

# SOEI VOICE

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SOEI News

## “3C” Principles Bring Steady Development to Soei

by Yoshiki Hasegawa , President



by Yoshiki Hasegawa

The “once-in-a century” financial crisis hit the global market economy, and it seems to have a long way to go. Now is the time to go back to the basics, to the 3C principles we have always clung to.

### THE FIRST C: WE HAVE TO BE CREATIVE

Intellectual property is the fruit of human intellectual creation, and it is our job to turn that fruit into intellectual property rights. We have a strong, professional commitment to application preparation and prosecution, and our goal is to establish intellectual property rights to our clients’ complete satisfaction.

By creating such exclusive rights, our mission is to contribute to the protection, promotion, and application of intellectual properties as well as to contribute to the development of manufacturing industries.

### THE SECOND C: WE HAVE TO BE COOPERATIVE

Sometimes we work with independent inventors, but the majority of our clients are large organizations such as companies and universities that engage in a wide variety of research and development. To provide service that satisfies our clients’ needs and build relationships of trust with them, we have to be a cooperative group of professionals that shares our expertise in a variety of technical fields.

One person cannot do everything alone, but a group of professionals can accomplish much and live up to the expectations of our clients. And by

working cooperatively with colleagues sharing a wide variety of skills and expertise, we provide high-quality service that suits our client’s needs and allows us to maintain and foster trusting relationships with all kinds of clients.

### THE THIRD C: WE KEEP CHALLENGE ALIVE

The current financial crisis that originated from Wall Street has spread into all corners of the world economy. Although there was no actual fault in the ‘monozukuri’ industries (Japanese art of manufacturing), the crisis engulfed the global manufacturing industries.

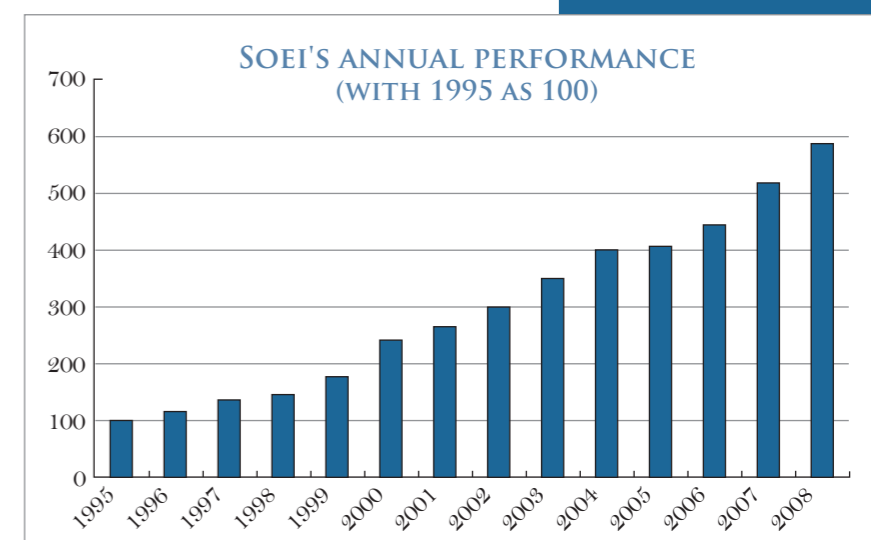
The night is long that never finds the day; morning always comes; things always get better. At the end of the tunnel, I believe we will find a new world illuminated by substantial monozukuri industries instead of financial capitalism built on insatiable greed.

The monozukuri industries prevail when intellectual property is emphasized. We would like to focus our efforts on initiating a new era where intellectual creations can be properly protected as a legal right.

The following graph shows the change in Soei’s annual performance over 14 years (with the annual performance in 1995 as 100). In the past 14 years, we have experienced economic depression several times; however, Soei has overcome each crisis by abiding by our 3C principles, continuously building on our

achievements. In 2008, while the whole world plunged into the financial crisis, our performance rose steadily and is continuing in 2009.

Since we have the 3C principles to work by, we are able to continue to grow in the midst of the “once-in-a century” financial crisis. By being **C**reative, **C**ooperating with colleagues and keeping **C**hallenge alive, we would like to grow to become a world-leading patent firm in Japan.



