



Europäisches
Patentamt
European
Patent Office
Office européen
des brevets

Asian Documentation

How EPO Examiners meet the challenge



Noémie Buffet

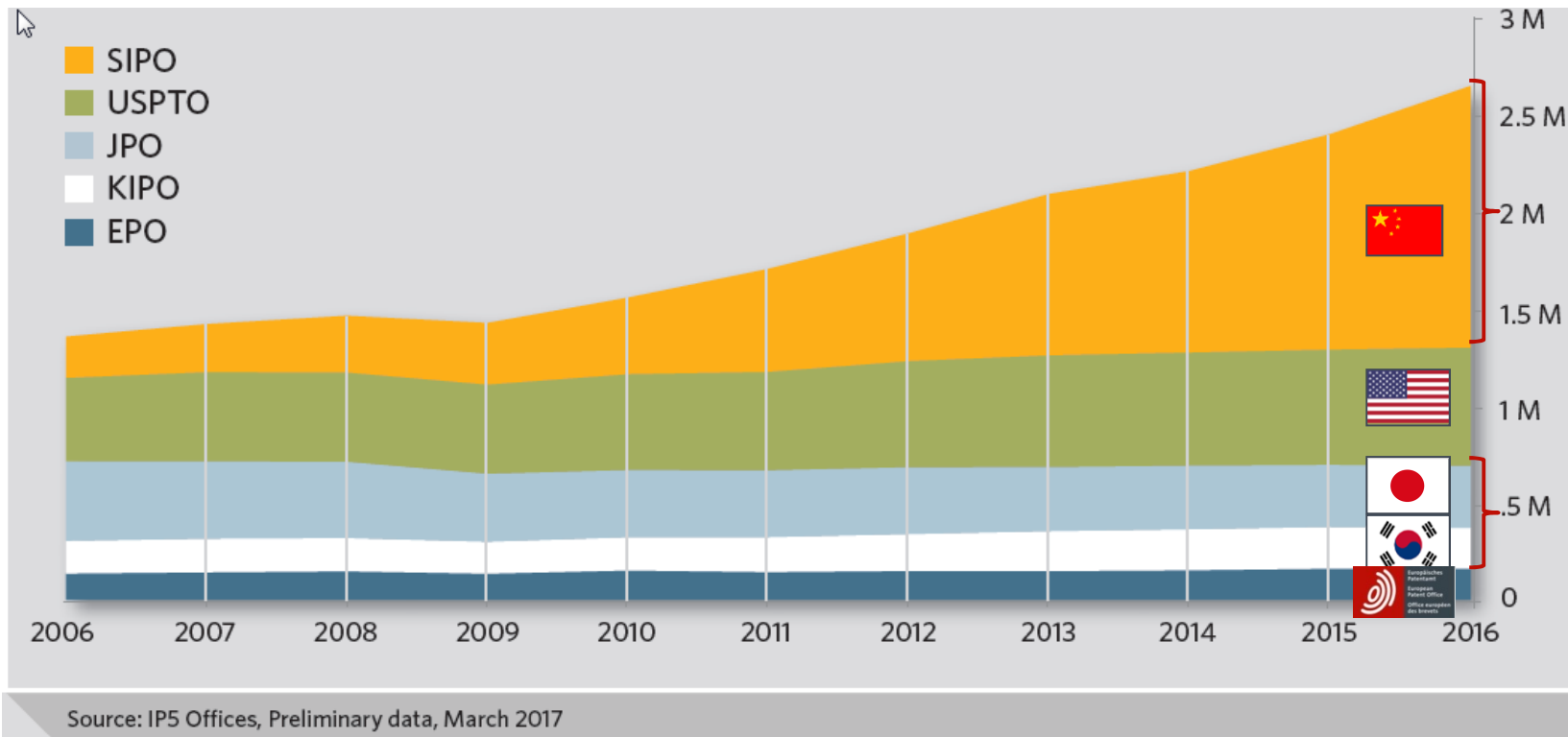


Examiner, DG1 Patent Granting Process, The Hague



Nice, 24 April 2018

Asian filings – Global View



Almost 2 million patent applications filed in CN, JP, KR in 2016

Outline

The **EPO** is actively focusing on Asian prior art for

§ timeliness

§ legal certainty

§ quality

via:

