

Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

**Project for Strengthening capacity
in industrial property examination in
IP Viet Nam**

Project Completion Report

March 2023

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

Economic Development Department

ED
JR
24-042

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I. Basic Information of the Project

1. Country:

Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

2. Title of the Project:

Strengthening capacity in industrial property examination in IP Viet Nam¹

3. Duration of the Project (Planned and Actual) :

March 31, 2021 - March 30, 2023

4. Background (from Record of Discussions(R/D)) :

In response to the official request of the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to the Government of Japan, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (hereinafter referred to as “JICA”) held a series of discussions with the Intellectual Property Office of Viet Nam (hereinafter referred to as “the Counterpart”) and relevant organizations to develop a detailed plan of the Project for Strengthening Capacity in Industrial Property Examination in IP Viet Nam (hereinafter referred to as “the Project”).

The purpose of this Record of Discussion (hereinafter referred to as “the R/D”) is to establish a mutual agreement by both parties on the detailed plan of the Project as described in the following and the Annexes, which will be implemented within the framework of the Agreement on Technical Cooperation signed on 20 October 1998 (hereinafter referred to as “the Agreement”) and the Note Verbales exchanged on 23 September 2020 between the Government of Japan and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

The Counterpart will be responsible for the implementation of the Project in cooperation with JICA as stipulated in Section 3 of the “Basic Principles for Technical Cooperation” published in December 2016 (hereinafter referred to as “the BP”) and other relevant organizations and ensure that the self-reliant operation of the Project is sustained during and after the implementation period in order to contribute toward social and economic development of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

¹ <https://www.jica.go.jp/project/english/vietnam/059/index.html>
<https://www.jica.go.jp/project/vietnam/059/index.html>

Both parties also agreed that the Project will be implemented in accordance with the BP except for the sections thereof indicated in Annex 1 (Item 4. The Irrelevant Parts of the BP), unless other arrangements are agreed in the R/D. The R/D is delivered at Ha Noi as of the day and year first above written. The R/D may be amended by a minutes of meeting between both parties, except the plan of operation to be modified in monitoring sheets. The minutes of meeting will be signed by authorized persons of each side who may be different from the signers of the R/D.

5. Overall Goal and Project Purpose (from Record of Discussions(R/D))

5-1. Expected Goals which will be attained after implementing the proposed plan

To establish stable and reliable operation of patent examination.

5-2. Project Purposes

To improve transparency, predictability, consistency and accuracy of patent examination practices and operations by IP Viet Nam.

6. Implementing Agency :

Intellectual Property Office of Viet Nam

II. Results of the Project

1. Results of the Project

1-1. Input by the Japanese side (Planned and Actual) :

The Japanese long-term experts have completed 24MM (originally planned 24MM) by the end of this reporting period.)

(1) Amount of input by the Japanese side 30.146 (million Japanese Yen)
(As of 23/3,2023)

(2) Expert dispatch:

1 Person (Dispatched long-term experts)

JICA experts below have been assigned to the project.

In Charge	Activities	Periods
Long-term Expert /To establish the stable and reliable operation of patent examination.	Revised Examination Guidelines for Patent, Developed Patent Examination Quality Management Documents, Improved skills and competency of patent examiners)	From Mar.31 st 2021 to Mar.30 th 2023

(3) Overseas activities cost: 12.252 (million Japanese Yen) (2,141.958 million VND: 90,607USD) (Mention the contents of major inputs.)

1-2. Input by the Vietnamese side (Planned and Actual) :

(1) Counterpart assignment: A total of 25 persons

The assignment of C/P has been assigned to the project as follows.

In Charge	Position	number
Management Board	PJ - Director	1
	Deputy Director General of IP Viet Nam Mr. Phan Ngan Son (From Mar. 30 th , 2021 - To Apr.30 th , 2022) Mr. Tran Le Hong	3

	<p>(From May.1st ,2022 - To Mar.30th, 2023)</p> <p>PJ • Manager International Cooperation Division (ICD) Mr. Nguyen Duc Dung (Director)</p> <p>PJ • Deputy Manager Ms. Nguyen Thi Thu Giang (Deputy Director)</p> <p>PJ • Secretary Ms. Tran Minh Hang (Official)</p>	
<p>Working Members Output 1: Revise Examination Guidelines for Patent</p>	<p>Patent Examination Center (PEC) Mr. Phan Thanh Hai (Director) Ms. Le Thi Kim Anh (Head of Biology - Agriculture Division) Mr. Nguyen Doan Duc (Deputy Head (in charge) of Electronics - Telecommunication) Mr. Nguyen Van Vinh (Patent Examiner) Ms. Dang Thị Thu Phuong (Patent Examiner) Ms. Le Thuy Ngan (Patent Examiner)</p> <p>Legislation and Policy Division Ms. Vu Thị Thao (Official)</p> <p>International Cooperation Division Ms. Tran Minh Hang (Official)</p>	8
<p>Working Members Output 2: Developed Patent Examination Quality Management Documents</p>	<p>Patent Examination Center (PEC) Ms. Tran Thu Ha (Deputy Director) Mr. Hoang Minh Thanh (Head of Construction and Transport Division) Mr. Luong Hong Quy (Patent Examiner) Mr. Trịnh Ngọc Long (Patent Examiner) Ms. Nguyen Trung My (Patent Examiner) Mr. Le Anh Thang (Patent Examiner)</p> <p>General Administration Office Mr. Tran Van Hiep (Chief) Ms. Phan Thuy Linh (Official)</p> <p>International Cooperation Division Ms. Tran Minh Hang (Official)</p>	9
<p>Working Members</p>	<p>Intellectual Property Training and</p>	4

<p>Output 3: Improved skills and competency of patent examiners</p>	<p>Consultation Center (IPTC) Ms. Nguyen Thi Hoang Hanh (Director) Ms. Hoang Mai Chi (Official) Patent Examination Center (PEC) Mr. Phan Thanh Hai (Director) International Cooperation Division Ms. Tran Minh Hang (Official)</p>	
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(2) Provision of offices

IP Viet Nam provided necessary facilities such as Office Space, an electricity connection, furniture, and Internet lines in the office space.

(3) Other items borne by the counterpart government:

Available data and information:

Available data and information related/impactful to the Project.

Local cost:

The Intellectual Property Office of Viet Nam provided the following local costs associated with the project.

(3-1) Remuneration, overtime payment (if any), and other expenses off all Counterpart-related personnel(s).

(3-2) Other recurrent expenditures.

1-3. Activities (Planned and Actual) :

Detailed information including a comparison between planned activities and actual activities are described in Annex 1-1.

2. Achievements of the Project :

2-1 Outputs and indicators

(Target values and actual values achieved at completion)

(1) Output 1 : Revised Examination Guidelines for Patent

Objectively Verifiable Indicators:

The examination guideline is revised to comply with existing legislation and include emerging technologies (AI, IoT, Software); the English version is translated and published.

Achievements: [High (more than 80%)]

Regarding the Patent Examination Guidelines (CII: computer-implemented inventions), we developed the part concerning the Patent Eligibility, Written Description, novelty, and inventive step, which is the essential part of the patent requirement as an Annex (I and II).

Note: The guidelines were also published on IP Viet Nam's website². This corresponds to the indicator set as Output 1.

<Activities to achieve the goal>

2.1.1 Briefing on JPO's Patent and Utility Model Examination Standards (CS) WS. (28/7,2021: Online, about 30 participants)

2.1.2 Discussion of draft patent examination guidelines, including JPO examiners.

2.1.3 Introduction of the JPO Manga examination standards, development, and publication of the Vietnamese version on the JICA website³ (21/2,2022).

2.1.4 Comments on the Draft Patent Examining Guidelines.

2.1.5 Organized a workshop for the revision of the Patent Examination Guidelines. (18/12,2021: Type of Hybrid, about 50 participants.)

2.1.6 Patent examination guidelines for CS-related inventions (Subject matter eligibility Part: Annex I) were completed⁴ (31/12,2021).

