

Patent Office Perspectives - JPO's recent AI initiatives

ASEAN IPA Meeting

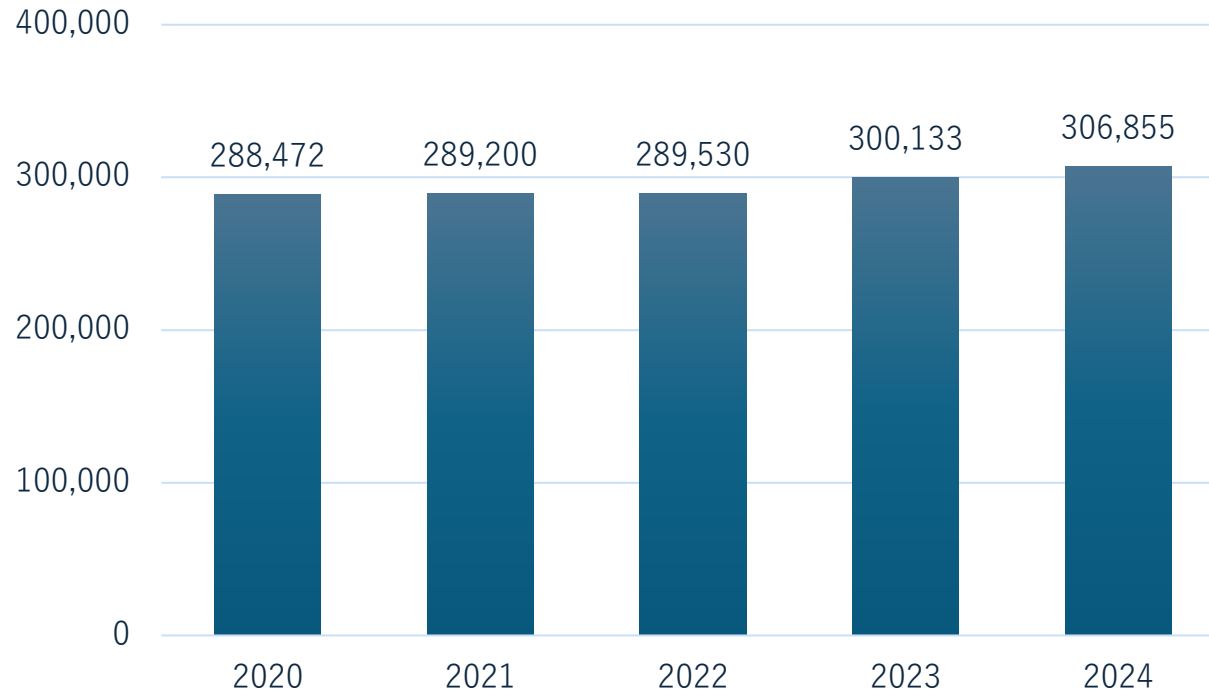
March 28, 2026

Japan Patent Office

Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO)

