

27 February, 2000

RE: Any bodies of Scientific meetings or international exhibitions should be registered with and designated by Japanese Patent Office in advance.

Dear My Colleagues:

I am pleased to inform you about exceptions to lack of novelty of invention based upon the revised Japanese Patent Law (Japanese Patent Law Section 29(1) and 30).

It has become effective as of January 1, 2000. Under this revised law, a person shall not be entitled to a patent if an invention was publicly known and/or publicly worked in foreign countries (outside Japan).

Under the old law, what counts as such bases were limited to inventions which had become publicly known and publicly worked in Japan. Therefore, in the past, inventors could obtain patents in Japan on their inventions which they had made publicly known and publicly worked in other countries. Even though such inventors had made their inventions known publicly in countries outside Japan, their novelty or inventive steps were not lost in Japan despite the fact that their inventions were publicly known outside Japan.

From now on, by going through appropriate formalities required by Japanese Patent Office at the same time with your patent application, of these inventions which have become publicly known and publicly worked outside Japan, you can obtain patents on the inventions which were presented accompanied by any written material in any scientific meetings held in other countries as well as those which have become publicly known and publicly worked by being on

display at any international exhibitions held in other countries. Needless to say, you must submit patent applications to Japanese Patent Office within six months of the date of your inventions' becoming publicly known and publicly worked, in order for the above to be possible.

If any inventor should desire to secure his/her patent right in Japan of his/her invention which has become publicly known and publicly worked in such scientific meetings or international exhibitions, it is necessary that organizations which hold such scientific meetings or international exhibitions should be registered with and designated by Japanese Patent Office in advance. I suppose that these registration or designation procedures of those organization should be done immediately, for such registration and designation must be completed before such inventor submit his/her patent application with Japanese Patent Office.

For your information, you require a Japanese patent attorney to carry out the above mentioned registration procedures. We at Shoji International Patent Office will be more than happy to carry out such registration procedures for you and your clients. We advise you to urgently confirm with organizations concerned the necessity of such registration with Japanese Patent Office.

We are looking forward to cooperating with you in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Takashi Shoji
Patent Attorney