2.1.7 Discussion of draft patent examination guidelines (Written description Part).

² <https://ipvietnam.gov.vn/documents/20182/856300/PHU+LUC+I+QUY+CHE.pdf/63955d4e-f820-46c9-891a-f2476b72ac5b>

https://ipvietnam.gov.vn/en_US/web/english/announcement/-/asset_publisher/ZMuTgR44COLR/content/guidelines-for-determining-the-eligibility-for-patent-protection-of-claimed-subject-matter-of-computer-program-related-inventions

³ <https://www.jica.go.jp/project/english/vietnam/059/materials/index.html>

<https://www.jica.go.jp/project/vietnam/059/materials/index.html>

⁴ <https://ipvietnam.gov.vn/documents/20182/856300/PHU+LUC+I+QUY+CHE.pdf/63955d4e-f820-46c9-891a-f2476b72ac5b>

2.1.8 Seminar on Revision of Vietnamese Intellectual Property Law⁵ (Viet Nam Intellectual Property Research Institute (VIPRI) and JETRO Bangkok Intellectual Property Department jointly held) (30/9,2022)

2.1.9 Development of the Vietnamese version of the JPO Manga Examination Guidelines (Inventive Step Annex) and publication on the JICA website⁶ (Japanese and English versions). (25/10,2022).

2.1.10 Discussion of draft patent examination guidelines (Novelty/Inventive Step Part), Including provision of Vietnamese translations of related materials.

2.1.11 English translation of the Patent Examination Guidelines (Annex I) for CS-related inventions (Subject matter eligibility Part) and posting of the Guidelines on the website⁷ (10/3,2023).

2.1.12 Organized a workshop for the revision of the Patent Examination Guidelines. (4/2,2023: Type of Hybrid, about 50 participants.)

2.1.13 Patent examination guidelines for CS-related inventions (Written description and Novelty/Inventive Step Part : Annex II) were completed and posting of the Guidelines on the website⁸ (10/3,2023, 3/4,2023).

2.1.14 English translation of the Patent Examination Guidelines (Annex II) for CS-related inventions (Written description and Novelty/Inventive Step Part).

Based on the above, the achievement status of Output 1 was judged as "High".

(2) Output 2 : Developed Patent Examination Quality Management Documents such as check-flow, check points, and common mistake

⁵ <https://www.jica.go.jp/project/vietnam/059/news/20220930.html>
<http://vipri.gov.vn/tin-tuc/shtt-trong-nuoc/toa-dam-trao-doi-thong-tin-ve-luat-so-huu-tri-tue-sua-doi-bo-sung-nam-2022-43908>

⁶ <https://www.jica.go.jp/project/vietnam/059/materials/index.html>
<https://www.jica.go.jp/project/english/vietnam/059/materials/index.html>

⁷ https://ipvietnam.gov.vn/en_US/web/english/announcement/-/asset_publisher/ZMuTgR44COLR/content/guidelines-for-determining-the-eligibility-for-patent-protection-of-claimed-subject-matter-of-computer-program-related-inventions

⁸ <https://ipvietnam.gov.vn/documents/20195/1473438/20230405112446119.pdf/70d00c6f-8078-4f56-9825-07ed4a827691>

case compilation, etc.

Objectively Verifiable Indicators:

The flow of application documents for patent examination is organized, and the Patent Examination Management Documents are developed and implemented with some pilot activities by the relevant departments.

Achievements: [High (more than 80%)]

Developed Patent Examination Quality Management Documents (The Quality Control Manual and Quality Audit Guidelines (including audit sheets)) were developed as the cornerstone for implementing IP Viet Nam's quality control system toward patent examination, and the Quality Control Pilot Program was implemented (Phase 1 in September 2022, Phase 2 in October 2022). Additionally, online meetings were held to discuss the quality management documents with JPO quality control management Office (Total 2 times: 10/27/2021, 9/11/2022: Online⁹)

Note: All quality control documents developed are recorded as IP Viet Nam internal documents, and such record keeping corresponds to the indicator set as Output 2.

<Activities to achieve the goal>

2.2.1 Briefing on the JPO Quality Management System (14/7,2021: face-to-face)

2.2.2 Survey on the Current Status of the IP Viet Nam Quality Management System

2.2.3 Holding a meeting to exchange opinions on quality control, including the JPO Quality Control Management Office (12/8: Online)

2.2.4 Developing an outline for a quality control manual.

2.2.5 Holding a meeting to exchange opinions on the quality control manual outline, including JPO quality control management Office (27/10,2021: Online)

⁹<https://www.jica.go.jp/project/english/vietnam/059/news/general/221109.html>
<https://www.jica.go.jp/project/vietnam/059/news/20221109.html>

2.2.6 Developing a quality control manual draft was completed (13/1,2022)

2.2.7 Comments on the draft of the Quality Control Manual

2.2.8 Development of quality audit guidelines (Quality control audit sheets)

2.2.9 Comments on the draft of the Quality Control audit sheets

2.2.10 Discussion and preparation for the implementation of a quality control pilot program

2.2.11 Implement quality control pilot program (Phase 1 in September 2022, Phase 2 in October 2022)

2.2.12 Holding a meeting to exchange opinions on the quality control manual outline, including JPO quality control management Office¹⁰ (9/11,2022: Online)

2.2.13 Discussion of modifications to quality control documentation

2.2.14 Completion of quality control documents (Quality control manual, Quality audit guidelines) (23/2,2023)

2.2.15 English translation of Quality control documents (Quality control manuals and Quality audit guidelines) (9/3,2023)

Based on the above, the achievement status of Output 2 was judged as "High".

(3) Output 3: Improved skills and competency of patent examiners

Objectively Verifiable Indicators:

- Seminars for patent examiners of IP Viet Nam will be held 3 times.
- At least 60 patent examiners are trained.

¹⁰ <https://www.jica.go.jp/project/english/vietnam/059/news/general/221109.html>
<https://www.jica.go.jp/project/vietnam/059/news/20221109.html>

Achievements: [High (more than 80%)]

The five seminars/WS were held to improve the skills and competency of patent examiner.

Note: All the contents of the seminars/WS mentioned above (materials, recorded data, etc.) are provided to and recorded in IP Viet Nam, and this corresponds to the indicator set as Output 3.

<Activities to achieve the goal>

2.3.1 Holding of JPO Patent/Utility Model Examination Guidelines Briefing Session WS. (8/7,2021: about 30 participants)

2.3.2 Organizing Examiner's Seminar WS on emerging technologies (AI technologies): including technical seminars by AI researchers and OJT training¹¹. (November: 17,19,24,26,30/11,2021; 5 days, 22 participants)

2.3.3 Organized Examiner's Seminar WS on advanced technologies¹² (pharmaceuticals): (including on-the-job training; March: 14,16,18,22,24/3,2022; 5 days,16 participants)

2.3.4 Organized Examiner's Seminar WS on advanced technologies¹³ (telecommunications, pharmaceuticals, and biotechnology): (including on-the-job training; July: 11,12,14,15,20,21/7,2022; 6 days,23 participants)

2.3.5 Organized Examiner's Seminar WS on newcomers¹⁴ :(December: 1,2,5,6,12,13,15,16/12,2022; 9 days, 99 external participants applied, 42 participated)

Based on the above, the achievement status of Output 3 was judged as "High".

¹¹ <https://www.jpo.go.jp/e/news/ugoki/202112/2021120301.html>

<https://www.jpo.go.jp/news/ugoki/202112/2021120301.html>

¹² <https://www.jica.go.jp/project/vietnam/059/news/20220407.html>

<https://www.jica.go.jp/project/english/vietnam/059/news/general/220407.html>

¹³ <https://www.jica.go.jp/project/vietnam/059/news/20220721.html>

<https://www.jica.go.jp/project/english/vietnam/059/news/general/220721.html>

¹⁴ <https://www.jpo.go.jp/e/news/ugoki/202301/2023010602.html>

2-2 Project Purpose and indicators

(Target values and actual values achieved at completion)

Project Purpose:

To improve transparency, predictability, consistency and accuracy of patent examination practices and operations by IP Viet Nam.

Objectively Verifiable Indicators:

The patent examiners' confidence on patent examination operation is improved.

Achievements: [High (more than 80%)]

To improve transparency, predictability, consistency, and accuracy of patent examination practices and operations by IP Viet Nam.)

Questionnaires were sent to IP Viet Nam trainees, and questionnaires and interviews were conducted with stakeholders in Viet Nam to verify the achievement of the goals. For more information, see the results of the Vietnam's IP survey attached as ANNEX 1-2.

At first, after the Output 3 seminars held in this Project, JICA conducted a satisfaction questionnaire. As a result, most of the participants answered that the seminar was very meaningful from the viewpoint of improving their patent examination skills.

