Backlog reduction: Results and future challenges

Intellectual Property Office (TIPO)
Chinese Taipei

Outline

I. Background
II. Patent Backlog Reduction Measures and Results
III. Future Challenges and Tasks
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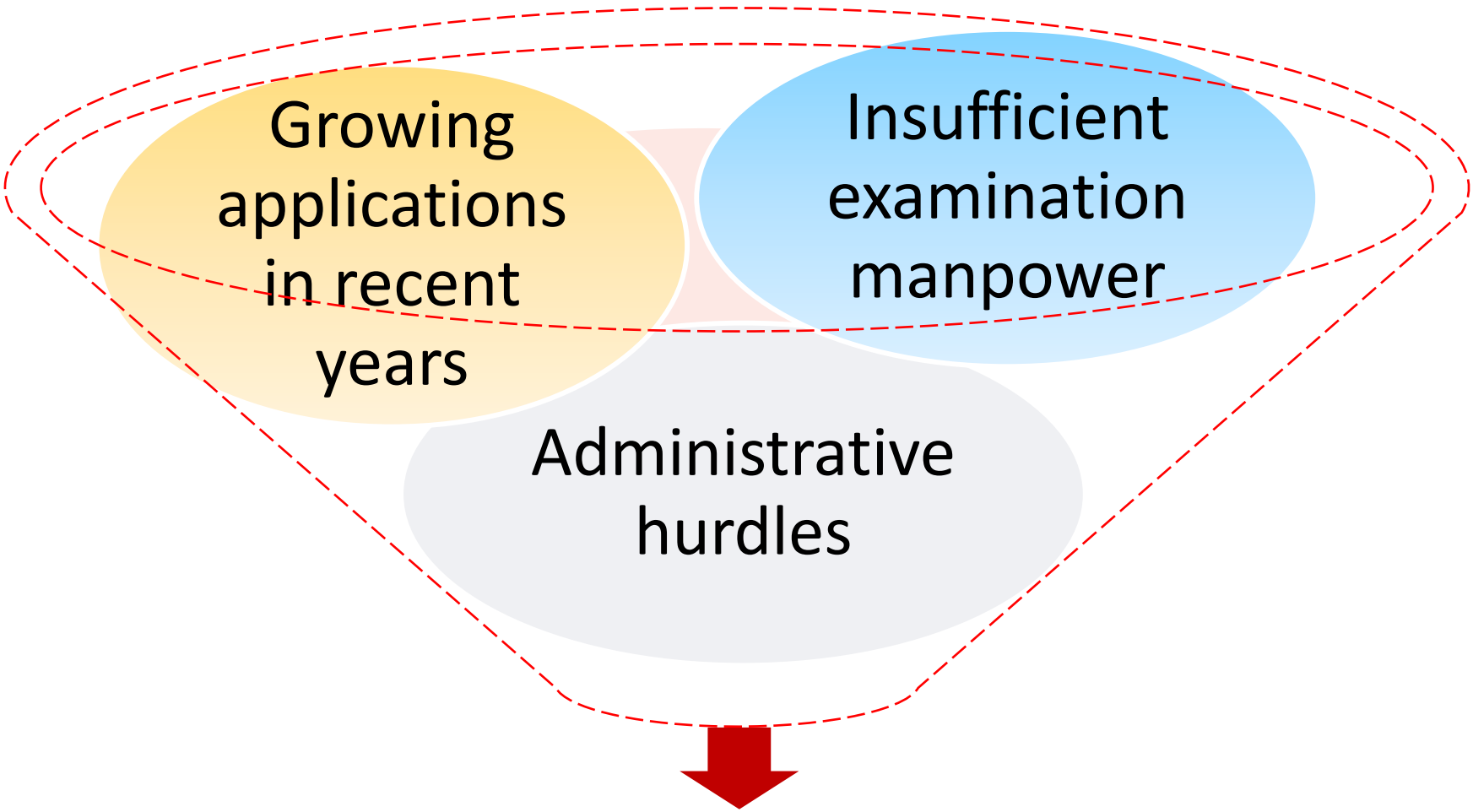
I. Background



II. Patent Backlog Reduction Measures and Results (1/7)

Patent Backlog Reduction Measures

Assisting prior art search

- Add manpower: Patent search assistants
- Set up Patent Search Center (PSC)

Enhancing examination capacity

- Increase number of annual disposals
- Strengthen examiners' professional capabilities

