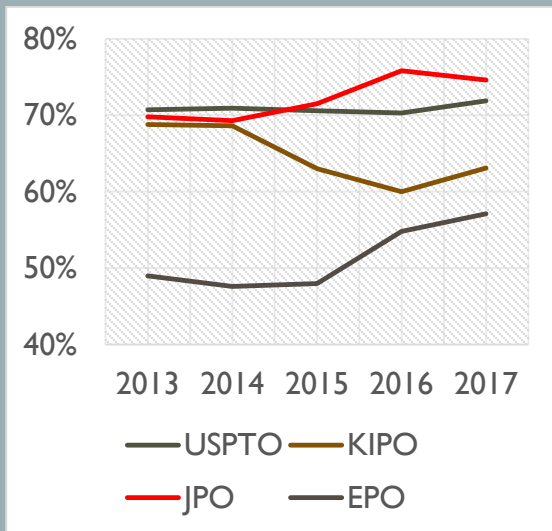


# Most Viewed Topics of Shiga

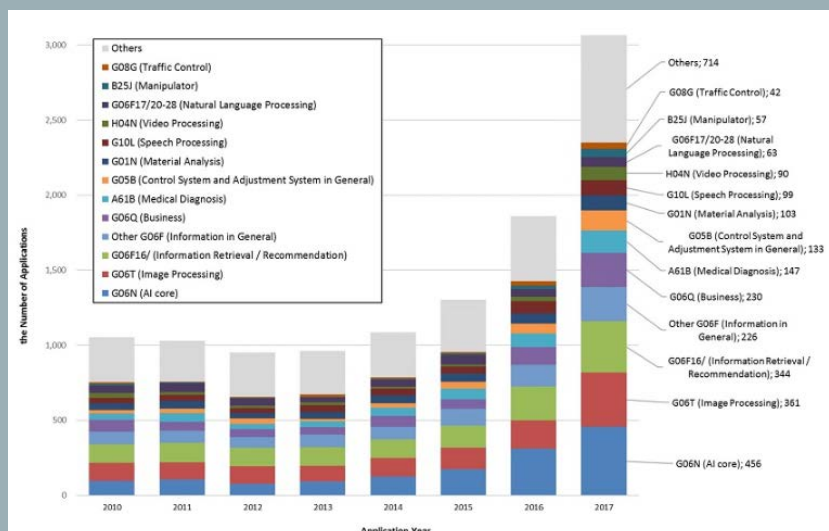
We would like to share with you our most viewed topics in 2019. We hope that these would be a help to catch up the recent trends or important changes in Japanese IP practice.

- 1 “Comparison of Legal Systems”, a new series of our IP updates in which we compare the legal system of Japan with these of several other countries, was launched in 2018 and reached its 4<sup>th</sup> article. You must see our unique perspective on legal comparison!
- 2 Patent Grant Rate at the JPO stays high.  
(Japanese Patents Trends in 2018, August 2019)
- 3 We compiled statistics by the JPO and information on the revision of AI-related examination guidelines and examination handbook.  
(Recent Trends in AI-related Inventions, September 2019)

Patent Grant Rate at the JPO



Composition of Main Classification of AI-related Invention



Source: The JPO Annual Report

Source: [https://www.jpo.go.jp/e/system/patent/gaiyo/ai/ai\\_shutsugan\\_chosa.html](https://www.jpo.go.jp/e/system/patent/gaiyo/ai/ai_shutsugan_chosa.html)

## 4 Significant Revisions to the Design Law

which will have a great impact on Japanese design practice

(Japanese Patents Trends in 2018, August 2019)

1. Expansion of the scope of designs subject to protection
  - Scope of protection for graphical user interfaces (GUIs)
  - Protection for exterior and interior designs of buildings
2. Enhancement of the Related Design System
  - Applications for related designs can be filed up to ten years from the filing date of the principle design.
  - Designs which are not similar to the principal design, but are similar to related designs can be registered.
3. Extension of term of design rights
  - The term of design rights has been changed to be valid for 25 years from the filing date.
4. Multiple designs can be included in one application
5. Abolishment of the classification table of articles

## 5 Cup Noodle's Packaging Registered as Position Mark

(SHIGA IP News vol. 54, February 2019)

Nissin Foods Holdings Co., Ltd., a well known manufacturer of instant noodles, has announced that the band-shaped patterns on the upper and lower portions of their signature product, Cup Noodle, have been registered as a position mark at the Japanese Patent Office (JPO) (Japanese Trademark Registration Number: 6034112). Position marks are one of the new types of non-traditional trademarks introduced in April 2015, along with sound and motion marks. Position marks offer protection in cases where the source of a product can be identified based on the placements of shapes and/or colors at specific locations.



(Excerpted from J-PlatPat)

If you would like to check the original articles, you can find our articles [at our website](#). Otherwise, please feel free to contact us. We would be pleased to share it with you.

In 2020, we will continue to keep you informed of IP updates, for example recent trends or law amendments, which would be helpful for you.