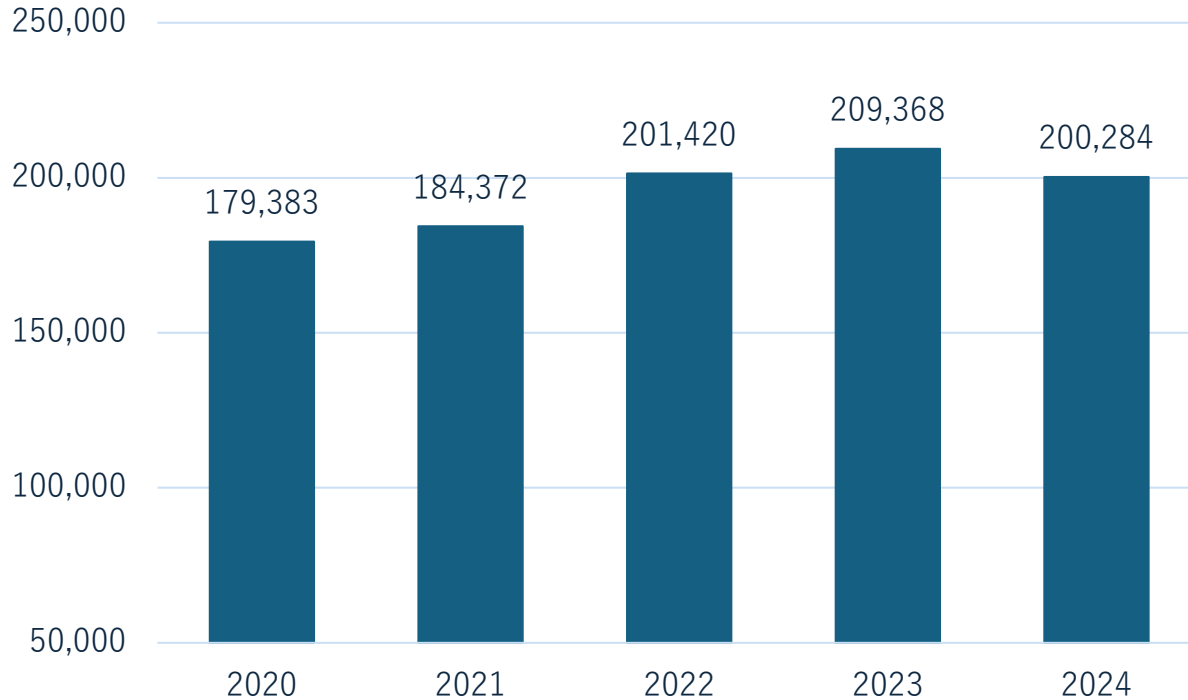
JPO - Number of utility patent applications filed