## Patent

### Summary of Recent Revisions to the Patent Law and Examination Guidelines

by Kazuhiro Yamaguchi



by Kazuhiro Yamaguchi

The Japanese patent law and examination guidelines are repeatedly revised to harmonize with other patent systems and increase convenience for applicants. However, these revisions also cause confusion and frustration because the Japanese patent law alone has been revised eight times since 1994, and the old laws and guidelines may still apply to certain pending applications. This article reviews some of the important revisions and their effect on prosecution procedures.

#### 1. TIME LIMIT ON THE REQUEST FOR EXAMINATION (PATENT LAW: SECTION 48TER)

(a) Revision

The time limit for submission of a Request for Examination for a patent application was changed from "within 7 years" from the filing date to "within 3 years" from the filing date.

(b) Applied to: New applications filed on

or after October 1, 2001

(c) Remarks

The revised time limit now applies to all applications for which a Request for Examination has not yet been filed.

However, note that the applicant must file a Request for Examination within 30 days after filing a divisional application if 3 years have passed since the filing date of the parent application.

#### 2. UNITY OF INVENTION / UNITY OF APPLICATION (PATENT LAW: SECTION 37; REGULATIONS: 25 OCTIES)

(a) Revision

The old requirement calling for "Unity of Application" was replaced with the revised requirement for "Unity of Invention."

(b) Applied to: New applications filed on or after January 1, 2004

(c) Remarks

The current "Unity of Invention"

requirement refers to PCT Rule 13 and requires the claims to have a "technical relationship" to one another that involves the same or corresponding "special technical features." On the other hand, the old "Unity of Application" requirement involves the concepts of a "specified invention" and "related inventions" that are not involved in the current "Unity of Invention" requirement. Note that the old "Unity of Application" still applies to pending applications that were filed on or before December 31, 2003. The applicant may find the examination produces an unexpected result due to the application of the old requirement.

### 3. PROHIBITION OF "SHIFT AMENDMENTS" (PATENT LAW: SECTION 17 BIS (4))

#### (a) Revision

Amendment to the application must not change the claimed invention currently being examined into another invention which does not satisfy the "Unity of Invention" requirement that applies to the invention currently being examined.

(b) Applied to: New applications filed on or after April 1, 2007

#### (c) Remarks

If the examiner determines that the amendment filed in response to a Notice of Reasons for Rejection is a "shift amendment," the examiner will not examine the amended claim. The applicants therefore need to draft the original claims carefully because maintaining the "special technical feature" mentioned in connection with the "Unity of Invention" requirement is the key to avoiding "shift amendments." Otherwise, the applicants may suffer from this and other restrictions on claim amendments

when responding to the next office action and may be forced to file a divisional application at a later date.

### 4. TIME LIMIT FOR AMENDMENTS — IN AN APPEAL AGAINST FINAL REJECTION (PATENT LAW: SECTIONS 17BIS (1) AND 121)

#### (a) Revision

Under the old law, foreign applicants had 90 days to request an Appeal Against Final Rejection (Decision of Refusal) and then could file amendments 30 days later. Under the new law, amendments must be filed "at the same time" as the request for Appeal.

(b) Applied to: Final Rejections dispatched on or after April 1, 2009

#### (c) Remarks

Although it is at the examiner's discretion, foreign applicants will be allowed four months to file both an Appeal Against Final Rejection and any amendments. Accordingly, this revision does not result in any substantial change for foreign applicants. However, foreign applicants will now be required to complete all preparations (including any amendments and arguments) within four months of a Final Rejection.

### 5. ADDITIONAL TIME LIMIT TO FILE DIVISIONAL APPLICATIONS (PATENT LAW: SECTION 44 (1))

#### (a) Revision

Two new time periods in which divisional applications may be filed have been added

(I) Within 30 days following the dispatch of the examiner's Decision to Grant a Patent (except any decision that issues after the applicant has filed an Appeal Against Final Rejection); and

(II) Within 3 months (or 4 months for foreign applicants) following the dispatch

of a first Final Rejection.

(b) Applied to: Divisional applications based on parent applications filed on or after April 1, 2007

#### (c) Remarks

It should be noted that these new time limits are not applicable to any divisional applications based on parent applications filed prior to April 1, 2007. Accordingly, if the examiner issues a Final Rejection against such an application, it is necessary to file an appeal if the applicant wishes to file a divisional application out of the parent application. Furthermore, due to the revision mentioned in Item 4, any divisional application out of this parent application must be filed "at the same time" as the Request for Appeal.

