



# The Cost of Patent Backlogs:

# Why all the fuss?

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# Overview

- The London Economics Report
- Key findings
- Future trends
- Who is affected by delays ?
- Possible solutions



# The London Economics report

- Commissioned by UK Govt in 2009
- Published 10 March 2010

<http://www.ipo.gov.uk/p-backlog-report.pdf>





# Key Findings

- However you define them, backlogs are growing
- Demand continues to rise despite global recession
- Conventional response not coping
- Estimates cost to be £7.6B at EPO, USPTO, JPO alone
- An extra year of pendency within 5 years

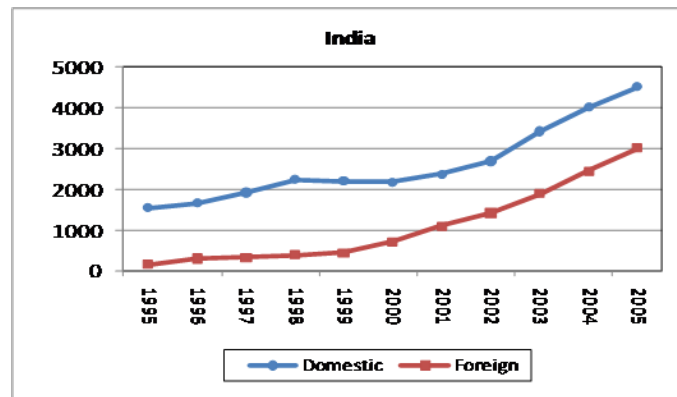
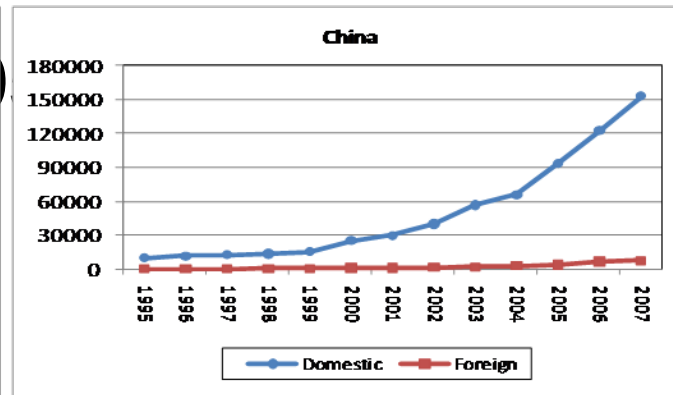
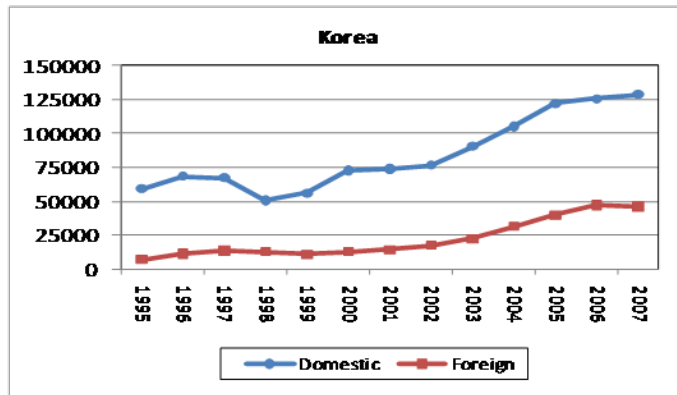


# Is this really a problem ?

- Are applicants complaining ?
- Offices say quality not affected
- Acceleration mechanisms under used
- What about 3<sup>rd</sup> party interests
- How long is too long for applicants ?
- The impact of developing economies

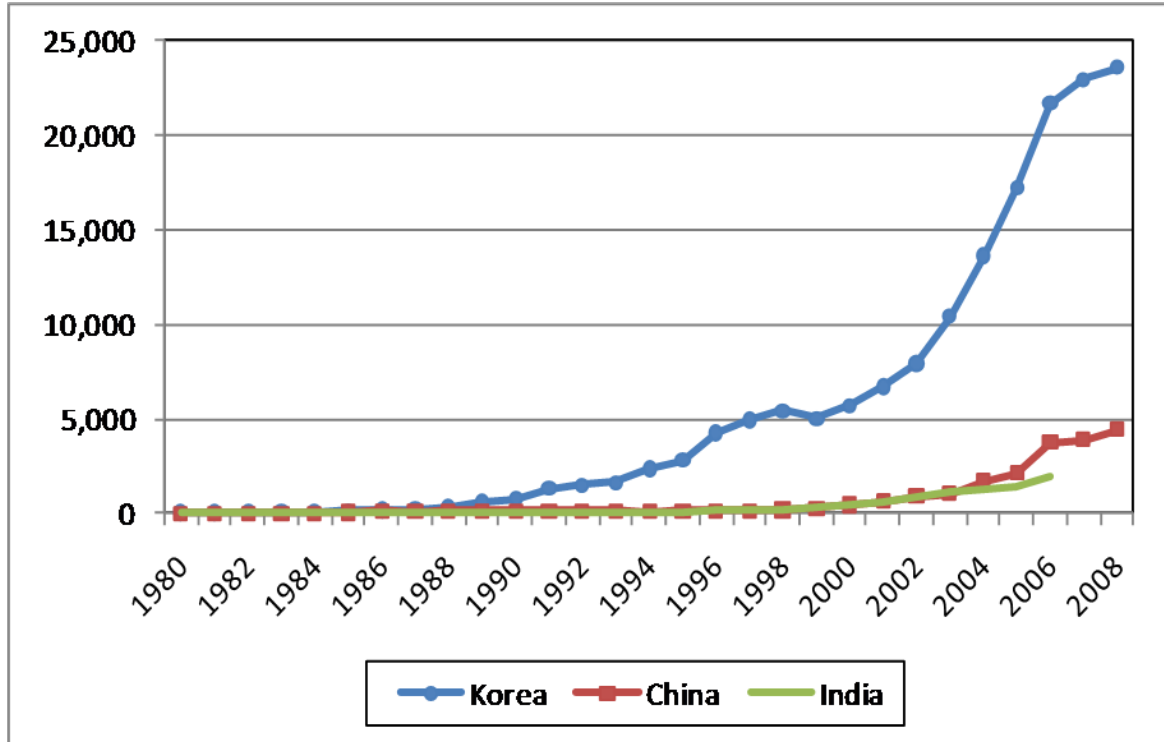


# Applications Originating in the Republic of Korea, China and India





# Patent Applications to the USPTO, Originating from Korea, China and India





# Sources and Solutions

- In the offices studied, one in three applications is a duplicate
- Patent offices need to be more inventive
- If the time spent on examining duplicate applications could be reduced by 25%, the predicted growth in backlogs could be avoided



# **We should not be scared of work sharing**

- Lots of work sharing already going on
- Aware of the need for quality
- Need to maximise potential for re-utilisation



**Thank you for your attention!**