The number of patent applications has remained stable since 2020

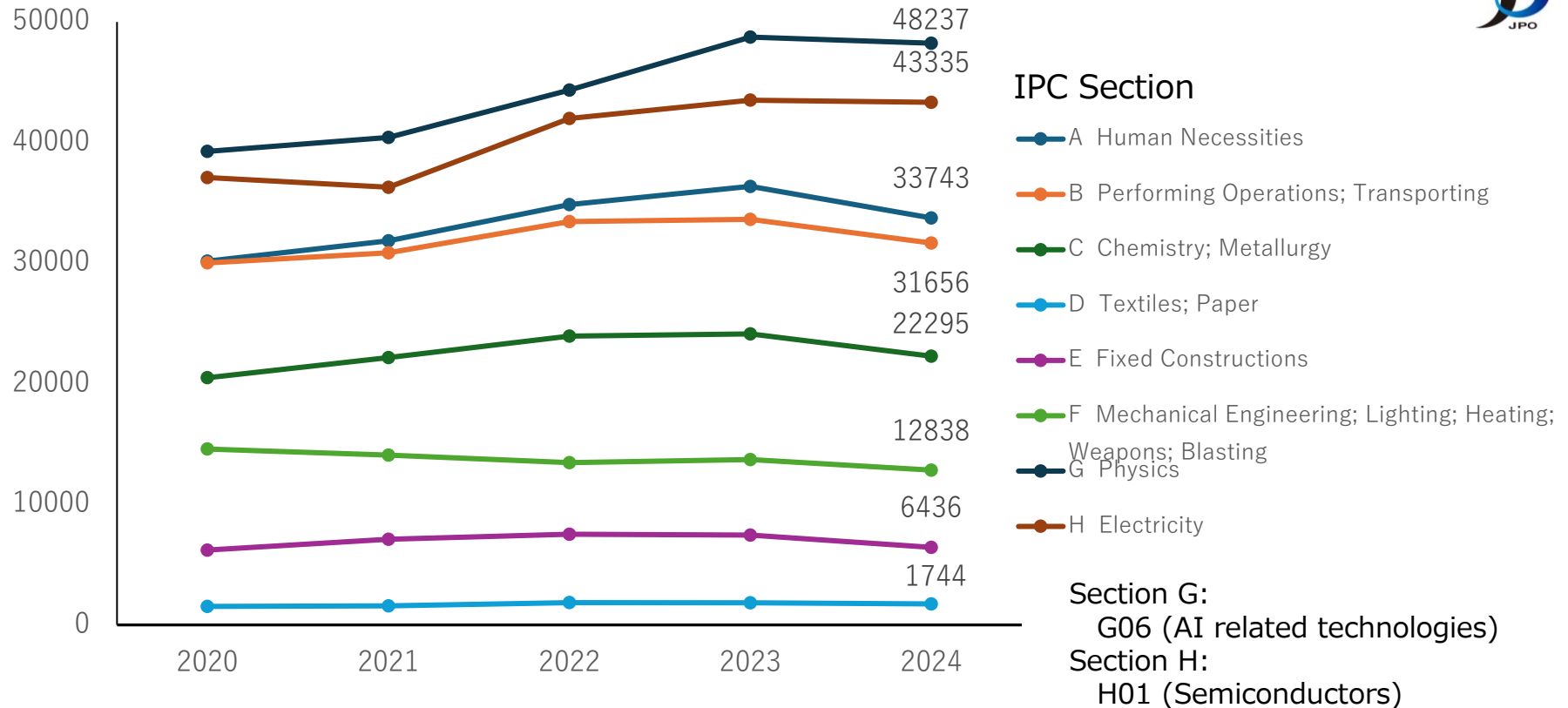


JPO - Number of utility patent applications issued

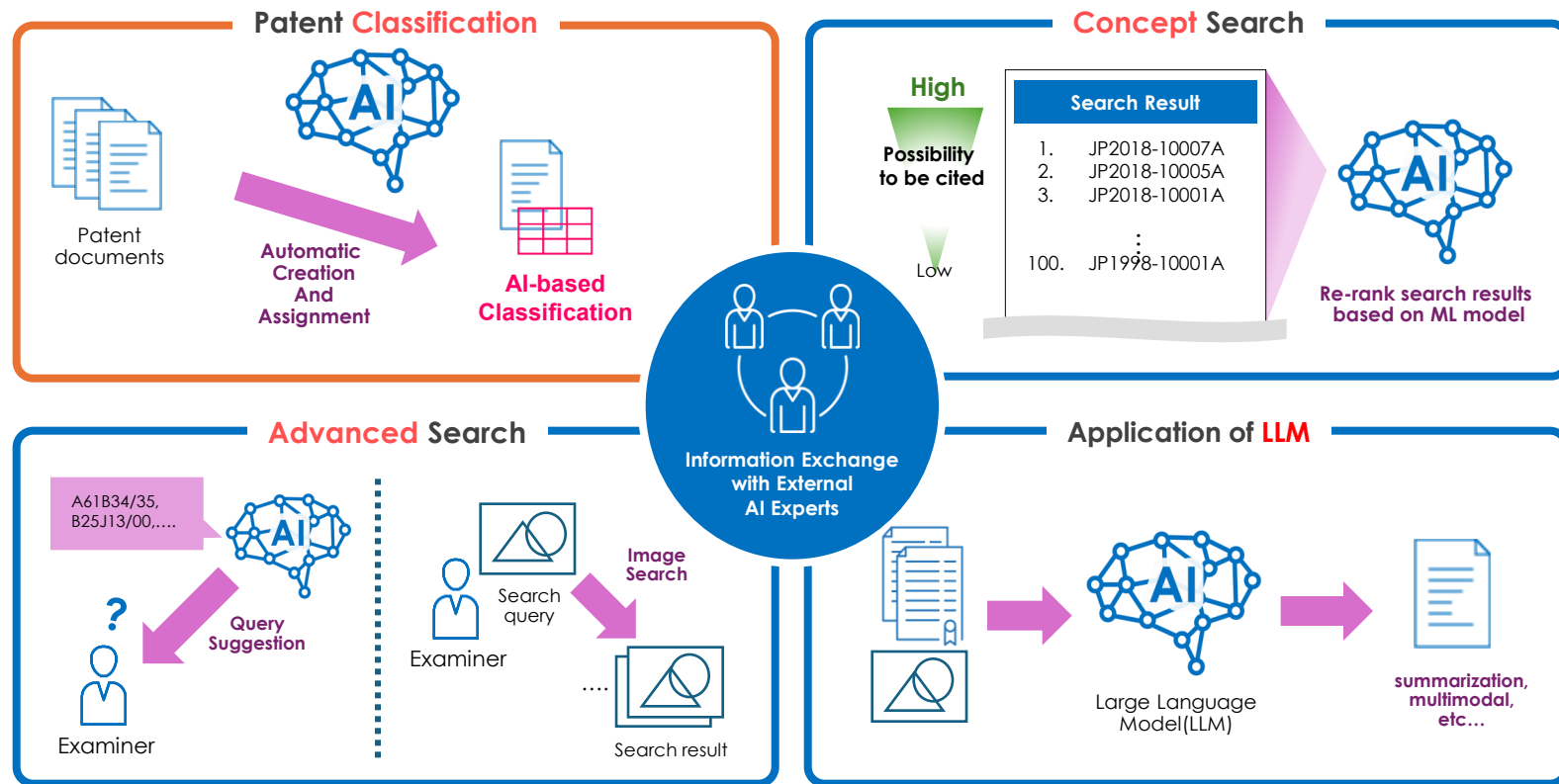
The number of patent registrations is on the rise.