Increasing examination manpower

- Hire 170 contracted examiners on 5-year term
- Fill up examiner vacancies

Programs on expediting examination

- Accelerated Examination Program (AEP)
- PPH partnerships with the USPTO, SPTO, JPO and KIPO
- Collective Interview Program

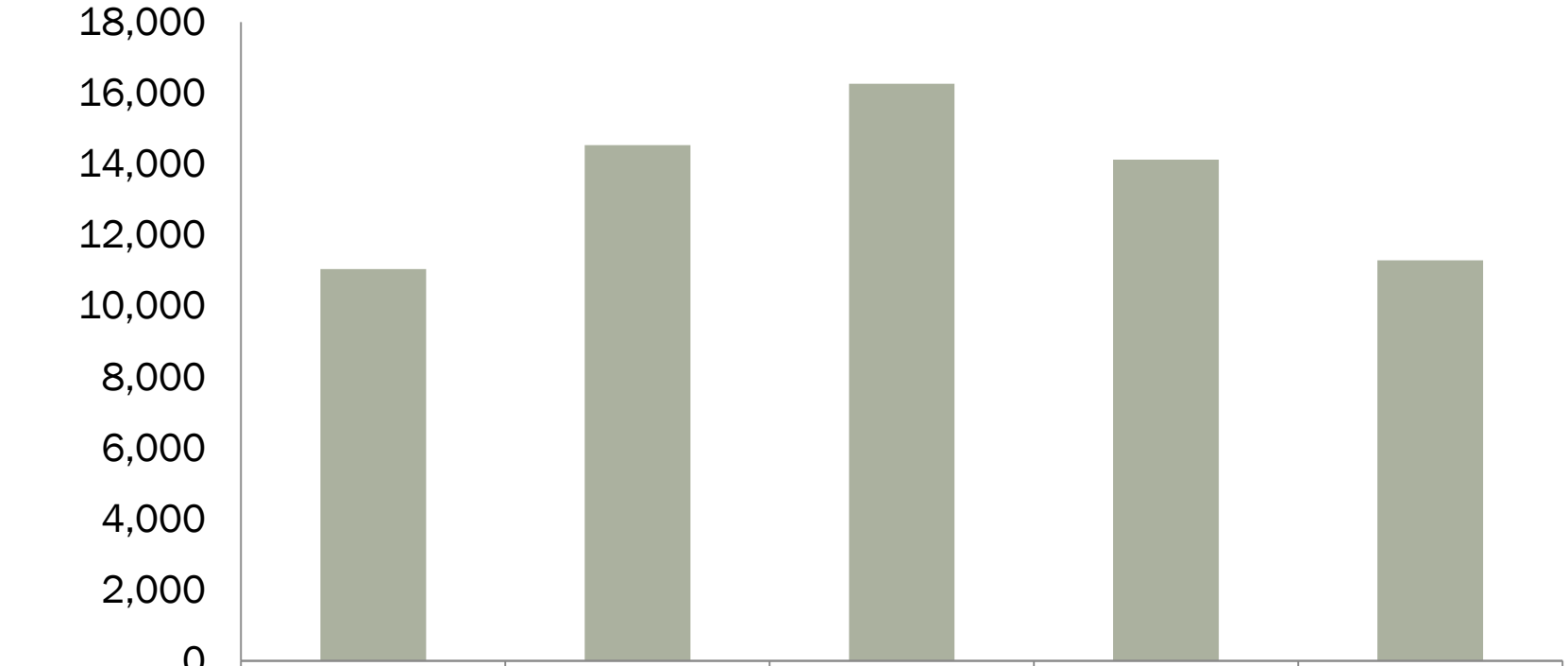
II. Patent Backlog Reduction Measures and Results (2/7)

Add manpower: Patent search assistants

- A total of 201 assistants with R&D background were recruited (each serves 3 years) between 2010 and 2015. These assistants contributed to 67,230 prior art searches
- The assistants were recruited exclusively for prior art search
- Technical comparison and examination notices are still being written by examiners