### 6. PROHIBITION OF ABUSE OF DIVISIONAL APPLICATION PROCEDURE (PATENT LAW: SECTIONS 17 BIS (5) AND 50 BIS)

#### (a) Revision

If the examiner finds the same grounds for rejection in a divisional application that were cited against the parent application(s), the examiner will issue a "Notification under Section 50bis." Once the examiner issues this notification, the applicant must satisfy the more restrictive requirements on claim amendments that apply after a "final" office action ("Final Notice of Reasons for Rejection).

(b) Applied to: Divisional applications based on parent applications filed on or after April 1, 2007

#### (c) Remarks

Applicants need to consider the previously cited reasons for rejection carefully and file appropriate claims before the examination of the divisional application actually begins. Otherwise, the applicants may be forced to file another divisional application.

More information on these revisions can be found at the JPO website:

1) Request for examination:  
[http://www.jpo.go.jp/tetuzuki\\_e/t\\_tokkyo\\_e/1309\\_005.htm](http://www.jpo.go.jp/tetuzuki_e/t_tokkyo_e/1309_005.htm).

2) Examination Guidelines for Patent and Utility Model in Japan:  
[http://www.jpo.go.jp/tetuzuki\\_e/t\\_tokkyo\\_e/1312-002\\_e.htm](http://www.jpo.go.jp/tetuzuki_e/t_tokkyo_e/1312-002_e.htm)

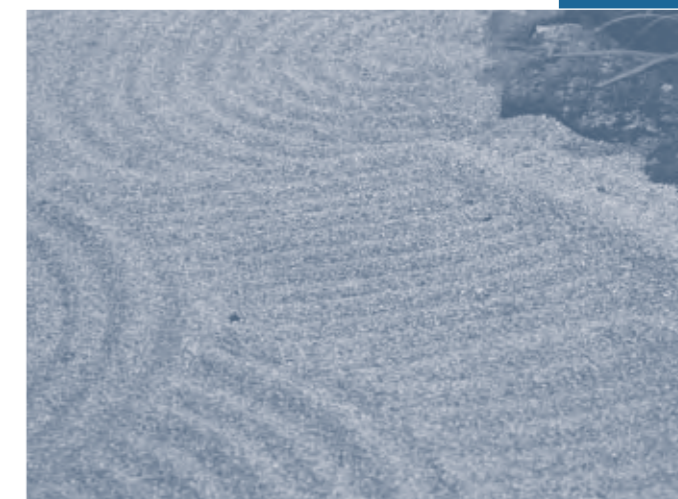
(Note: Some updated guidelines are not available in English.)

3) Appeal against Final Rejection:  
[http://www.jpo.go.jp/iken\\_e/iken\\_e\\_zai\\_gaisya\\_toriatukai\\_2.htm](http://www.jpo.go.jp/iken_e/iken_e_zai_gaisya_toriatukai_2.htm)

Our SOEI website also provides additional information:

1) "Due Date on Appeals by Foreign Applicants" (by Yosuke Totsu):  
[http://www.soEI.com/english/download/SOEI\\_Newsletter2008-10.pdf](http://www.soEI.com/english/download/SOEI_Newsletter2008-10.pdf)

2) Revisions of "Examination Guidelines for Patent and Utility Model" from April 1, 2007:  
[http://www.soEI.com/english/whats\\_new/wnew07\\_03\\_27.html](http://www.soEI.com/english/whats_new/wnew07_03_27.html)



Patent

Patent Prosecution and Examination in Japan

by Yoshiki Kuroki



by Yoshiki Kuroki

The following table from the Japanese Patent Office (JPO) shows that the time required to examine a patent application has been increasing even though the stated goal of the JPO has been to reduce it

1. Statistics on Patent Applications and Registrations in Japan

	Year 2003	Year 2004	Year 2005	Year 2006	Year 2007
Number of patent applications	413,092 (50,381)	423,081 (54,665)	427,078 (54,118)	408,674 (61,614)	396,291 (62,793)
Number of patent registrations	122,511 (11,676)	124,192 (11,665)	122,944 (11,856)	141,399 (14,595)	164,954 (19,914)
Length of waiting period for examination (months)	25	26	26	26	27

Note 1: The first number is the grand total and the number in parenthesis is the foreign applicants subtotal.