Next, the survey on Output 1 and 2 was conducted among stakeholders as an indicator to evaluate the project goals (From December to February).

The survey results related to the project goals were generally as follows. Regarding Output 1, 55.8% of the respondents answered that they were "very satisfied" or "satisfied" and 26.5% of it done that they were "Normal" with Annex I of the Patent Guidelines (signed and effective December 31, 2021).

In other words, in more than 80% of the responses, no problems were verified.

It was commented that currently, most examinations in implementing agencies are made by referring to the results of examinations in foreign offices, but it is not clear which foreign office's guidelines are used by each examiner to make decisions on patentability.

Hence, it was commented that the guidelines provided criteria for determining patent examination with respect to emerging technology have improved the transparency, predictability, consistency, and accuracy of patent examinations.

Regarding Output 2, for example, 41.1% of the respondents answered, "very

satisfied" or "satisfied" for "satisfaction with the explanation of reasons for refusal," and 19.4% answered "satisfied" (the rest were "normal" or below) for "satisfaction with the level of agreement and consistency of each examiner's conclusions.

In particular, the results of the latter questionnaire revealed that there is a swing in judgment among examiners. The survey results reflect the fact that a quality management system has not yet been implemented in IP Vietnam.

However, JICA can expect transparency, predictability, consistency, and accuracy in patent examination in the future through quality control using the quality control documents developed in this project. From these perspectives, it can be verified that the project goals were generally achieved.

3. History of PDM Modification

There is no record of modification of monitoring sheets and PDMs.

III. Results of Joint Review

Results of Review based on DAC Evaluation Criteria

1.Considerations from the perspective of DAC5 item evaluation

(1) Relevance

Vietnam established its Intellectual Property Law in November 2005, joined the WTO in January 2007, and has made intellectual property protection a priority item in the Japan-Vietnam Joint Initiative and the Japan-Vietnam EPA.

Recently, a national IP strategy was formulated in August 2019, and in November 2020, a Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement was agreed upon, which entered into force in January 2022.

This agreement contains several commitments on IP that are at a higher level than the World Trade Organization's TRIPS Agreement.

Furthermore, Vietnam ratified the CPTPP in 2018 and the EVFTA in 2020. The IP Law was amended two times accordingly, and the national assembly passed the amended IP Law in June 2022, following amendments in 2019. The IP law went into effect in January 2023. Furthermore, the country is making progress in the development of its IP system, as evidenced by the fact that intellectual property law is currently being amended in the areas of patents, trademarks, and designs. On the other hand, the development and strengthening of the patent examination system is an urgent issue in the country. Without shortening the period for setting up intellectual property rights and setting up high-quality rights, it is difficult for companies entering Vietnam to formulate business strategies.

To address these issues, the project aimed to strengthen IP Vietnam's capacity to examine industrial property rights under the Vietnam Intellectual Property Law. As the number of patent applications originating from Vietnam is expected to increase in the future, to properly protect the rights of these inventions, it is desirable to shorten the time required for the granting of patent rights, as well as to improve the capacity of examination practices and to implement user-friendly measures.

Specifically, by revising the patent examination guidelines and sharing knowledge among patent examiners, the consistency in the quality of examinations will be reduced, and by increasing convenience for overseas users through the formulation and publication of an English version of the patent examination guidelines, it is expected that the number of patent applications from Vietnam and

overseas will further increase and investment in Vietnam will expand. Because of the perspectives described above, the implementation of this project was appropriate.

(2) Coherence

The Japanese government (the Patent Office under the Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry (METI)) has been cooperating in developing IP infrastructure and providing training since the 1990s.

By referring to these cooperation's know-how, this project has been able to achieve higher quality cooperation, including advice on quality control and the organization of tailor-made seminars in the field of patent to serve the local needs. For this project, JICA collaborated with other Vietnamese government agencies such as the Institute of Intellectual Property Research (VIPRI¹⁵) and Japan's JETRO (Bangkok, Hanoi, and Ho Chi Minh City) to organize the seminar¹⁶ regarding the amended IP Law. JICA Project agrees with these organizations in terms of their efforts regarding IP education and promotion in Vietnam.

In cooperation with ERIA¹⁷ (Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia), an international organization, a survey on the status of IP Viet Nam examination guidelines for emerging technologies (AI, IoT) was conducted (February 2, 2022). This is under the Activity related to Output 1 of this project. Furthermore, through the Vietnam WG and Thailand WG of the Southeast Asian Intellectual Property Network (SEAIPJ¹⁸), the Japan Intellectual Property Association (JIPA¹⁹), and other organizations, we have worked to understand the needs of Japanese companies and reflect them in the activities of this project.

In addition, JICA held a practitioner dialogue²⁰ with IP Viet Nam in cooperation with JETRO Bangkok Office and discussed with the Vietnamese government the requests of Japanese companies regarding the amendment of the IP Law. (March 23, 2021)

JICA held a practitioner dialogue with IP Viet Nam in cooperation with JETRO

¹⁵<http://vipri.gov.vn/>
<http://vipri.gov.vn/tin-tuc/shtt-trong-nuoc/cuoc-hop-cap-cao-giua-trung-tam-quoc-gia-ve-dao-tao-va-thong-tin-so-huu-cong-nghiep-nhat-ban-inpit-va-vien-khoa-hoc-so-huu-tri-43890>

¹⁶<http://vipri.gov.vn/tin-tuc/shtt-trong-nuoc/toa-dam-trao-doi-thong-tin-ve-luat-so-huu-tri-tue-sua-doi-bo-sung-nam-2022-43908>

¹⁷<https://www.eria.org/>

¹⁸<https://www.jetro.go.jp/world/asia/asean/ip/seaipj/>

¹⁹<http://www.jipa.or.jp/english/index.html>

²⁰https://www.jpo.go.jp/news/kokusai/nichiasean/jitsumu_vietnam.html

Bangkok Office and discussed with the Vietnamese government the requests of the said JIPA regarding the amendment of the IP Law. (February 9, 2023)

(3) Effectiveness

As for the degree of achievement of the project goals, as explained in Section II.3. above, the results of each activity led to the manifestation of effects.

The project goal, " To improve transparency, predictability, consistency and accuracy of patent examination practices and operations by IP Viet Nam," was almost achieved.

As for Output 1, the examination guidelines for advanced technologies (Versions 1 and 2) were developed and published. This contributes to the project goals.

As for Output 2, quality control documents (quality control manual and quality audit guidelines) were developed. This contributes to the project objectives.

As for Output 3, several examiner seminars were organized and provided. This contributes to the project objectives.

Based on the results of the questionnaire survey described in 4. above, it can be said that the project goals for Outputs 1 and 2 were generally achieved. The results of the post-implementation questionnaire for Output 3 also indicate a high level of attendance satisfaction.

(4) Efficiency

(4-1) Project Cost

As for Project Cost on the Japanese side, JICA could execute the budget within the planned amount as indicated in II.1. above.

However, the Cost was executed at a lower amount than originally planned. One of the main reasons for this is the limitation of activities due to COVID-19. During the first year, the physical holding of WS events and other events was restricted, and business trips could not be conducted.

(4-2) Project Period

The project was implemented within the planned period (March 31, 2021, to March 30, 2023).

(4-3) Causal Relationship

Since the activities to produce results were generally implemented, it can be said that inputs were generally of appropriate quantity and quality. There were no

problems with the timing of the inputs.

However, the impact of COVID-19 in the first year cannot be denied.

At least another half-year extension was desired to hold further in-person workshops, develop examination guidelines, and implement other fruitful activities.

(5) Impact

If the project goals are achieved, they will naturally contribute to the overall goal. Achieving the overall goal will make it easier for companies entering Vietnam to formulate their business strategies. It will also attract more investment from abroad, which will lead to economic growth for the country Vietnam.

From this perspective, the impact of the project is expected to be significant.

The details of the prospects to achieve the Overall Goal are explained in IV.1.

(6) Sustainability

As the number of examiners in the implementing organization is not large, so the burden to examine is heavy. To improve organizational sustainability, the following measures can be considered in the future: building a more efficient work system for examiners, increasing manpower by hiring new examiners, and outsourcing search service to support the examination.