II. Patent Backlog Reduction Measures and Results (3/7)

Prior art searches conducted by patent search assistants



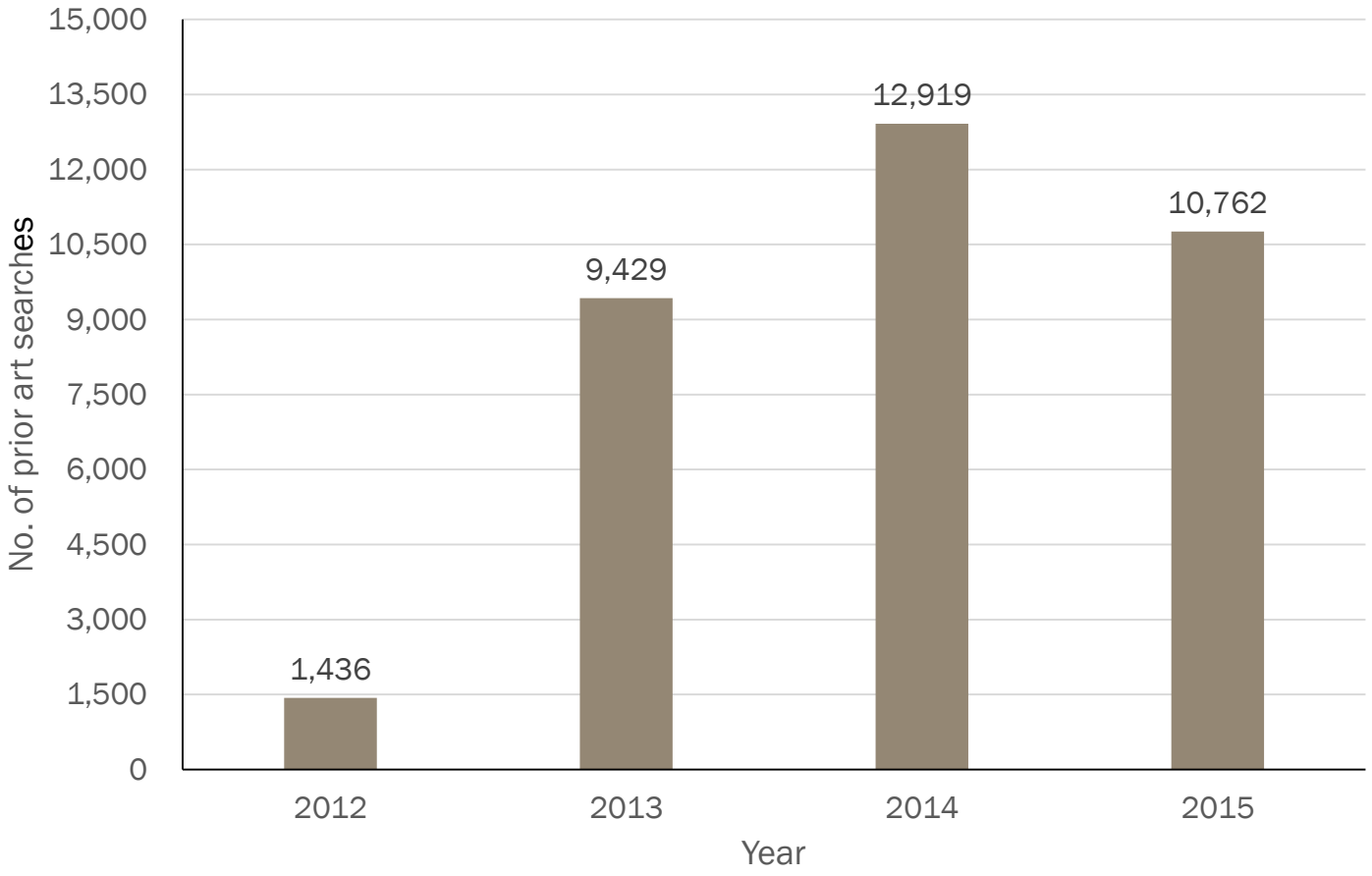
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Search No.	11,037	14,530	16,257	14,122	11,284

II. Patent Backlog Reduction Measures and Results (4/7)

Set up Patent Search Center (PSC)