2. Accelerated Examination

As shown in the foregoing table, the interval between a Request for Examination and a first Office Action (usually a Notice of Reasons for Rejection) is 27 months in 2007, and the trend is not encouraging. However, there is an "accelerated examination system" in place that will result in a more rapid prosecution of the application. In addition, the JPO began a trial of a "super accelerated examination system" on October 1, 2008 to provide an even more rapid examination.

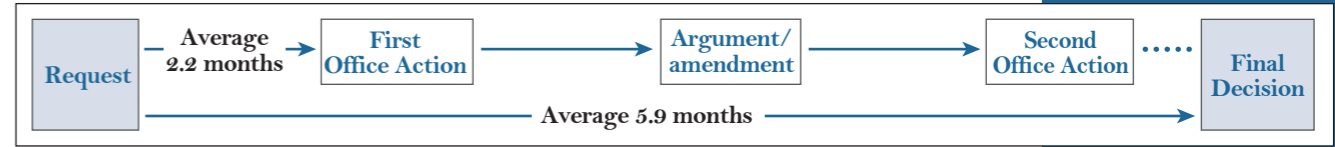
Accelerated examination is available for applications filed by small- or medium-sized enterprises, individuals, universities, public research institutions and so on. In addition, it is available for any application, regardless of the applicant, if the applicant or his licensee is working or is planning to work the invention in the near future. Accelerated examination is also available for any application, again regardless of the applicant, if the applicant has filed a corresponding application in a country other than Japan or before an intergovernmental organization such as WIPO.

Super accelerated examination is available if the applicant or his licensee is working or is planning to work the invention in the near future and for those applications with a non-Japanese counterpart application, with one exception. The Japanese national phase of a PCT application is not eligible for super accelerated examination.

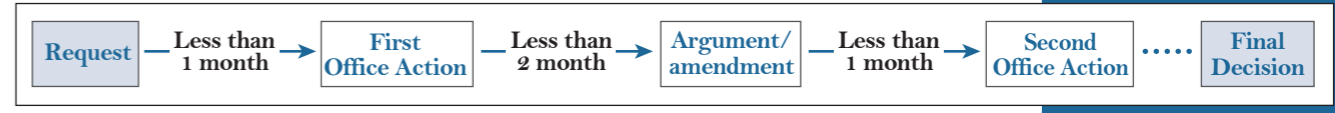
The current "accelerated examination" shortens the period from the request for examination to the first office action.

The "super accelerated examination" shortens each stage from the application until the final decision. The following time lines compare "accelerated examination" and "super accelerated examination."

Current accelerated examination:

