

Joint Statement during the 1st Review meeting between Ministries of the Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) on Industrial Property between Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), Ministry of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of India and the Japan Patent Office (JPO), Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, Japan

1. The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), Ministry of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of India and the Japan Patent Office (JPO), Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan (hereinafter referred to as 'the Ministries') held the 1st Review meeting in Delhi, India on 1st September 2017.
2. At the meeting, the Ministries reviewed the progress under the Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) on industrial property between India and Japan and the Action Plan between the Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trademarks (CGPDTM) of India and the JPO (hereinafter referred to as 'the Offices') based on the MoC, as well as exchanged views on matters of interest for both the Offices.
3. The Ministries recognized the important contribution of intellectual property (IP) in achieving socio-economic development goals, stimulating innovation and promoting creativity.
4. The Ministries recognized that cooperation between India and Japan in the field of IP has been strengthened through various cooperation activities under the Action Plan, as well as confirmed their commitment to continue and strengthen this partnership between India and Japan.
5. The Ministries acknowledged the importance of transparency, predictability, speed, clarity and streamlining of procedures for the IP system, strengthening IP enforcement, enhancing capacity building, raising IP awareness and encouraging innovation to promote their goals.
6. The JPO welcomed the formulation of the National Intellectual Property Rights Policy and efforts to reduce pendency in patent examination as also plans to raise IP awareness and encourage innovation.
7. The JPO acknowledged more than four-fold increase in the number of patent examiners. The DIPP appreciated the JPO's cooperation on the training program for approximately 400 new patent examiners of the CGPDTM conducted in 2016. The DIPP also welcomed the JPO's cooperation on the follow-up training of new patent examiners in India.
8. In the first week of August, 2017, a team of experts from the JPO visited the Office of the CGPDTM to share their experience on Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) with Indian Patent Office. The ministries agreed on establishing a working group on PPH, consisting of experts from the Offices to explore the possibility of bilateral PPH.
9. The JPO also noted that India has introduced expedited examination of patent applications in the amended Patent Rules, 2016, and the JPO provided inputs from Japanese industry in this regard.
10. The Ministries hoped that the Offices will exchange respective industrial property information including official IPR gazettes / journals by March, 2018 at the latest.
11. The Ministries recognized the importance of raising IP awareness and sharing of best practices and activities undertaken to raise IP awareness, both online and offline, and agreed to cooperate in this regard.
12. The Ministries recognized the importance of industrial designs as intellectual property, and the need to protect them.
13. The DIPP shared information with the JPO that a proposal has been submitted in WIPO for opening of External Office in India in its national capacity.
14. The DIPP proposed that the JPO may like to share information on best practices adopted towards raising awareness on IP amongst students of elementary and higher secondary schools that can be helpful in preparing similar modules for Indian students, both sides agreed to work together in this regard.
15. The Ministries agreed to hold the next Review Meeting between the Ministries in Japan at a time as may be decided mutually.
