

# Shiga New Year Report

There was a tremendous amount of change in 2020, and we have begun to adapt to these changes and implement new initiatives. As aptly noted by renowned management consultant, Peter Drucker, "To survive and succeed, every organization will have to turn itself into a change agent. The most effective way to manage change is to create it" (from *A Functioning Society*, 2003). Rather than merely conforming to the new normal, we will rise to the challenge and take advantage of this opportunity to shine and provide the best services to our distinguished clients in 2021.

## \*\*Newsletters in 2020\*\*

[Our past articles](#) are available on our website.

<i>Most Viewed Topics in 2019</i>	<i>Japanese Patent Trends in 2019</i>
<i>IPHC Grand Panel's decision of compensation against patent infringement</i>	<i>Analysis of COVID-19 Related Patents (Avigan®, other anti-viral medicines, and vaccines)</i>
<i>How functional claims of CS inventions are protected in Japan</i>	<i>COVID-19 Implications on IP and its Outlook in Post-COVID19 World</i>
<i>Basic Information on Design Practice in Japan</i>	<i>Requirements for Claiming Priority in Japanese Design Applications</i>
<i>Series of AI and Other Technologies</i>	<i>Series of Comparisons of Legal Systems</i>

## \*\*Webinars in 2020\*\*

We hold free biweekly webinars, called SHIGA Webinar Series. We will continue to present webinars in 2021 so please check our latest invitation at our website!

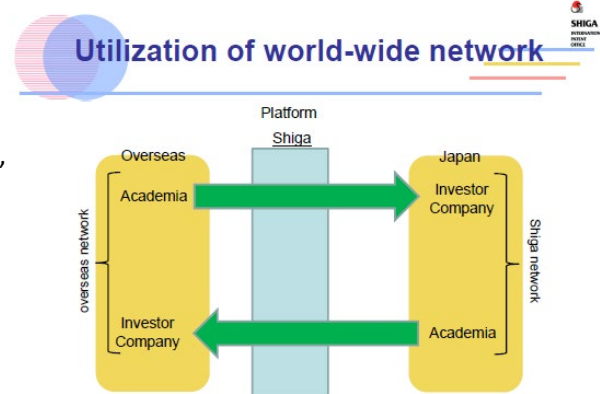
The themes which we presented in 2020

<i>JPO's Remedial Measures for COVID-19</i>	<i>COVID-19 related Patents</i>
<i>Overview of Patent Litigation in Japan</i>	<i>R&amp;D and Patent Trends during and after the COVID-19 situation</i>
<i>Substantive Requirements for Amendment of Japanese Patent Applications</i>	<i>Periods of Various Procedures regarding Japanese Patent Applications</i>
<i>Inside the Japan Patent Office: Organization and Operation through the eyes of a Former Examiner and Appeal Examiner</i>	<i>How to Determine Inventive Step in the Field of Life science and Chemistry in Japan</i>
<i>Measures against Applications and Patents</i>	<i>Invalidation Trial vs Opposition System in Japan</i>
<i>Parameter Inventions: the Current Situation, Problems, and Solutions</i>	<i>Restrictions of Amendments in Response to Final Office Action and Decision of Rejection</i>
<i>Software Patents in Japan –Welcome to Wonderland–</i>	<i>Need-to-Know Points in Formalities of Japanese Patent System</i>
<i>How to obtain a Fintech patent in Japan</i>	<i>Functional Claims in Computer Software Related Inventions</i>

## \*\*New Initiative for Technology Transfer\*\*

We launched a new initiative for a technology transfer program that leverages our broad network across the globe. The aim of the initiative is to fill the gap between technology creators and technology developers. Technology transfer managers, researchers, and entrepreneurs are allowed to pitch their technology online in front of an audience of IP and R&D managers. If any attendee show an interest in the technology, individual meetings can follow to facilitate negotiations for licensing and R&D collaboration opportunities.

This project has been very well received by Japanese companies and we have received many inquiries about it. If you are interested in this initiative, please contact us by email.



## \*\*Current Situation in the Japanese Business World\*\*

Teleworking has been adopted by most of our clients and colleagues, most of whom are members of IP departments of large companies. Packed train stations and chock-a-block walkways are a thing of the past. There has also been a visible and significant decrease in passengers/visitors at Tokyo Station (Shiga's nearest station). In addition, several major Japanese companies are considering selling their properties or relocating their offices in response to changes in working style and for cost efficiency. They seem to be finding new ways to work. In light of such circumstances, we have been holding a number of webinars for both our Japanese and overseas clients. They have been very well received and we would like to share with you what we have learned about Japanese companies through feedback from questionnaires.

### Breakdown of our webinars and participant information

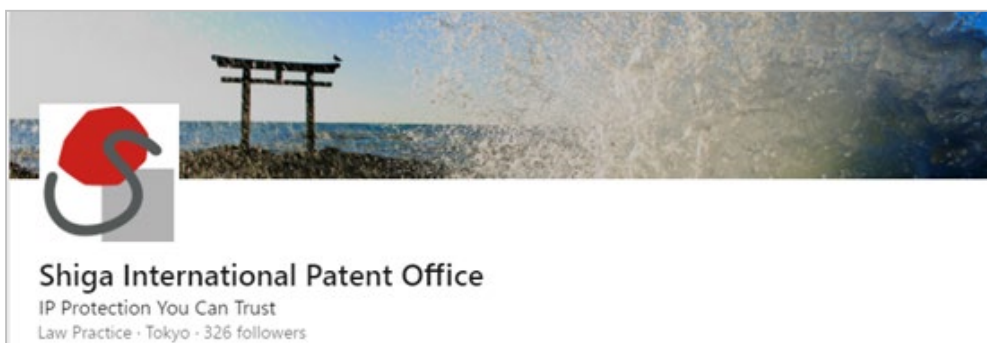
- Number of times held: 36/total number of participant registrations: 3,421!
- 25% of the registrations came from outside the Tokyo metropolitan area.
- The themes ranged from tips for identifying inventions and writing specifications to practical advice when enforcing patent rights based on hands-on experience of our attorneys-at-law.

### Our clients' minds – analysis from the questionnaires and Q&A sessions of the webinars

- As the proverb says "Silence is golden", Japanese people tend to be reluctant to ask questions aloud at in-person seminars, but in web seminars, many of them make individual inquiries through the chat board and through questionnaires. The Q&A session has become a much more effective tool for us to learn their needs than before.
- There has been a growing need for introductory webinars for those who have just become members of IP Departments.
- Most people said teleworking brought them a positive impact (although some said it has had a negative impact).
- They have concerns of having fewer opportunities to attend seminars by IP organizations and are seeking opportunities to learn the latest overseas patent trends.

## \*\*SHIGA's Activity on LinkedIn\*\*

Please find and follow us on LinkedIn! <https://www.linkedin.com/company/shiga-international-patent-office>



## \*\*New Book Released\*\*

*"Trademark Practice for Enhancing Competitive Power – from Application to Utilization of Rights" was published in December 2020. This is the 6th in SHIGA's series of books, "Enhancing Competitive Power". We are honored to be able to publish the series, which is the result of our tireless efforts and commitment to IP work.*



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### FACTS AND FIGURES

Founded in 1965

Approximately 750 staff members

140 Japanese patent and trademark attorneys

7 former JPO examiners

11,000 applications filed to the JPO in 2020

2,000 PCT applications filed in 2020