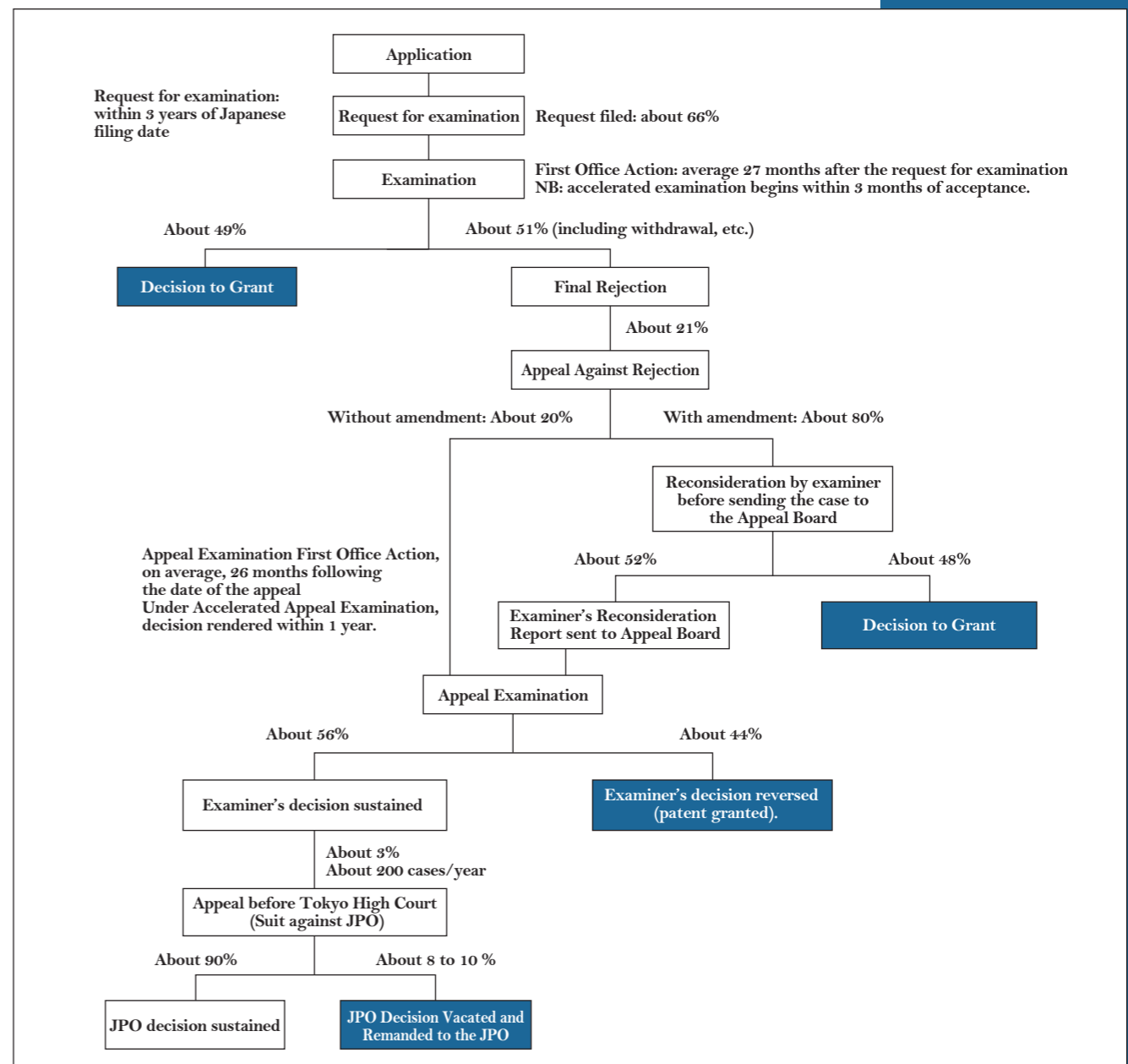


Super accelerated examination



There is no official fee. However, preparation of the request and the other documents necessary will incur attorney's fees.

3. Patent Application Flow Chart: Application, Examination, Appeal before the JPO and Appeal before the Tokyo High Court (Intellectual Property Bench)



## Trademark

# Discussions Continue on Protection for New Trademark Types

by Tomoya Kurokawa



by Tomoya Kurokawa

The Industrial Structure Council in the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) organized a working group in July 2008 to discuss protection for new trademark types such as hologram marks, color marks and sound marks. The working group held several meetings and published a draft report in the minutes of the meeting in January 2009.

The committee first discussed the following new trademark types:

- (1) Moving marks (e.g. animation marks, moving 3D marks, etc.)
- (2) Holographic marks
- (3) Color marks, (single color or multiple colors, without a character or figure)
- (4) Position marks (combination of a figure with a position on the product)
- (5) Sound marks
- (6) Smell marks
- (7) Tactual marks
- (8) Taste marks
- (9) Trade dress

After considering how these marks are protected in the US, Europe, Korea, Taiwan and China, how the scope of protection should be determined and other factors; the working group concluded that moving marks, holographic marks, color marks, position marks and sound marks should be protected as registered trademarks.

The draft includes some suggestions on how new trademark types should be specified. For example, moving marks and holographic marks can be specified by (a) a sample of the mark including a

plurality of pictures and explanatory text, or (b) a computer file which encodes the mark in digital form. Color marks can be specified by a color sample and explanatory text. Position marks can be specified by a sample of the mark and a description of where the mark appears on the product. Sound marks can be specified with a computer file which records the mark in digital form.

The working group decided registration should not be extended to smell marks, tactual marks, taste marks and trade dress, at least for the time being, because it is too difficult to specify the mark and to determine the scope of the protection of the registered mark.

The working group has received public comments on draft report, and they will revise it before preparing a bill to amend the trademark law and submitting it to the Diet. They expect protection for new trademark types to begin in the next year or two.



## Design

# The Related Design System

by Nobuhiko Yoshida



by Nobuhiko Yoshida

In Japan, each design application must contain only a single design, and every design application is examined. If, during the examination, the Examiner finds that there are a plurality of applications for designs that are identical or similar to one another, only the earliest application will be registered, and the other, later applications will be rejected. This rule applies even if the applicant for the other, later designs is the same as the applicant in the application having an earlier filing date.

