

JAPANESE INDUSTRY AND POLICY NEWS

March 2016

LEGISLATION AND POLICY NEWS

Announcement of the Second Nippon Venture Award Winners

On February 26, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) announced the winners of the Nippon Venture Awards, which are a part of the Prime Minister's Awards. These awards are to honor venture businesses that have a positive social impact.

Eighty-seven promising venture businesses applied for the Second Nippon Venture Awards. The examining committee, composed of experts and members of the Venture Business Creation Council, for which METI acts as the secretariat, selected the winners of the Prime Minister's Award, the METI Minister's Awards, and the Special Jury Awards.

Prime Minister's Award was accorded to PeptiDream Inc. which is a Tokyo-based biopharmaceutical company founded in 2006 based on peptide expression and platform selection technologies developed by Professor and company co-founder Hiroaki Suga of the University of Tokyo. METI Minister's Awards (Partnership of Venture Businesses and Large Enterprises) went to ZMP Inc. DeNA Co., Ltd. and Sony Mobile Communications Inc. for their development of autonomous driving technologies for cars and drones. METI Minister's Award (Female Entrepreneur) was accorded to Genequest Inc., a genetic analysis service company.

http://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2016/0226_01.html

<http://www.peptidream.com/en/>

<http://www.zmp.co.jp/?lang=en>

<https://genequest.jp/> (Japanese language only)

SMEA Compiles Guidebook on Overseas Risk Management for SMEs

The Small and Medium Enterprise Agency (SMEA) has compiled the Guidebook on the Basics of Overseas Risk Management for Small and Medium Enterprises and the List of Risk Events by Country so that SMEs can deepen their knowledge of overseas risk management and subsequently make informed efforts by themselves to take necessary measures.

By using these tools, SMEs are anticipated to expand their businesses

overseas with knowledge of the associated risks.

http://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2016/0314_03.html

METI Publishes the Report of the Study Group on “Internal Globalization”

The Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) established the Study Group on Internal Globalization in October 2015. The Study Group has recently compiled challenges that Japanese companies have to address when utilizing skilled human resources from abroad, and measures to be taken into a report. METI has compiled efforts to be conducted by the government to create inclusive environment for human resources with diverse background in society including reform of the immigration control system, as well as necessary efforts to be made by Japanese companies.

http://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2016/0322_03.html

SURVEY AND BUSINESS DATA

Business Forecasting Remains Strong in Environment Sector

According to a bi-annual survey carried out by the Ministry of the Environment, business forecasting of the environment sector remains strong. The questionnaire surveyed 5,000 respondents using “diffusion index (DI)”, which represents the difference between positive and negative forecastings.

In December, the DI was positive by the margin of 21, which were much better than “All business” (15) and a similar survey of Bank of Japan’s “Tankan” (9).

Among various environment sectors, forecasting by counter-measure activity against climate change sector was extremely high with 28 margins.

As for today’s sector of development potential, “Energy saving automobile” was chosen and for the most promising sector in a decade, “renewable energy, excluding photovoltaic power” sector was selected.

<http://www.env.go.jp/press/102130.html> (Japanese language only)

Record Number of Foreign Residents Living in Japan

According to the Ministry of Justice, a record number of 2.23million foreigners were registered as living in Japan as of the end of 2015. It is an increase of 110,000 persons (5.2%) from the previous year.

The Ministry attributed the increase mainly to rises in the numbers of foreigners

who were staying on student or trainee visas, both up by 15 percent. Among foreign nationals who were in Japan either as permanent residents or on visas of more than three months' duration, Chinese accounted for the largest with 666,000 persons, followed by South Koreans (458,000) , Filipinos (230,000), Brazilians (173,000) and Vietnamese (145,000). Among them, Koreans and Brazilians registered slight decreases from the previous year.
http://www.moj.go.jp/nyuukokukanri/kouhou/nyuukokukanri04_00057.html

JPO Surveys Losses Caused by Counterfeiting

The Japan Patent Office (JPO) has compiled the results of a survey on the conditions of Japanese enterprises that suffered actual losses caused by counterfeiting in FY 2014. The percentage of Japanese companies that suffered losses due to counterfeiting was 21.9%, which indicates that there has been no significant change.

As for the country or region in which they suffered damages, China ranked first, remaining the highest at 64.1%, and the Republic of Korea was second (18.9%), followed by six ASEAN economies (18.8%) and Taiwan (18.0%).

A breakdown of damages by type of intellectual property right indicated the same tendencies as those in recent years. The largest category is trademarks (56.4%), followed by patents and utility models (34.0%), designs (30.0%) and copyrighted works (17.4%). In addition, 62.3% of the companies suffering from infringement of their rights responded that they had incurred damage via Internet-related counterfeit.

http://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2016/0310_01.html

TOPICS

EBRD Opens New Office in Tokyo

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) opened a new representative office in Tokyo on 14 March to increase further its business relationship with Japanese corporations. EBRD President Sir Suma Chakrabarti opened the new office. According to him, with an office in Tokyo, EBRD shall be able to support more Japanese companies as they seek investment opportunities in the EBRD regions.

<http://www.ebrd.com/news/2016/ebrd-steps-up-cooperation-with-japanese->

[partners.html](#)