

## JPO's response to letter C.8787 regarding the Grace Period

Regarding certain aspects of the applicable national or regional patent law, JP would like to point out that the Grace Period in Japan, which was previously 6 months, has been extended to one year.

In line with rapid advances in emerging technologies due to the Fourth Industrial Revolution, joint research projects based on open innovations and industry-academia collaborations are significantly on the rise. As a result, the risk of losing the novelty of inventions has been increased through disclosures of the inventions by persons other than the inventors themselves, which should be reduced by appropriate measures. Also, it is essential for us to provide suitable relief measures for university researchers, individual investors, and SMEs, who are often unfamiliar with the intellectual property system, as a way to protect their inventions and encourage their inventive activities.

To achieve this, JP revised its laws and extended the grace period from 6 months to one year, with the revision coming into effect on June 9 2018.

JP firmly believes that this longer grace period will more appropriately protect inventions and promote innovations in Japan.

In this regard, JP kindly requests the secretariat to revise “6 months” to “one year” on the Report on the International Patent System of “Grace Period” uploaded on the SCP Electronic Forum.

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