In this regard, the implementing agency hired a large number of new examiners (8) for the first time in 3 years this year. It is expected that their examination skills will improve in the future. In this project, a seminar was also provided to such newcomers in December 2022 as part of the examiner's education. It seems to be important to hand down this acquired knowledge to future recruits.

As an Output 3 activity, the project worked with a government agency (VIPRI) to provide training to external participants, and improve IP knowledge in Vietnam as a whole. Such activities should be continued in the future.

We believe that improving IP education not only for patent examiners but also for companies and agents who are applicants will reduce the examination workload and contribute to faster and higher-quality examinations.

2. Key Factors Affecting Implementation and Outcomes

First, the following risks existed in the early stages of project implementation.

Although the project was scheduled to start on March 31st, 2021, the kick-off

meeting²¹ was held on May 4th, 2021, May due to the quarantine period (one month) upon the immigration of the long-term expert. Subsequent restrictions on attendance due to COVID-19 and social distancing measures in the country also delayed the start of full-scale project activities.

However, through online and SNS (Social Networking system (Viber)) communication, as well as regular project meetings and email-based communication since the fall, we have been able to obtain results for each output, bringing us closer to achieving our project goals. JICA worked on this project, considering the risk management of COVID-19 and reviewing the schedule promptly. In summary, the risk response status in the early stages of the project is as follows.

Risk events	Preventive measure	Implementation or not	Result
Quarantined after immigration due to COVID-19	Preparing to Start the Project Online	Yes	Preparation of activities such as hiring assistants through online
Social distancing for COVID-19, restrictions on attendance at implementing agencies	Mutual communication with counterparts via email and social networking system	Yes	Implementing project activities through telework
Restrictions on face-to-face meetings due to COVID-19	Utilizing online systems	Yes	Organizing online meetings

Next, the actual risks and risks predicted at the time the monitoring sheet was compiled (April 2022), as well as the planned responses and actions taken, were as follows.

²¹ http://ipvietnam.gov.vn/vi_VN/web/guest/tin-tuc-su-kien/-/asset_publisher/7xsjBfqhCDAV/content/cuc-so-huu-tri-tue-chinh-thuc-trien-khai-du-an-nang-cao-nang-luc-tham-inh-on-sang-che-do-jica-tai-tro

Risk events	Preventive measure	Implementation or not	Result
Decreased communication with project members due to restricted office attendance	Communication system via SNS or E-mail	Yes	Reducing the risk of poor information sharing
COVID-19 Restrictions on Face-to-Face Meetings	Utilizing online systems	Yes	Organizing Online Meetings via an online conference system
Restrictions on holding face-to-face WS by COVID-19	Utilizing online systems	Yes	Organizing WS via an online conference system
Injury (fracture of the foot)	Communication system via SNS or E-mail Utilizing online systems	yes	Organizing Online Meetings via an online conference system
Affected with COVID-19	Communication system via SNS or E-mail Utilizing online systems	yes	Organizing Online Meetings via an online conference system

3. Evaluation of the results of the Project Risk Management

(1) Risk management results

(1-1) Progress of Actions undertaken by JICA

By holding some of the seminars/WS online, the impact of COVID-19 was minimized, and the project activities were implemented. The workshop on Output1 (18/12,2021) was held online. During the recuperation period for illness or injury, close communication via e-mail or SNS was implemented, and an online conferencing system was utilized to minimize the impact.

(1-2) Progress of Actions undertaken by the Government of Vietnam

PJ/Manager (Managing board) set up an SNS group to provide a smooth communication environment.

(2) Results of the use of lessons learned

There were no previous cases of COVID-19 risks encountered in this study, and therefore no lessons were learned, so this project had no choice but to try to avoid risks through trial and error on site.

4. Lessons Learnt

COVID-19 has negatively affected the implementation of this project.

In the first year, the number of COVID-19 infected patients in Vietnam exploded. The country was placed on social quarantine (social distancing). As a result, it became difficult to go out freely, making it difficult not only to implement the project but also to make a living in the country.

However, the project was relatively successful in its implementation for the following reasons. Namely, although this project was a technical cooperation type, it was not a physical support but a know-how transfer in the aspect of patent examination practice. Thus, it could be implemented relatively unaffected by the restrictions under COVID-19.

While assistance in the field of intellectual property has been provided three times in the past, this project was the first to assist in patent examination matters.

With this type of international cooperation in the know-how transfer style, it would be possible to assist in the case of a similar pandemic in the future, using, for example, remote technology.

As of 2023, there is still concern about the spread of COVID-19 infection in certain areas of the world (e.g., China). Although it is difficult to build a trusting relationship through online communication, know-how transfer-type support, which is relatively feasible to implement projects even during a pandemic, will contribute to the stable continuation of the projects.

5. Performance

First, after an absence of about three years of international cooperation for this implementing agency, careful case formulation and implementation plans for the resumption of such cooperation was made by JICA (headquarters in charge of

projects and overseas offices) and the JPO of the Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry.

In addition, JICA's overseas offices provided significant assistance in setting up kick-off meetings and hiring project staff at the time of the project's launch.

During the implementation of the project, JICA headquarters kindly monitored the project and provided consultation and cooperation in the implementation of the project, for example, in securing a budget for strengthening overseas activities and preparing consulting contracts.

In addition, JETRO Bangkok Intellectual Property Department and the Japan Patent Office of the Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry, which provide intellectual property support in the ASEAN region, have provided tremendous cooperation in implementing the project, such as information sharing and dispatching personnel.

Furthermore, in the next phase of project planning, JICA's overseas offices provided tremendous advice and support based on their experience.

IP Vietnam provided comfortable facilities. In addition, the project activities were facilitated by the sincere cooperation and proactive activities of the excellent personnel including project management board and WG members.

JICA expert would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to all parties involved for their cooperation in the implementation of this project.

6. Additionality

Perhaps the most valuable element of JICA assistance compared to other countries' assistance is the ability to be stationed within the implementing agency and to hold knee-to-knee discussions with the C/P of the partner country.

JICA experienced that the most important element in implementing this project is to work together as colleagues toward the same goal while cultivating a relationship of trust through the event at times.

JICA expert was repeatedly impressed by the humanity of the agency, which treated me as if I were a family member.

While it is, of course, important to pursue efficiency as digitalization progress, it can be asserted that the first step is to build a strong, trusting atmosphere in a face-to-face setting as the cornerstone of such a process. It is convinced that this close cooperative relationship will continue in the future.

IV. For the Achievement of Overall Goals after the Project Completion

1. Prospects to achieve Overall Goal

The overall goal is expected to be achieved, although it will take more time.

The following, with regard to the overall goal; "To establish the stable and reliable operation of patent examination." will be discussed based on the indicators of the overall goal; "Evaluation of the quality of Patent examination by applicants, right holders, lawyers, etc."

The overall goal was validated based on the means described in the PDM, i.e., " Questionnaire and interviews with applicants, right holders, lawyers, etc."

The questionnaire and interviews were conducted from December 2022 to February 2023. The questionnaire and survey results indicate that "To establish the stable and reliable operation of patent examination" are generally being established through the efforts of our project. In particular, the following common recognition was reached with stakeholders in relation to the overall goals.

Common Recognition 1: Certain satisfaction with respect to the quality of patent examination (substantive aspect)

It is considered that the quality of examination has been improved by the examination guideline (Annex I) developed in this project.

As mentioned in '4.1. Project Purpose', the Examination Guidelines (Annex I) have been evaluated to a certain extent by stakeholders.

Therefore, a certain satisfaction with respect to the quality of patent examination (substantive aspect) has been achieved.

Common Recognition 2: Certain satisfaction with the supplementation and revision of the Patent Examination Guidelines

Annex I was signed and enforced in 2021, Regarding the draft of Annex II, IP Viet Nam had a seminar for local agents to show the direction of IP Viet Nam initiative and is also trying to hear the opinions of local agents. A certain level of satisfaction regarding the supplementation and revision of the examination guidelines has been achieved.

It can be said that the above common understanding is largely achieved by the projects that have been addressed by JICA project so far (in particular, the common understanding that is closely related to Appendix I and II of the Patent-

Examination guidelines). The concrete results of supplementing and revising the examination guidelines are recognized among the local representatives, and the involvement of JICA project in the process is also widely known, and it is presumed that the results lead to the above-mentioned Common Recognitions 1 to 2.

We expect that the above-mentioned Common Recognitions among local representatives will work effectively in a positive direction in order to expand further and develop JICA businesses in the future.