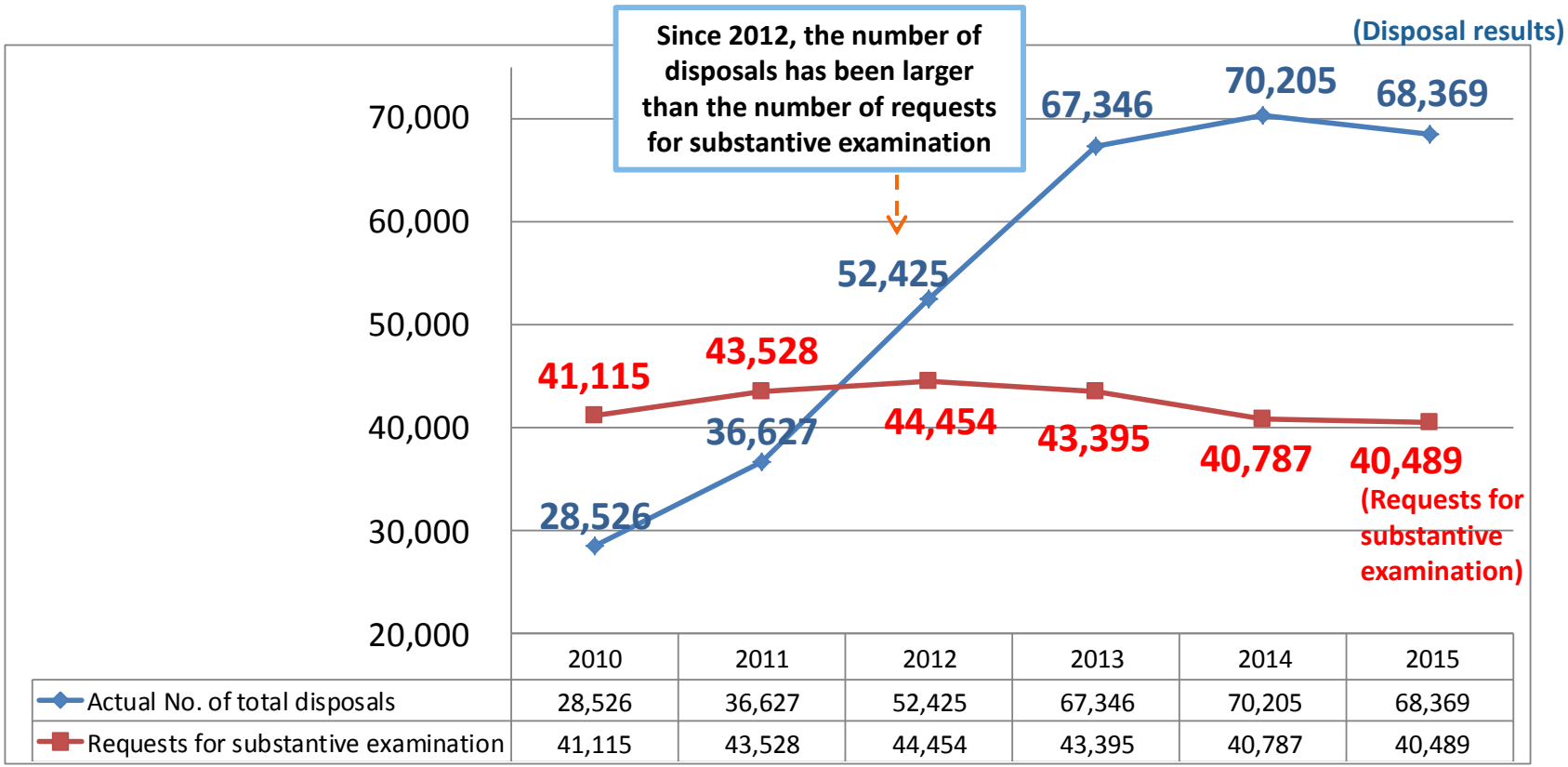
II. Patent Backlog Reduction Measures and Results (5/7)

Prior art searches conducted by PSC



II. Patent Backlog Reduction Measures and Results (6/7)

Growing number of disposals (2010-2015)