JPO - Patents issued by industry

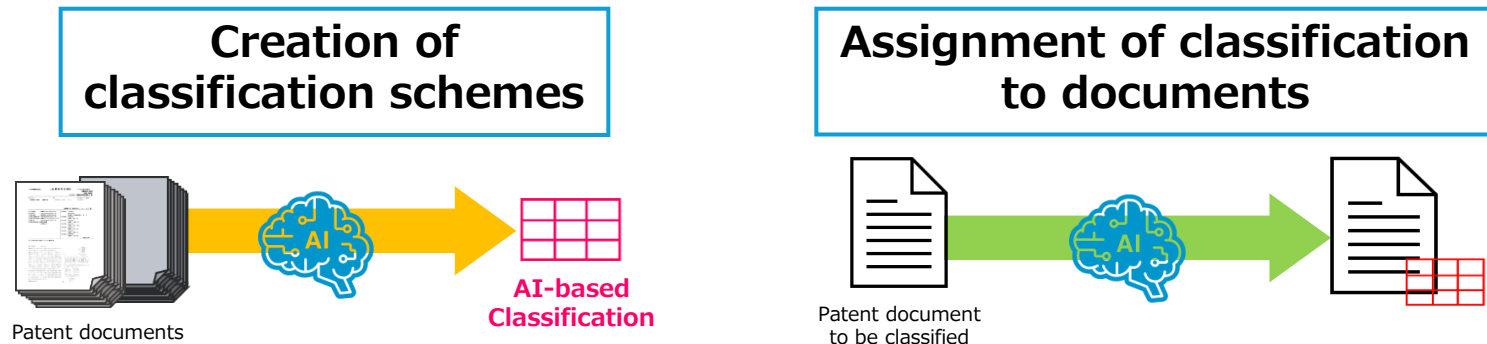


In-house development of a patent examination support system using AI



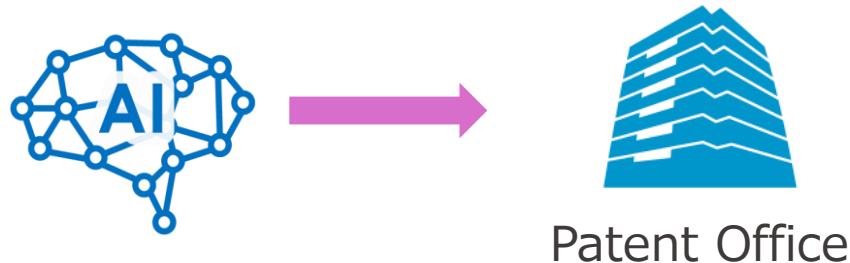
Automatically creatable and assignable classification