However, the survey also highlighted the following problems in achieving the overall goal. Below, based on the results of the survey of field interviews, we would like to present the issues and give opinions on how to resolve them.

Common Issue 1: Supplement and amendment of subordinate legislation documents

Since the subordinate legislation documents (Government Decree and Ministerial Circular) have not been supplemented or revised according to the revised Intellectual Property Law. It is expected that the subordinate legislation documents will be supplemented and revised as soon as possible.

Common Issue 2: Measures to Improve Examination Capabilities of IP Viet Nam Examiners

There were voices hoping to hold training courses and various seminars for examiners and local representatives in Japan, which were suspended or became online due to the pandemic. Although outside the scope of this project, the following common issues related to trademarks were also recognized through the survey and are noted for future reference.

Common Issue 3: Long trial period

The trials before the IP Viet Nam such as an appeal against the examiner's decision of refusal, cancellation, and invalidation trial require a long trial period (In some cases, it may take 7-8 years) from the filing of a petition to the trial decision, and the timeframe for the trial is unpredictable.

Common Issue 4: Time-taking Trademark Examination Period

For trademarks for which it is not possible to submit the examination results overseas, the search will naturally be conducted by an IP Viet Nam examiner,

who will then determine whether there are grounds for refusal. It is also difficult to predict the registrability of the mark in Vietnam. Therefore, local representatives seem to be concerned about this issue.

Common Issue 5: Trademark Examination Guidelines Unestablished

Although the Trademark Examination Guidelines were previously established and published on the IP Viet Nam website, it has been taken down and has not yet been re-published due to arguments among IP Viet Nam examiners, and therefore the Trademark Examination Guidelines are unclear at present. JICA have heard that the trademark examination guidelines are currently being developed, however, with the trademark examination guidelines not yet finalized, improvement is expected as it will affect Common Issue 2 above.

2. Plan of Operation and Implementation Structure of the IP Viet Nam side to achieve the Overall Goal

Plan of Operation and Implementation Structure of the IP Viet Nam after completion of the project

IP Viet Nam's inputs:

- Continue to use and promote the project's results:

Apply the Guideline that has been developed under the project and keep it up to date with the new decrees and circulars guiding the implementation of the Intellectual Property Law after these legal regulations come into effect.

Continue to improve the patent examination quality management documents, prepare necessary conditions for operating quality management when appropriate.

Continue to train examiners on the use of the patent Guidelines and quality management documents when the latter is finalized.

3. Recommendations for the IP Vietnam side

It is recommended that the examination guidelines be revised from time to time, such as by adding examples, etc., in response to actual practice and in accordance with external opinions.

In addition, as for Annex II of Examination Guideline, it is recommended that IP Vietnam publicizes the project products through its website in English and announcements so that it is widely known within IP Vietnam and to stakeholders inside and outside the country.

It is desirable to revise the quality control document in the same manner. It is also hoped that a quality control system based on the said document will be adopted within IP Vietnam as soon as possible.

Regarding training for examiners, JICA would like to see efforts made to ensure uniformity of determinations by using the examination guidelines that have been developed. Furthermore, we would like to make recommendations regarding the common issues 1 and 2 that we found in the survey described in IV.1. above.

Common Issue 1: Supplement and amendment of subordinate legislation documents

Common Issue 2: Measures to Improve Examination Capabilities of IP Vietnam Examiners

Regarding Common Issue 1, we have heard that the draft is ready, so we hope that the supplement and revision will be formally carried out as soon as possible, and the English version will also be published.

Regarding the Common Issue 2, it is possible to resume the provision of training programs and seminars to improve the skills of not only examiners but also local agents in a face-to-face manner after the end of the pandemic.

Based on the above results, it is considered that JICA should continue to aim to achieve the overall goal through JICA projects and other means. Through these efforts, the overall goal is hoped to be achieved.

4. Monitoring Plan from the end of the Project to Ex-post Evaluation

Vietnam made amendments to its Intellectual Property Law in June 2022. The importance of intellectual property in the country is expected to increase in the future.

The legislation is both large scale and beneficial and is favorable for Japanese companies looking to expand their business into the country. On the other hand, it is also a good factor for Vietnam to attract Japanese investment.

Therefore, after completing this project, it is recommended that JICA (the project responsible department and overseas office) continue to keep in contact with the implementing agencies and related agencies (VIPRI, etc.) to keep a close eye on the IP field and continue cooperation.

Finally, we believe that continued support by JICA will be effective in achieving the overall goals.

In fact, in the survey described in Section IV.1, stakeholders expressed a common

recognition of their willingness to trust and cooperate with JICA's activities. Many local representatives indicated that JICA has invested in a variety of areas in Vietnam for many years, that the intellectual property legislation is not an exception, that they are grateful for such long-term cooperation, and that they are willing to cooperate for further improvement through JICA projects.

ANNEX

ANNEX 1-1~1-2: Results of the Project

(Revision Plan of Operation, Survey in IP Status in Viet Nam)

ANNEX 2: List of Products (Guidelines, Manuals, Handbooks, etc.) Produced by
the Project

ANNEX 3: PDM

ANNEX 4-1~4-2: R/D, M/M (copy) (*)

ANNEX 5: Monitoring Sheet (copy) (*)

(Remarks: ANNEX 4 and 5 are internal reference only.)

Project Monitoring Sheet II (Revision of Plan of Operation)

Version 4

Dated 23, March, 2023

Project Title: Project for Strengthening capacity in industrial property examination in IP Viet Nam

Monitoring

Inputs	Plan	2021				2022				2023				2024				Remarks	Monitoring		
		Actual	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III		IV	Issue	Solution
Expert																					
long term expert																			None		
Activities																					
Sub-Activities																					
Output 1: Revised Examination Guidelines for Patent																		Responsible Organization		Achievements	Issue & Countermeasures
																		Japan	IP Viet Nam		
1-1 To draft the revised Examination Guidelines for Patent to comply with existing Vietnamese legislation and operation (led by IP Viet Nam) and include emerging technologies (led by JICA Expert).																		Japan	IP Viet Nam	Completed	
1-2 To conduct a few days internal and open seminars on the revised Examination Guidelines for																		Japan	IP Viet Nam	Completed	
1-3 To translate and publish the revised Examination Guidelines for Patent																			IP Viet Nam	Completed	
Output 2: Developed Patent Examination Quality Management Documents such as check-flow , check points, and common mistake case compilation etc...																					
2-1 To conduct surveys on the current status of patent examination quality management.																		Japan	IP Viet Nam	Completed	
2-2 To develop the Patent Examination Quality Management Documents.																		Japan	IP Vietnam	Completed	
2-3 To conduct some pilot activities in line with the Patent Examination Quality Management																		Japan	IP Vietnam	Completed	
Output 3: Improved skills and competency of patent examiners																					
3-1 To organize seminars/workshops in Viet Nam for IP Viet Nam's examiners to improve their patent																		Japan	IP Vietnam	Completed	
Duration / Phasing																					
Monitoring Plan																					
Monitoring																					
Submission of Monitoring Sheet																			One month delay	Done	
Monitoring Mission from Japan																			None		
Reports/Documents																					
Project Completion Report																			Partially completed	Delay Rescheduled	

Survey in IP Status in Viet Nam

主な回答選択肢：

とても満足 (rất hài lòng) 満足 (hài lòng) 普通 (bình thường) 一部満足していない (không hài lòng một số mặt) 全く満足していない (hoàn toàn không hài lòng)