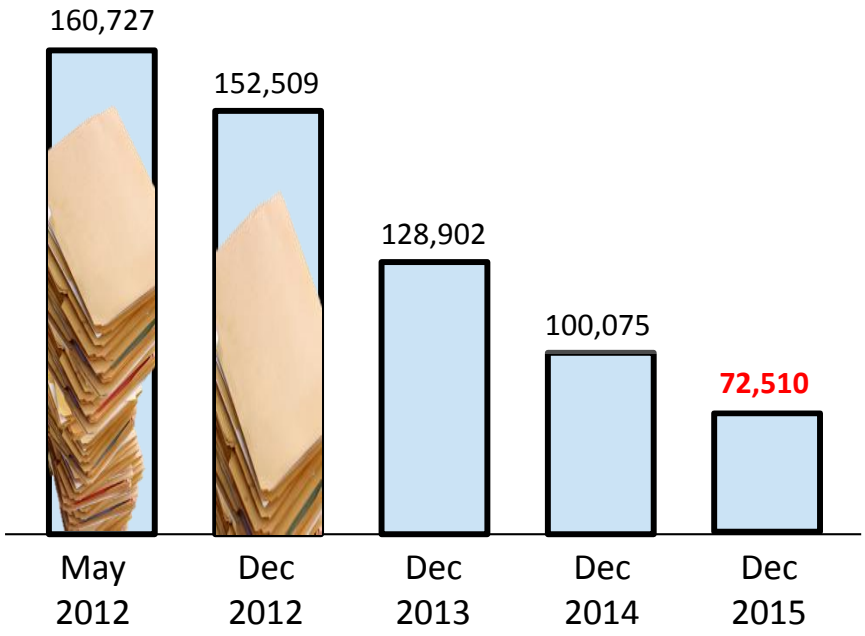


	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Actual No. of total disposals	28,526	36,627	52,425	67,346	70,205	68,369
Requests for substantive examination	41,115	43,528	44,454	43,395	40,787	40,489
Average disposal pendency (months)	41.04	45.12	46.14	41.33	33.43	26.02

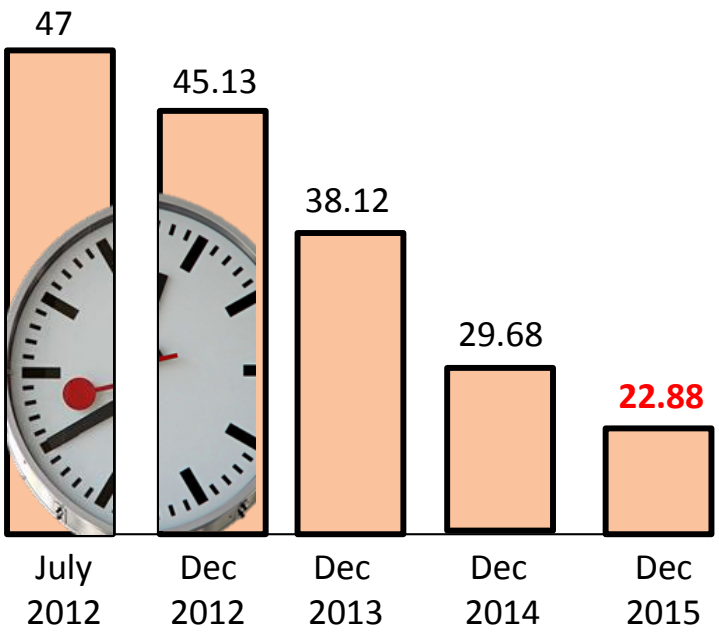
- **The number of disposals (323,498) from 2010 to 2015 exceeds that (304,690) projected for the same period by 18,808 cases**
- **In Dec. 2015, the average disposal pendency was lowered to 22.88 months**

