PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

Common Quality Framework for
International Search and Preliminary Examination

Supplemental Report Under Paragraph 21.18 of the PCT International Search and Preliminary Examination Guidelines

by: ***[JPO]***

on: ***[February 2009]***

Date of main report and any supplemental reports to which this is a supplement: ***[28 December 2006]*** ***[January 2008]***

Documents referred to in this report: None

As a result of our most recent internal review under PCT/GL/ISPE paragraphs 21.10-21.15, this Authority has made modifications to its Quality Management System (QMS) as discussed below.

The modifications are given with reference to the sections of the revised template for responses to PCT/GL/ISPE Paragraph 21.17 to which the changes relate.

The Authority should describe any changes made to its QMS making reference to the specific sections of the earlier report using template T21-17, and / or making reference to any supplemental report(s) established in the meantime using template T21-18.

If no changes have been made to its QMS since the last report, the Authority should indicate such.

QUALITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (PARAGRAPHS 21.03–21.09)

Establishment and maintenance of QMS (Paragraph 21.03)

The Authority should show that it has established and is maintaining, or is establishing, a QMS which:

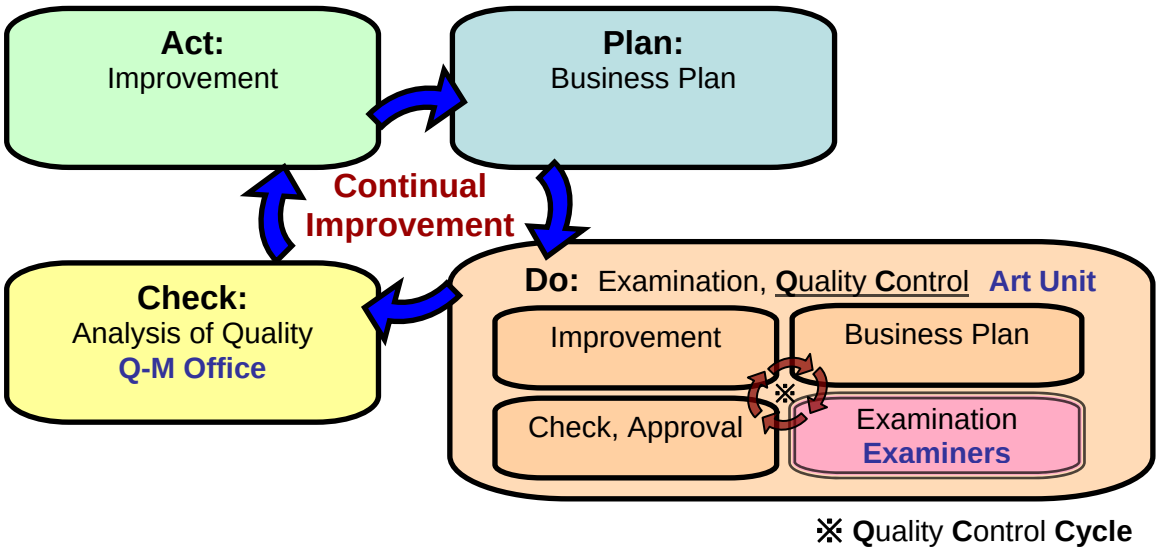
(a) sets out basic requirements regarding resources, administrative procedures, feedback and communication channels required to underpin search and examination (S&E);

(b) incorporates a quality assurance scheme for monitoring compliance with these basic requirements and with PCT/GL/ISPE.

Based on the PDCA-Cycle for patent examination, the Cross-Sectional Quality Management System has been steadily implemented by “the Quality Management Office” established in April 2007. The result of ex-post and objective analysis of examination are reflected to the measures for the maintenance and continuous improvement of the quality of patent examination. For example, the internal review (sampling and inspection) by a third party in the JPO has been implemented, whose evaluation criteria reflects the results of User’s review.

The results of the internal reviews are fedback to art units and examiners to support “the Quality Control” in each art unit and the self-check by the examiners.

[Figure.1 PDCA-Cycle(The Quality Management Cycle) for patent examination]



Quality Assurance Procedures (Paragraph 21.07)

Provide information on procedures which ensure that S&E reports of a quality standard in accordance with PCT/GL/ISPE are issued. In particular, provide information on:

(a) Activities related to verification, validation and monitoring; as carried out in order to assess compliance of S&E work with PCT/GL/ISPE.

(b) Processes for measuring, recording, monitoring and analysing performance of the QMS to assess its conformity with the requirements of Chapter 21 and, if applicable, any other normative reference for the QMS.

(c) Activities related to verifying the effectiveness of actions taken to deal with deficiencies, including:

(i) those actions taken to eliminate, correct or authorise release of deficient S&E work which does not comply with the quality standards;

(ii) those actions taken to eliminate the causes of deficient S&E work and prevent the deficiencies from recurring.

(d) Activities ensuring the continuous improvement of established processes underpinning the issue of S&E reports.

b) Processes for measuring, recording, monitoring and analyzing performance of the QMS to assess its conformity with the requirements of Chapter 21

Since 2006 the JPO has checked PCT ISRs/IPERs by a third party in the JPO to find deficiencies to be corrected and to prevent them from recurring. Quality evaluation from applicants has also been collected on each sample basis and considered under the quality check procedures.

[End of report]