However, when a design is created, designs for a plurality of variations may be created from one design concept. To protect such a group of variations, Japan has the Related Design System.

Under the Related Design System, the applicant specifies one design as the Principal Design and the other designs similar to the Principal Design as Related Designs. The applicant for the Principal Design and for the Related Design must be the same, and the Related Design must be similar to the Principal Design.

Although there once was a requirement that the applications for the Principal Design and for the Related Design be filed together, the 2006 amendment to the Design Law in made it possible for the Related Design to be filed at any time prior to the publication of the Design Gazette reporting the registration of the Principal Design.

Applicants who are not residents of Japan usually first file an application in their home country and then file their

Japanese application within six months and claim priority from the first application. If the applicant files a Principal Design and a Related Design, the filing date of these applications is deemed to be their respective priority dates.

Thus, applicants can obtain registration for a Related Design if the filing date of the design variation in the home country is before the Principal Design is published anywhere in the world, provide the other requirements for registration, such as novelty, are fulfilled.

The Related Design System is an indispensable tool for securing stronger rights for any applicant who intends to obtain design rights in Japan. The Related Design System expands the right to cover not only products that are actually put into the market, but also to variations that extend out from the central design concept, further suppressing imitation by third parties.

For assistance and consultation on the design system and applications in Japan, please contact our Trademark and Design Department.

## Law

## Registration of the Transfer of a Patent Right

by Kazuhiro Ajisaka



by Kazuhiro Ajisaka

The Patent Law of Japan provides that the transfer of a patent right, except for a transfer arising from general succession, including inheritance, must be registered in the Japan Patent Office (JPO) to take effect (Patent Law Art. 98 (1)(i)). Other countries that require registration with public agencies for a transfer to take effect include China and Korea.

In comparison with other countries, the JPO requirements at the time of the registration are quite strict, requiring documents that are unusual outside Japan. The registration section at the JPO is not flexible, and if the formal documents are insufficient the application for registration of the transfer of ownership may be rejected. We recently handled a case that demonstrates the some of the difficulties involved.

This case relates to a Japanese patent originally owned by A, an individual inventor in the U.S. Upon A's death, ownership passed to his wife, C, by inheritance, and C wished to assign the patent right to company B, a U.S. corporation. The problem centered around the certification necessary to show that A, the deceased individual, was one and the same individual as the person shown as the owner of the patent right in the records in the JPO.

The Japan Patent Office refused the application for change of ownership because they were not convinced that the owner of the patent right in their records was the same individual who transferred

the patent right to C by inheritance because the address for A in the registry, the address for A at the time of his death stated in the death certificate and, furthermore, the address for C, who was said to be A's wife at the time of his death, were all different. In Japan, the official family registry maintained in municipal offices, resident card, the company registries and so on make it fairly straight forward to obtain official certification to establish the identity for an individual or a company over time. But the JPO would not take into consideration that fact that A was a U.S. national residing in the U.S, where this kind of certification system does not exist. Further, although the inheritance system in the U.S. is different from that in Japan, the JPO required documents based on the Japanese inheritance system.

Upon obtaining the consent of B and C, our office acted as B's legal representative before the Tokyo District Court in a suit demanding that the JPO register the transfer of the patent right to C. Having obtained the appropriate court order and serving it on the JPO, we recently succeeded in having the transfer registered.

We were successful, but, because A had no legal representative in Japan at the time the application to register the transfer of the patent right was filed, it took about half a year to complete. If A were to have still had a legal representative in Japan, it seems likely that the change of address and others

procedures would have been completed relatively easily. (However, the explanation of inheritance system would have still been difficult). Although it would be desirable for the registration system for changes in ownership in Japan to incorporate greater flexibility to adapt

to the actual situation, specifically with respect to persons living in foreign countries, this case also demonstrates the importance of keeping the Japanese Patent Office informed of any changes in address or ownership promptly.

## Come to Japan

## Kado, the Art of Flower Arranging

by Midori Hisakawa

Kado is an original Japanese tradition that adds an artistic aspect to flower arrangement, an art that puts together flowers and small trees in order to appreciate their beauty. Although sometimes called ikebana, kado (lit. "The Way of Flowers") is distinguished from ikebana due to its emphasis on the spiritual aspects of the art.