II. Patent Backlog Reduction Measures and Results (7/7)

Pending applications reduced by 88,217 cases



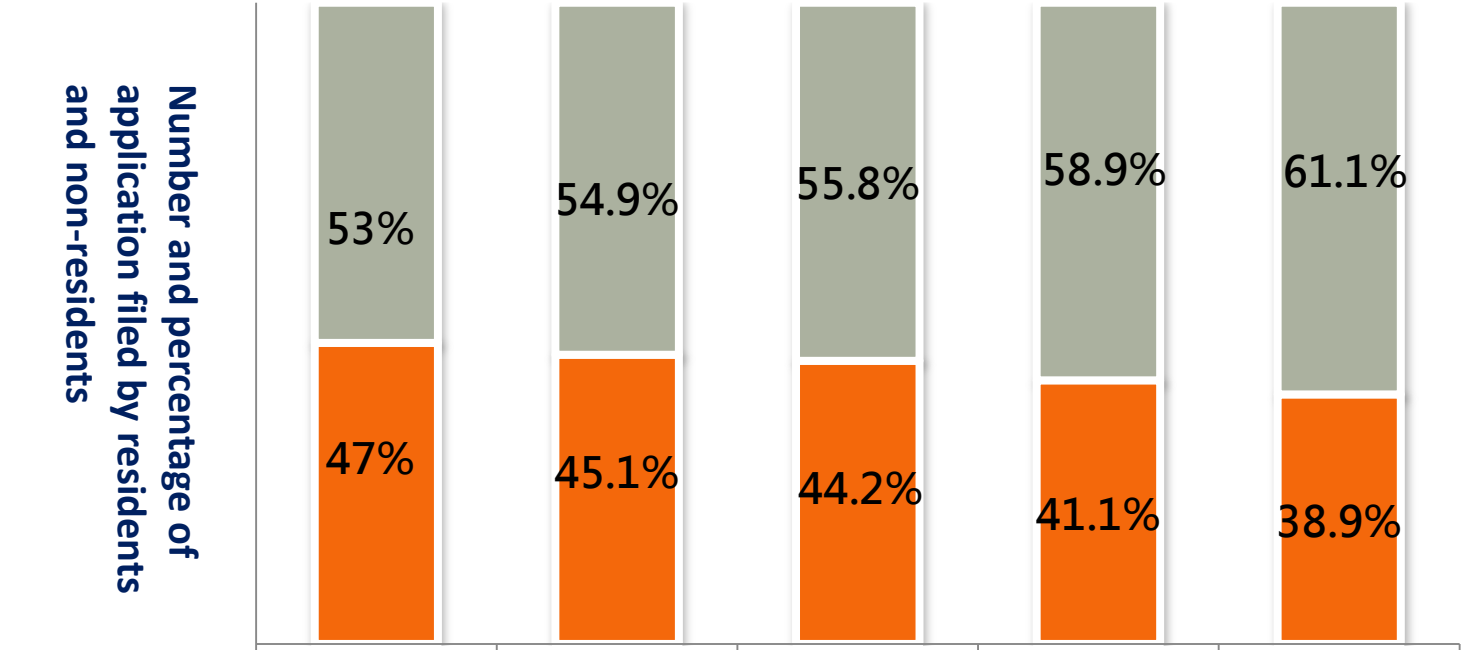
Average disposal pendency lowered to 22.88 months



III. Future Challenges and Tasks (1/5)

Challenges

Decreasing number of invention patent applications



	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Non-resident	26,564	28,112	27,488	27,324	27,133
Resident	23,518	23,077	21,730	19,054	17,282
Total	50,082	51,189	49,218	46,378	44,415

- No obvious change in the number of invention applications filed by non-residents

