

## **[ IPOP HL Memorandum No. 16-070 Series 2016, June 10, 2016 ]**

### **ACCOMMODATIONS FOR PATENT AND TRADEMARK APPLICANTS, OWNERS AND AGENTS AFFECTED BY THE CALAMITY IN JAPAN**

#### **Accommodations for Patent and Trademark Applicants, Owners and Agents Affected by the Calamity in Japan**

The widespread devastation caused by the calamities that hit Japan on April 14, 2016 and thereafter resulted in massive displacement in affected areas including pervasive disruption of power supply, communication services and internet facilities. These conditions prevented the resumption of normal working conditions for Japanese applicants and IP practitioners.

In view of such disruption, the following reliefs and measures shall be implemented to assist Japanese applicants and IP practitioners based in affected areas:

#### **For Patent, Utility Models and Industrial Design Applications**

- Responses due from April 14, 2016 until May 31, 2016, shall be granted an extension of two (2) months, upon request. A second extension may be granted, upon request, for a period of two (2) months provided that the aggregate period granted inclusive of the initial period allowed to file the response shall not exceed six (6) months from the mailing date of the official action requiring such response.
- Office actions mailed from April 14, 2016 until May 31, 2016 to Japanese applicants or agents affected by the disruption of communication and postal services shall be deemed to have been mailed on May 31, 2016. Thus, the responses shall be deemed to be due on July 31, 2016 without prejudice to a request for extension of two (2) months, upon request. A second extension may be granted provided that the aggregate period granted inclusive of the initial period allowed to file the response shall not exceed six (6) months from May 31, 2016.
- Notices of withdrawn application mailed from April 14, 2016 until May 31, 2016 shall be deemed to have been mailed on May 31, 2016. Thus, the corresponding petitions for revival shall be filed not later than four (4) months from April 14, 2016. The revival fee shall be waived, upon request.
- For annual fees due from April 14, 2016 to May 31, 2016, a grace period of six (6) months from the due date shall be granted for the payment of the fee and the surcharge shall be waived, upon request.
- Assistance shall be extended for requests for reconstitution of records.