Complete automation of all classification-related tasks through AI

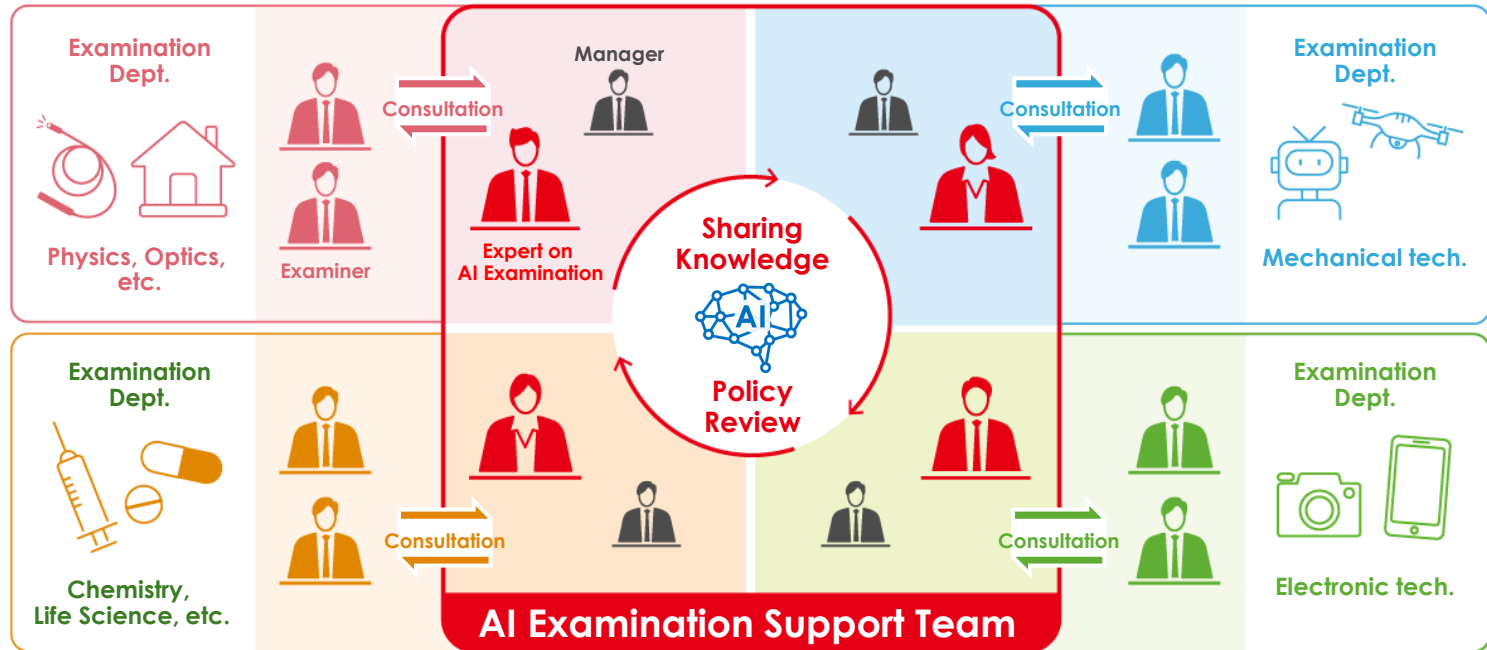


- **Lower human, time, and financial costs** for manual classification
- **Reduced variability** in manual classification
- **Easy adaptation** to new technology trends
- Support for examiners in **tracking technology trends**

- Most AI technologies continue to evolve with the intention of general-purpose applications.
- **In specialized fields such as patent examination, however, trial and error is necessary** for practical implementation.
- Depending on the tasks, there may be AI technologies in the future that can achieve sufficient performance without the need for trial and error. Nevertheless, **JPO will continue to engage in discussions with various stakeholders, and advance our considerations** toward the practical application of AI technologies in the operations of the Patent Office.