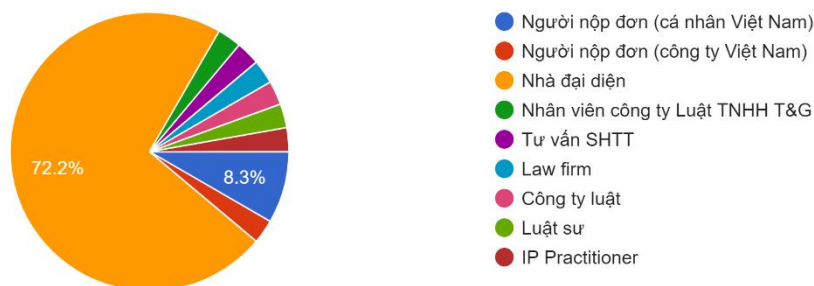
第 1：基礎質問

Các câu hỏi cơ bản

1. 回答者の属性

Thuộc tính người trả lời

36 件の回答



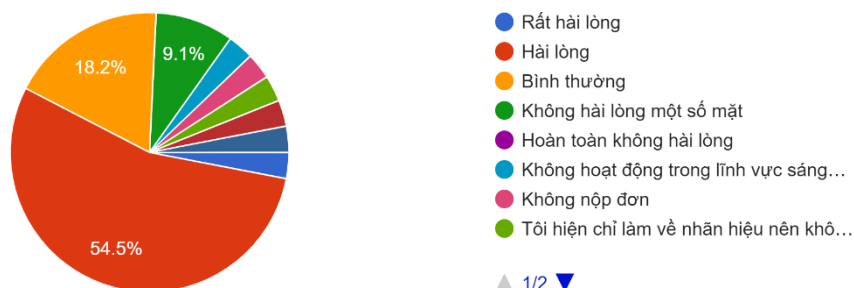
第 2：審査基準に関する満足度

Mức độ hài lòng về Quy chế thẩm định đơn

1. 特許審査基準に関する満足度を評価してください。

Đề nghị đánh giá mức độ hài lòng về "Quy chế thẩm định đơn đăng ký sáng chế"

33 件の回答

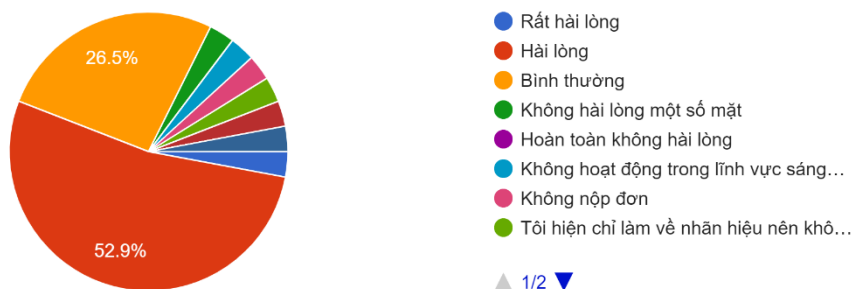


▲ 1/2 ▼

2. 特許審査基準に追加された「付属書 I」の満足度を評価してください。

Đề nghị đánh giá mức độ hài lòng về "**Phụ lục I bổ sung vào Quy chế thẩm định đơn đăng ký sáng chế**" (hướng dẫn xác định đối tượng được bảo hộ dưới danh nghĩa sáng chế liên quan chương trình máy tính)

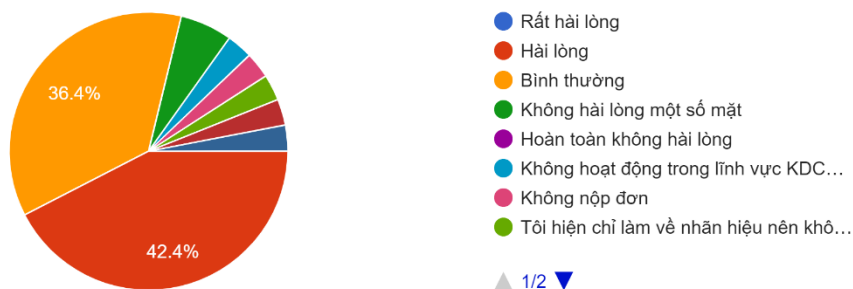
34 件の回答



3. 意匠審査基準に関する満足度を評価してください。

Đề nghị đánh giá mức độ hài lòng về "**Quy chế thẩm định đơn đăng ký kiểu dáng công nghiệp**"

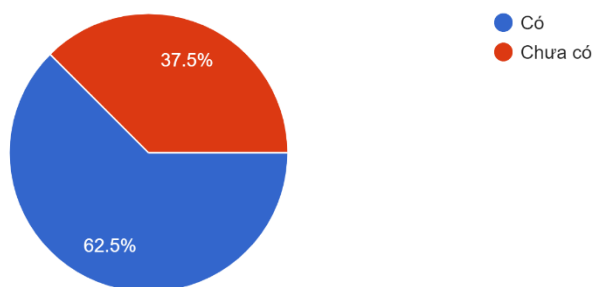
33 件の回答



4. 商標審査基準を見たことがありますか？

Quý gia đã xem "**Quy chế thẩm định đơn đăng ký nhãn hiệu**" bao giờ chưa?

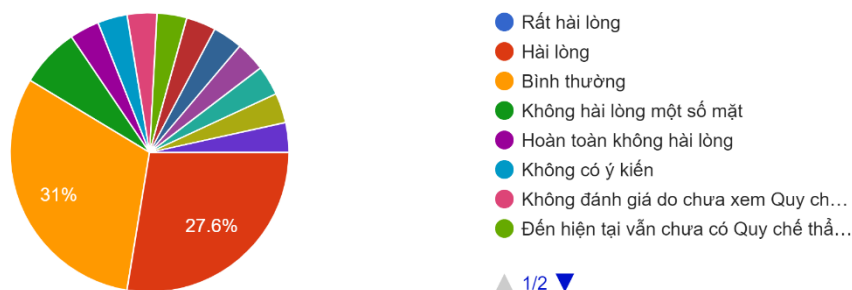
32 件の回答



5. 商標審査基準に関する満足度を評価してください。

Đề nghị đánh giá mức độ hài lòng về "Quy chế thẩm định đơn đăng ký nhãn hiệu"

29 件の回答



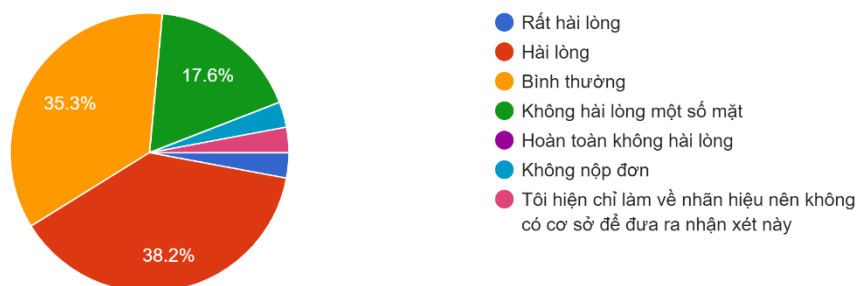
第 3：特許出願の実体審査の質・レベルに関する満足度

Mức độ hài lòng về chất lượng/trình độ **thẩm định nội dung đơn sáng chế**.

1. 特許出願の実体審査の報告書において、審査官が行う拒絶理由の説明に関する満足度を評価してください。

Đề nghị đánh giá mức độ hài lòng về **cách giải thích lý do từ chối do nhà xét viên** trong bản thông báo kết quả thẩm định nội dung.

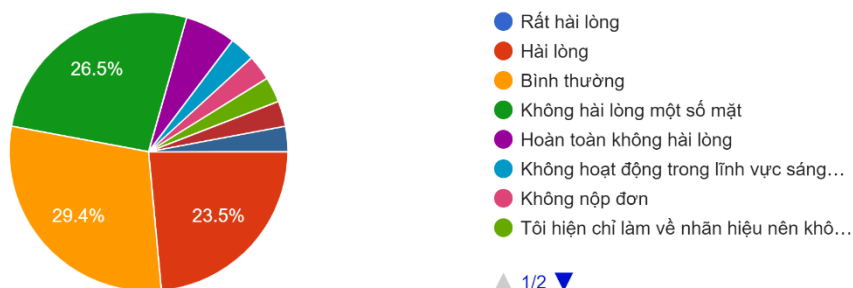
34 件の回答



2. 特許出願の実体審査の審査期間に関する満足度を評価してください。

Đề nghị đánh giá mức độ hài lòng về **thời hạn thẩm định nội dung đơn sáng chế**.

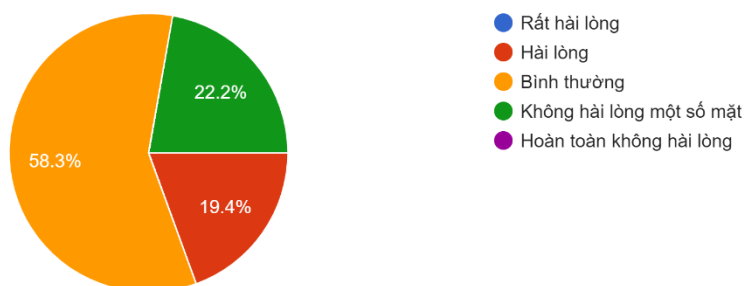
34 件の回答



3. 特許出願の実体審査において審査官の結論が一致して矛盾がないかに関する満足度を評価してください。

Đề nghị đánh giá mức độ hài lòng về điểm mà **các quyết định của mỗi nhà thẩm định viên của Cục Sở Hữu Trí Tuệ có nhất trí với nhau, không mâu thuẫn nhau hay không**.