1. Tools

2. Trainings

1) Tools

§ Search

- Classification: CPC, IPC, FI/Fterms
- Abstracts
- Full Text

§ Preparations (short computer programmes)

§ File wrappers from other Offices

§ Translations: Machine Translations, Human Translations


Translation tools

Online translation from national offices (e.g. JPO)	 1
OCR and translation on the fly using Google engine	 2
Human Translation (2-4 days)	 3
Legal Human Translation	 4
Translation via APEG colleagues	 5

Examiners select the translation method which best fits the intended purpose
#1 tool = machine translation

Translation via APEG colleagues

When requesting translations from APEG colleagues examiners with specific Asian language skills who provide this service on a voluntary basis request only the minimal amount of highly relevant content: one sentence maximum per request. Normally you will receive a reply within one working day. Please note, replies and content delivery time may vary; timing depends a colleague's time constraints.



2) Trainings

§ Raise **awareness** from day 1 in the Office

§ **Continuous** process via:

- workshops, classroom trainings
- e-learning modules
- documentation
- peer-to-peer events and trainings

APEG - dedicated training and support for examiners (Asian Patent Expert Group)

- network of representatives
in each technical area and each site
- disseminating information to colleagues
- contributing to specific training for Examiners
- lectures and panels (with external speakers)
- language groups

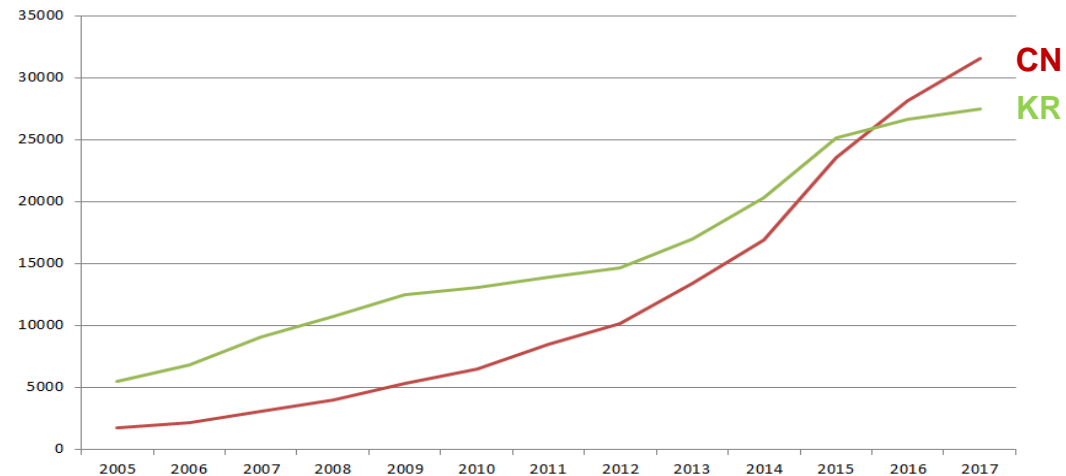


Practical guidelines on
Asian documentation
Asian Patent Expert Group

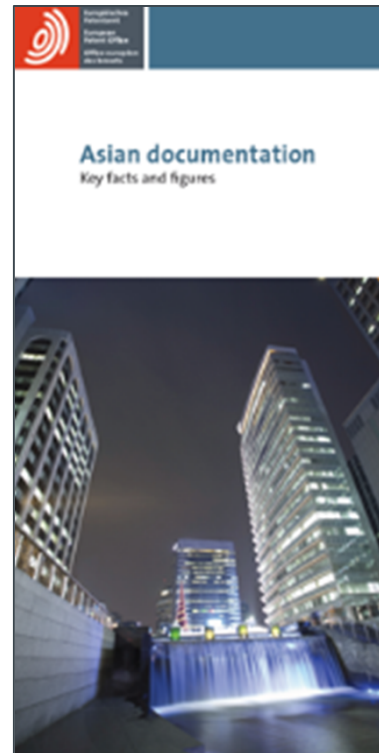


Conclusion: metrics

- § ~ **50%** of the EPO Search Reports in 2017 contained **at least one** patent citation with **Asian Priority**
- § The **majority** (2/3) traditionally originates from **Japan** (150.000 docs in 2017)
- § Citations with **Korean** and **Chinese** priorities are growing rapidly



The **EPO** is committed to maintain its **quality**.



Thank you for your attention