the PPH program has increased to 39. Also, the total number of requests made worldwide to use the PPH has been steadily increasing.

1. Number of the offices

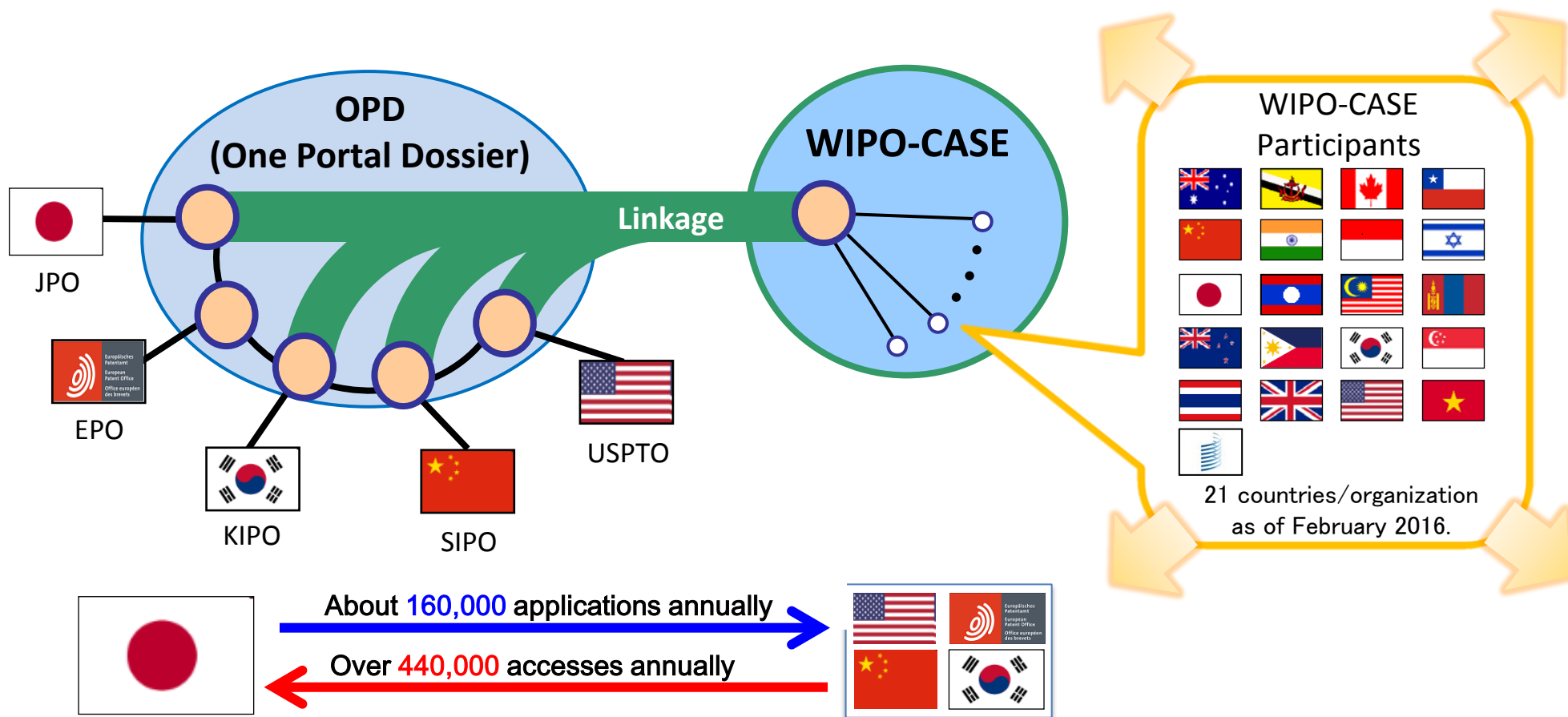


2. Number of applications requesting PPH



● The number of applications filed in countries/regions participating in the PPH program accounts for more than 90% of all patent applications being filed worldwide (in 2011).

- One Portal Dossier functions as work-sharing tool among IP5
- WIPO-CASE works to share dossiers within CASE members
- Linkage of OPD and WIPO-CASE has potential to achieve **global work-sharing** beyond IP5



Patent Act

(A) Encouraging Employee Inventions

- Making it possible for employers to have the right to obtain a patent when the right becomes effective
- Giving employees the right to receive incentives that are basically the same as those under the current Act

(B) Revising Patent Fees

- Decreasing patent fees by 10%
- Decreasing trademark registration fees by 25%, and trademark renewal fees by 20%

(C) Acceding to Patent Law Treaty (PLT)

- Allowing extra time for applicants to submit translations, when they weren't able to submit within the prescribed deadline
- Making it possible for applicants to correct applications, e.g., submit missing documents, for a certain period

- The JPO comprehensively updated its “**Examination Guidelines for Patents and Utility Models**” and “**Examination Handbook for Patents and Utility Models.**”
- Also, the JPO make a new handbook called the “**Handbook for PCT International Search and Preliminary Examination in the Japan Patent Office.**”
- All of them were released **in English**, and became effective on Oct. 1, 2015.

Points of updated “Examination Guidelines” etc.

- ✓ Making descriptions in the Guidelines **clearer and more concise**;
- ✓ Providing enough **case examples and court precedents** in the “Examination Handbook”;
- ✓ Making the Examination Guidelines **internationally acceptable**.

- Users can now more **easily understand** the basic ideas.
- **Predictability** of obtaining patent rights has been improved.

Examination Guidelines

summarize the basic ideas of applying applicable laws such as the Patent Act.

Examination Handbook

summarizes the essential points to consider when conducting examination; and provides sufficient examples, court precedents, and application examples of basic ideas of the Guidelines.

Handbook for PCT procedures

shows details and illustrations on the practices and procedures in the JPO acting as the ISA/IPEA.

Thank you!