36 件の回答



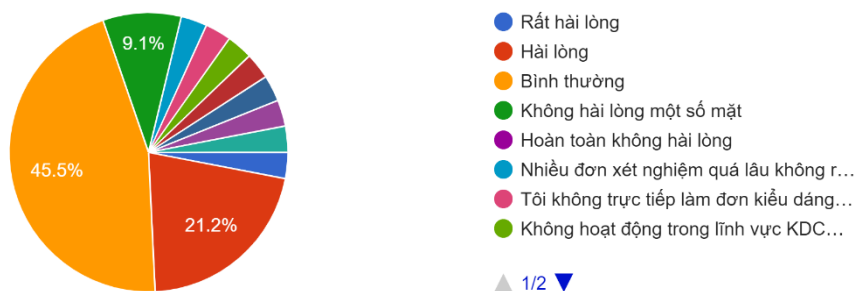
第 4 : 意匠又は商標出願の実体審査の質・レベルに関する満足度

Mức độ hài lòng về chất lượng/trình độ **thẩm định nội dung đơn kiểu dáng công nghiệp hoặc nhãn hiệu.**

1. 意匠出願の質・レベルに関する満足度を評価してください。

Đề nghị đánh giá mức độ hài lòng về chất lượng/trình độ **thẩm định đơn kiểu dáng công nghiệp.**

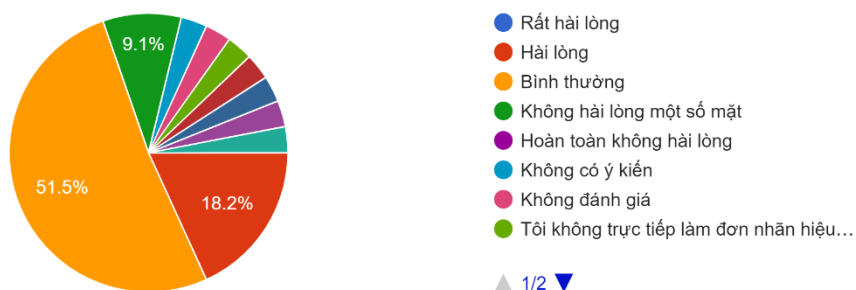
33 件の回答



2. 商標出願の質・レベルに関する満足度を評価してください。

Đề nghị đánh giá mức độ hài lòng về chất lượng/trình độ **thẩm định đơn nhãn hiệu.**

33 件の回答



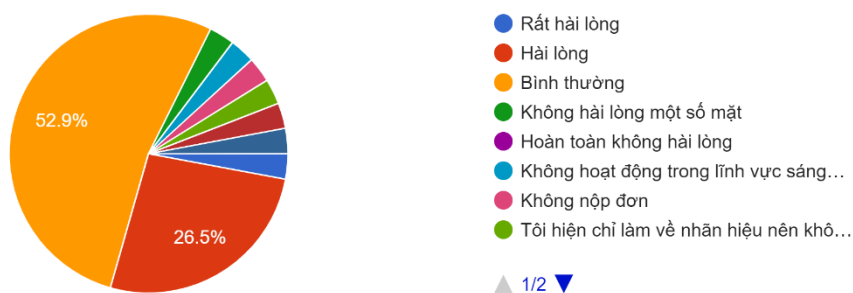
第 5 : IPVN の審査官の能力に関する満足度

Mức độ hài lòng về năng khiếu của thẩm định viên của Cục Sở Hữu Trí Tuệ

1. 特許出願の処理における IPVN 審査官の能力に関する満足度を評価してください。

Đề nghị đánh giá mức độ hài lòng về năng khiếu của thẩm định viên của Cục Sở Hữu Trí Tuệ trong việc xử lý đơn sáng chế.

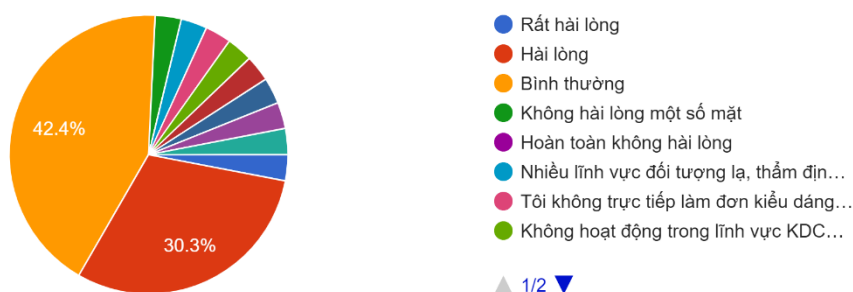
34 件の回答



2. 意匠出願の処理における IPVN 審査官の能力に関する満足度を評価してください。

Đề nghị đánh giá mức độ hài lòng về năng khiếu thẩm định viên của Cục Sở Hữu Trí Tuệ trong việc xử lý đơn kiểu dáng công nghiệp.

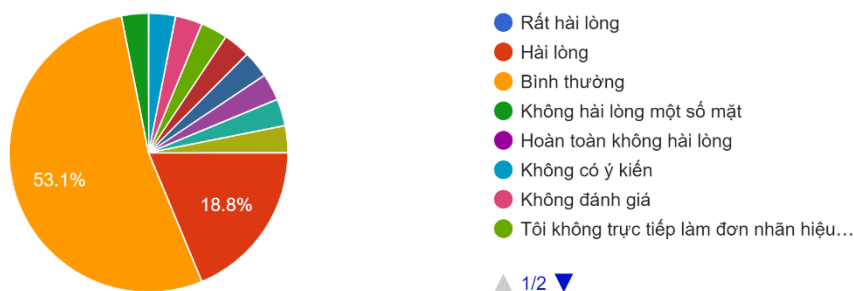
33 件の回答



3. 商標出願の処理における IPVN 審査官の適正に関する満足度を評価してください。

Đề nghị đánh giá mức độ hài lòng về **năng khiếu thẩm định viên của Cục Sở Hữu Trí Tuệ trong việc xử lý đơn nhãn hiệu.**

32 件の回答



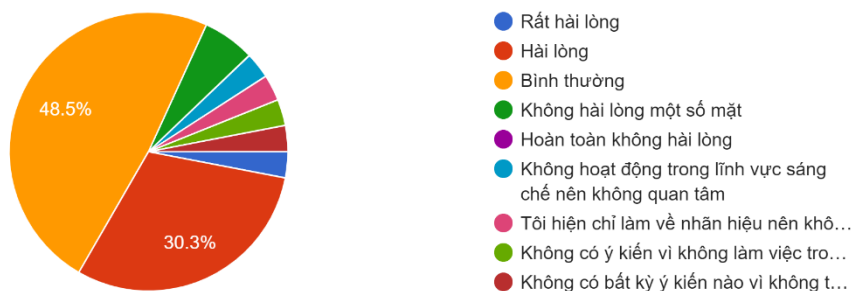
第 6：改正知的財産法（2022 年施行）の内容に関する満足度

Mức độ hài lòng về nội dung của **LUẬT SỬA ĐỔI, BỔ SUNG MỘT SỐ ĐIỀU CỦA LUẬT SỞ HỮU TRÍ TUỆ** (Luật số 07/2022/QH15)

1. 特許分野に関連して追加・改正された条項に関する満足度を評価してください。

Đề nghị đánh giá mức độ hài lòng về các điều do **Luật số 07/2022/QH15** bổ sung/sửa đổi **trong lĩnh vực sáng chế**

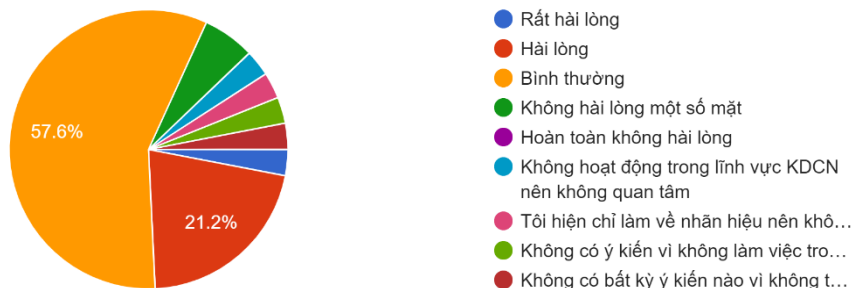
33 件の回答



2. 意匠分野に関連して追加・改正された条項に関する満足度を評価してください。

Đề nghị đánh giá mức độ hài lòng về các điều do **Luật số 07/2022/QH15** bổ sung/sửa đổi trong lĩnh vực **kiểu dáng công nghiệp**.