There are many schools of kado with different styles of arrangement: for example, there are many schools that structure their arrangements to be viewed from the front. On the other hand, American and European flower designs are created so that the arrangement has a uniform look from whatever angle viewers might look at it. In this respect Western flower design differs significantly from Japanese kado. In Western flower arrangement design, parts of plants are arranged by color and shape, with the color and shape of each plant being fit into a model form; therefore, it is possible to create an arrangement that matches a sample piece exactly. On the other hand, Japanese kado is an art that expresses the life of plants through the work itself. Because the shape of plants used in the arrangement is

unique, no two works of kado are ever alike or are similar to an original model even though the fundamental form is the same. In kado, all aspects of the natural plants, including the shape of their branches and stems, their leaves and moss are all considered to be a part of the flower and are treated as living things, another point that distinguishes kado from Western flower arrangement.

There are dozens of major schools of kado: Ikenobo and Sogetsuryu are two of the most famous. Known as the patriarch of kado, Ikenobo is said to have started with the monks of the Rokkakudo (Rokkaku Temple) in Kyoto in the middle of the Muromachi Era (1336–1573). According to tradition, these monks lived by a pond or ike, leading to the name Ikenobo. Most schools are thought to be branches of this Ikenobo school.

When I was a student, I was a member of a kado club, and our teacher was a member of the Sogetsuryu school. When creating an arrangement, place a Kenzan or frog, a spiked metal holder, at the bottom of the vase and secure the flowers and plants on the Kenzan. Always cut the stems of plants are under water with flower shears so the flowers will last

longer. When you have decided on the length of the stems, you will start inserting the stems into the Kenzan. In the Sogetsuryu school of kado, three main branches and a number of supplementary branches are positioned to create a three-dimensional form. The names of the three main branches are Shin (first main branch), Soe (second main branch), and Hikae (third main branch), each with its own determined length and angle. The length of the Shin branch is 1.5 times the sum of the diameter and the height of the vase, and the branch itself is positioned from the center at an angle of 15 degrees to the front-left. The Soe branch is about 3/4 the length of the Shin branch and positioned at a 45-degree angle to the left. The Hikae branch is about half the length of the Soe branch and positioned 75

degrees to the right. Usually, branches are used for the Shin and Soe and a flower is used for the Hikae. After positioning the three main branches, add short supplementary stems. Placing several branches and flowers cut shorter than the three main branches gives a more three-dimensional form. When using a shallow vase where the foot of the flower stem is visible, it may be a nice touch to place flowers or leaves on the surface of the water.

Flower arranging encourages concentration and calms the mind. How enriching it is to include kado, expressing the life possessed by plants in all four seasons, in your daily life! I have not had a chance to practice kado since I graduated from school, but I would like to start once again.

and adjusting the heat. She always makes a full pot of beans, even though we really only need enough for New Year's Day. My mother whispered to me that the reason grandmother makes so much is because, when I was a little girl, I announced that "Grandma makes the best black beans in the whole wide world!" and it made her so happy that she makes a full pot every year.

It is also interesting to listen to my grandmother talk about the traditions behind New Year dishes. O-sechi ryori in Chinese characters is 御節料理 (seasonal cuisine), and the cuisine was originally offered to the gods as a prayer for a good harvest and the well-being of the members of the household on the five seasonal-related holidays in Japan. Later, people started preparing this cuisine only for New Year's. Traditionally, most of the O-sechi dishes can last a couple days, so that women would not be tied to kitchen during the New Year's holidays. Each of the dishes in O-sechi has meaning. For example, the beans are for long life and good health, and the kurikinto, because it signifies gold and silver treasures, is prepared in the hope of good fortune.

For the past few years, my grandmother has explained all this over and over at this time of year. Although I sigh, "Not again...", I continue to listen because when she is talking, she looks so lively. Grandma, bent with age and looking so tiny, straightens up and looks so happy when she talks of the old days.

My family diligently celebrates annual events, probably because we live with our grandmother. We throw soybeans to drive away demons on Setsubun, take a yuzu bath and eat pumpkin on Touji (the day of the winter solstice), eat Kashiwamochi (a rice cake filled with bean

jam and wrapped in an oak leaf) on Children's Day, and so on. I took these annual events for granted, but I know now that through these events I learned important things from my mother and grandmother.