AI Examination Support Team

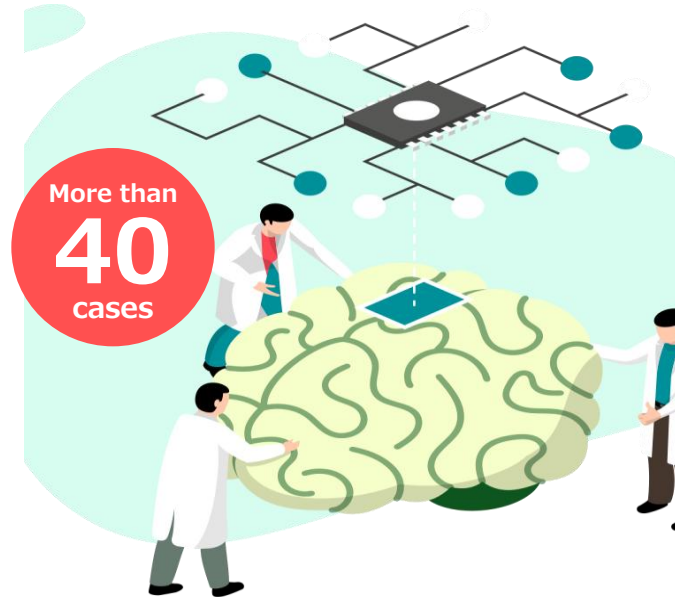


- ◆ On October 1, 2023, **JPO increased the number of experts on AI examination from 13 to 39**, and assigned at least one expert on AI examination to all examination offices.
- ◆ On April 1, 2024, **JPO established a new position for external experts called AI advisors** who provide support (e.g., technological training and responses to inquiries) to patent examiners, including experts on AI examination, in accessing expert knowledge on AI-related technology.

Patent Examination Case Examples on AI and IoT-related inventions



The first publication in the world



Clear understanding of examination practices

Patent eligibility, Inventive step,
Description requirements...



- ◆ Patent Examination Case Examples
pertinent to **AI**-related technologies

https://www.jpo.go.jp/e/system/laws/rule/guideline/patent/ai_jirei_e.html

- ◆ Examination Guidelines
pertinent to **IoT**-related technologies

https://www.jpo.go.jp/e/system/laws/rule/guideline/patent/iot_shinsa.html

※These case examples are hypothetical.

JPO - Research on how creations using AI should be protected under patent law

Survey Item:

The latest AI technology level and the status of AI utilization in the invention creation process based on discussions in the committee

Summary of the Research Findings:

Issues on the protection of inventions utilizing AI can be categorized into two types: cases where existing issues are intensified regardless of whether AI is utilized (such as determination of description requirements, novelty and inventive step), and cases where unique issues arise specifically related to AI (such as patent eligibility and inventorship).

This report was published in 2025.

https://www.jpo.go.jp/e/system/laws/rule/guideline/patent/document/ai_jirei_e/r6fy_ai_report_en.pdf

JPO - ASEAN-Japan Heads of IP Offices Meeting

- The ASEAN–Japan Heads of IP Offices Meeting has been held annually since 2012, and the ASEAN–Japan Intellectual Property Action Plan for each fiscal year has been formulated at this meeting.

Outline of the FY2025 Japan-ASEAN IP Rights Action Plan

- Supporting the accession of ASEAN Member States to the international application systems (Madrid Protocol/Hague Agreement), as well as its operation
- Promoting cooperation in human resource development and management of examination practices



The 15th Japan-ASEAN Heads of IP Offices Meeting in 2025 (Ayutthaya)

JPO - Efforts to Expand the Reach of the IP Ecosystem



1. Cooperation Statement in the field of support for SMEs, Start-ups and Entrepreneurs
2. IPAS: IP Acceleration program for Startups
3. Dispatching IP experts to venture capital (VC-IPAS)
4. Push-type Assistance Service for Startups (PASS)