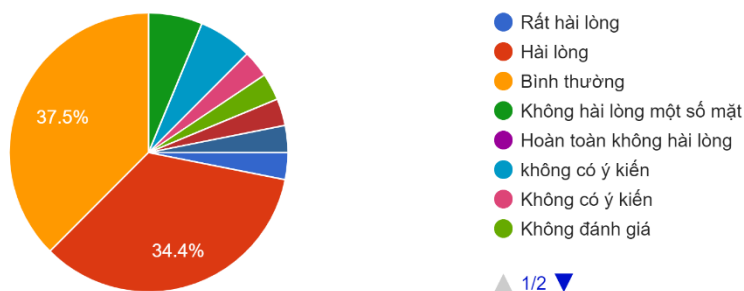
33 件の回答



3. 商標分野に関連して追加・改正された条項に関する満足度を評価してください。

Đề nghị đánh giá mức độ hài lòng về các điều do **Luật số 07/2022/QH15** bổ sung/sửa đổi trong lĩnh vực **nhãn hiệu**.

32 件の回答



▲ 1/2 ▼

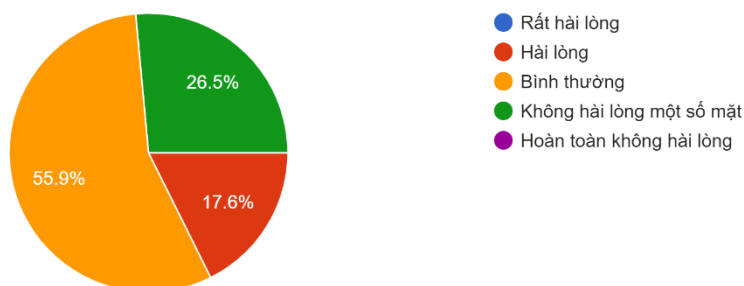
第 7：知的財産権の保護・権利行使の質・レベルに関する満足度

Mức độ hài lòng về chất lượng/trình độ trong việc bảo hộ/Thực thi quyền sở hữu trí tuệ tại Việt Nam

1. 知的財産保護制度の質・レベルに関する満足度を評価してください。

Đề nghị đánh giá mức độ hài lòng về chất lượng/trình độ trong **việc bảo hộ quyền sở hữu trí tuệ** trong nước.

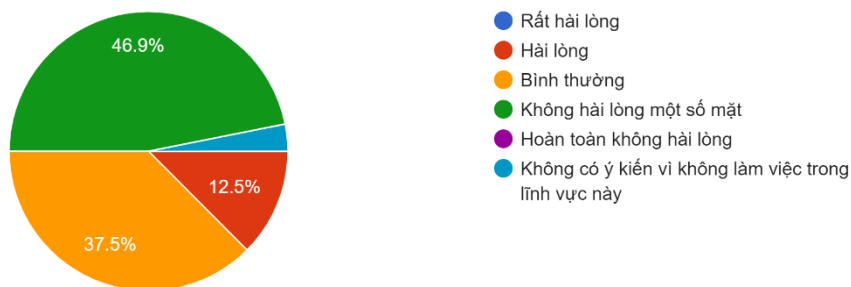
34 件の回答



2. 知的財産権の権利行使に関する質・レベルの満足度を評価してください。

Đề nghị đánh giá mức độ hài lòng về chất lượng/trình độ trong việc thực thi quyền sở hữu trí tuệ trong nước.

32 件の回答



List of Products

The following documents are estimated as products;

- Quality Audit Guideline (Vietnamese / English)
- Quality Management Manual for Patent Examination (Vietnamese / English)
- New points of the IP Law on protection of patent, industrial designs, layout designs of integrated circuits (Vietnamese / English)
- New points of the IP Law on protection of Trademark – GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS (Vietnamese / English)
- Examination Guidelines in Manga: AI/IoT (Vietnamese / English)
- Others

Project Design Matrix

Project Title: Project for Strengthening capacity in industrial property examination in IP Viet Nam

Implementing Agency: IP Viet Nam

Period of Project: 2 years from the date when the expert is dispatched.

Project Site: Ha Noi

Narrative Summary	Objectively Verifiable Indicators	Means of Verification	Important Assumption
Overall Goal			
To establish stable and reliable operation of patent examination.	Evaluation of the quality of Patent examination by applicants, right holders, lawyers, etc.	Questionnaires and interviews with applicants, right holders, lawyers, etc.	IP Viet Nam's mandates and functions remain as they are or are strengthened.
Project Purpose			
To improve transparency, predictability, consistency and accuracy of patent examination practices and operations by IP Viet Nam	The patent examiners' confidence on patent examination operation is improved.	Questionnaires and interviews with IP Viet Nam officials.	IP Viet Nam's mandates and functions remain as they are or are strengthened.
Outputs			
Output 1: Revised Examination Guidelines for Patent	The examination guideline is revised to comply with existing legislation and include emerging technologies (AI, IoT, Software); the English version is translated and published.	Examination guideline on Website of IP Viet Nam.	The intellectual property protection system will be maintained in Viet Nam.
Output 2: Developed Patent Examination Quality Management Documents such as check-flow, check points, and common mistake case compilation etc...	The flow of application documents for patent examination is organized, and the Patent Examination Management Documents are developed and implemented with some pilot activities by the relevant departments.	Record from IP Viet Nam.	
Output 3: Improved skills and competency of patent examiners	Seminars for patent examiners of IP Viet Nam will be held 3 times. At least 60 patent examiners are trained.	Record from IP Viet Nam.	

Activities	Inputs	
	The Japanese Side	The Vietnamese Side
1-1 To draft the revised Examination Guidelines for Patent to comply with existing Vietnamese legislation and operation (led by IP Viet Nam) and include emerging technologies (led by JICA Expert). ^{*1}	(a) Dispatch of a Japanese Long-term Expert. (b) Short term mission/providing necessary technical guidance and advice to Vietnamese counterpart personnel on technical matters pertaining to the implementation of the Project. (c) Only and limited to interpretation, translation, workshops, material printing/binding, expert travel expenses, expert communication costs, and hiring fee of local consultants or project staff (if the expert hires/when necessary and budget allows, to support the expert's daily work/activities).	(a) Assignment of Counterpart: (I) Project Director ^{*2} . One of IP Viet Nam leaders (II) Project Manager: Head of International Cooperation Division of IP Viet Nam (III) Other counterpart personnel/ Working Group members (IV) Coordinator/Assistant (when necessary)
1-2 To conduct a few days internal and open seminars on the revised Examination Guidelines for Patent.		(b) Project office Necessary facilities such as Office rent, an electricity connection, furniture, Internet lines in the office space.
1-3 To translate and publish the revised Examination Guidelines for Patent		(c) Available data and information related/impactful to the Project.
2-1 To conduct surveys on the current status of patent examination quality management		(d) Local cost (I) Remuneration, overtime payment (if any) and other expenses, particularly transportation and related travel expenses in Viet Nam (including but not limited to costs on flight, car, accommodation, allowance), of all Counterpart-related personnel(s)/Working Group members.
2-2 To develop the Patent Examination Quality Management Documents.		(II) Web publishing expenses of Examination Guidelines for patent.
2-3 To conduct some pilot activities in line with the Patent Examination Quality Management Documents.		(III) Other recurrent expenditures.
3-1 To organize seminars/workshops in Viet Nam for IP Viet Nam's examiners to improve their patent examination skills.		

^{*1}The final responsibility for officialization and publication of Examination Guidelines for Patent belongs to the IP Viet Nam side.

^{*2}Project Director will be specified before the beginning of the Project.