III. Future Challenges and Tasks (2/5)

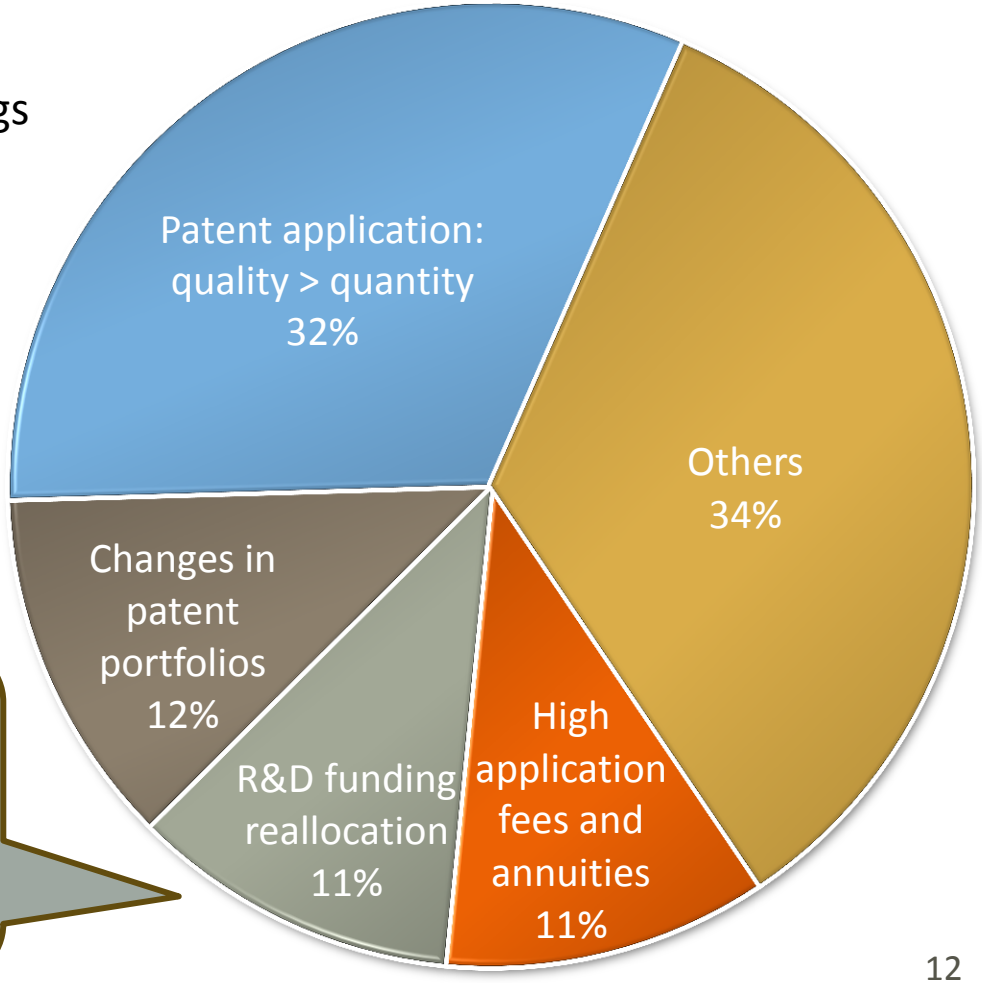
Challenges

Reason analysis to the decreasing number of invention patent applications

- In 2014 and 2015, TIPO conducted surveys and held consultation meetings with professionals from the industry, and education and research institutes

Consideration of the two major entities of patent application：
1. Patent monetization
2. Global budget

Consideration of research & education institutes：
KPI of government's subsidies places emphasis on the efficiency of technology transfer



III. Future Challenges and Tasks (3/5)

Tasks **Improving quality and efficacy of patent examination**

Shorter examination pendency

- Effective backlog reduction
- Consolidated search database
- Consolidated IT system

Better examination quality

- Establish feedback mechanism for patent quality
- Strengthen review of examination quality
- Conduct experience-sharing seminars

III. Future Challenges and Tasks (4/5)

Tasks

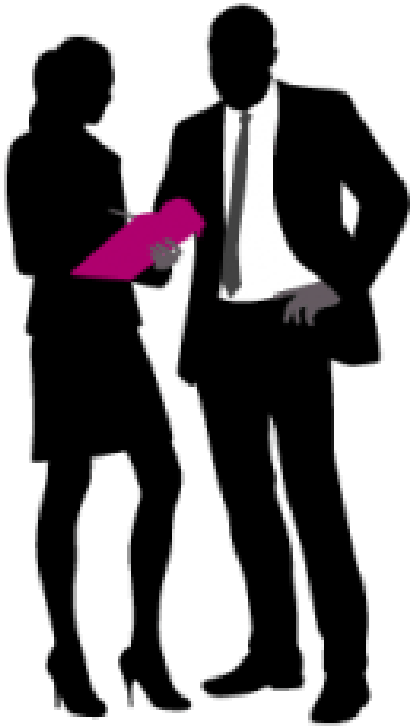
Assist the industry and academia in strengthening their ability to build patent portfolios

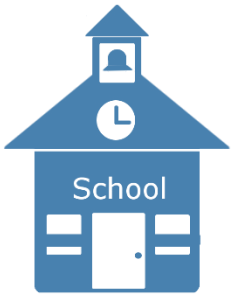
Sectors of industry

Make a request

Arrange a visit

Customized courses conducted by TIPO's patent examiners





Make a request

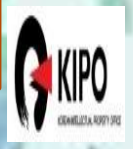
Education and research institutes

III. Future Challenges and Tasks (5/5)

- Continued cooperation with the EPO, UKIPO, INPI(France)and UIBM(Italy)

- Mutual recognition of priority rights across the Strait
- Consolidate partnership on cross-Strait dispute resolution

- Mutual recognition of deposit of biological materials



- Exchange of examiners
  JPO, SIPO, USPTO, KIPO
- PPH
  JPO, USPTO, KIPO, SPTO
- PDX
  JPO, KIPO

Continue seeking partnerships with other IP offices on PPH, PDX, and mutual recognition of deposit of biological materials

Tasks

TIPO partnering with major IP offices

IV. Summary

- **The Patent Backlog Reduction Project has been successful**
- **Goal of 2016**
  - **Disposal pendency: 21 months**
  - **First OA pendency: 13 months**
- **Achieving balance between application and disposal numbers in the years following 2017**
- **Helping the academia and industry strengthen their ability to build patent portfolios**


Thank you