I believe that tradition changes little by little with time, but its foundation never changes. That is why tradition is shared by all, young and old alike, regardless of the age we live in. I know that there is meaning to each traditional event, such as the celebrating the coming of a new season or cherishing the past and the natural world; but I feel it is the interaction of people that is the most important aspect of these events.

Although for the past few years I have been saying to myself, "I'm going to help make O-sechi this year so that I'll be able to teach my children someday," I find myself yet again eating food prepared by somebody else. Next year, maybe I will take the time to learn how to prepare O-sechi from my mother and grandmother.

## Come to Japan

### Grandma's Kuromame

by Yuki Kurimoto

My grandmother's kuromame (black beans) are delicious. They are sweet, light and lustrous. I think so every year when I eat them on New Year's Day.

Immediately after Christmas, my family begins preparing O-sechi ryori (Japanese New Year's cuisine). Traditionally O-sechi ryori is served in a three-tier lacquered box: the first tier is filled with kazunoko (herring roe), kuromame (black beans), kurikinton (sweet potatoes and chestnuts), tatakigobo (burdock), tazukuri (small dried teriyaki sardines), and kohaku kamaboko (red and white fish paste); the second tier is filled with ebi-no-umani (shrimp boiled in soy sauce and sugar),

kombumaki (rolled kelp with fish), datemaki (sweet omelet), matsukazeyaki (food grilled with poppy seeds paste), namasu (pickled daikon radish and carrots), and sawara-no-yakimono (grilled Spanish mackerel); and the third tier is filled with chikuzenni (simmered vegetables with chicken). My mother and grandmother prepare this delicious food to serve on New Year's Day.

My favorite O-sechi food is the black beans cooked by my grandmother. I love to watch her cook the beans. She celebrated her Beiju (88th birthday) last year and she's not as young as she used to be, but on the day she cooks the black beans, she spends all day watching the pot



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Jun-ichiro SAKAMAKI

Mr. Sakamaki received his B.S. and M.S. in Applied Chemistry from the Tokyo Institute of Technology in 2003. After completing his studies, he was at National Institutes of Natural Sciences (Institute for Molecular Science) until he joined Soei in 2005. He has been handling prosecutions in the fields of organic and polymer materials, pharmaceuticals, adhesives, catalysts, nanotechnology, photoresists, photolithography and photoconductors.

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Teppei OMORI

Mr. Omori received his B.S. and M.S. in Applied Physics from Tohoku University in 2000 and 2003. He worked for IT Solution Company as a system engineer for several years until he joined Soei in 2006, where he has been handling consultations in the fields of integrated circuits, computer software, image processing, optical devices, mechanical devices, and automotive machinery.

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Tomoya FURUSHITA

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At Soei, he has been handling prosecutions in the fields of inorganic and polymer materials, nanotechnology, chemical engineering, electrical fuel cells, semiconductors and electronic devices.

He qualified as a patent attorney and joined the Japan Patent Attorneys Association (JPAA) in 2009.

**Yasuki YANAGI**

Yasuki YANAGI

Mr. Yanagi graduated from Tokyo University in 2003, where he studied Machine Engineering. He worked for a home appliance manufacturer until he joined Soei in 2005. He has been handling prosecutions and appeals in the fields of electronic components, mechanical devices, automotive and construction machinery.

He qualified as a patent attorney and joined the Japan Patent Attorneys Association (JPAA) in 2009.

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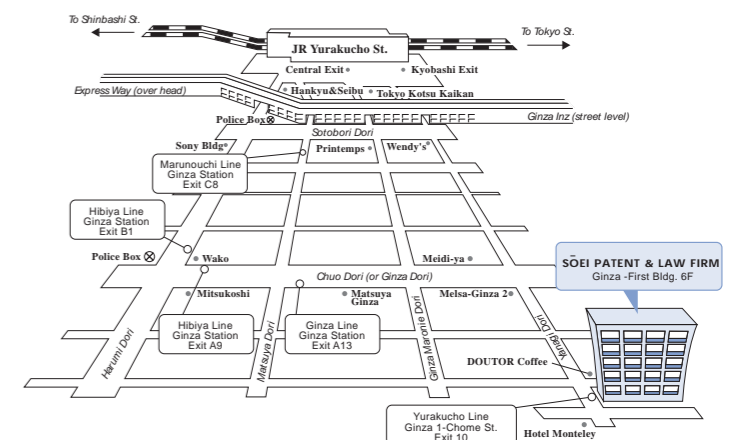
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