



KOREAN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICE

Tackling the Backlog

June 2010



Korean Intellectual Property Office

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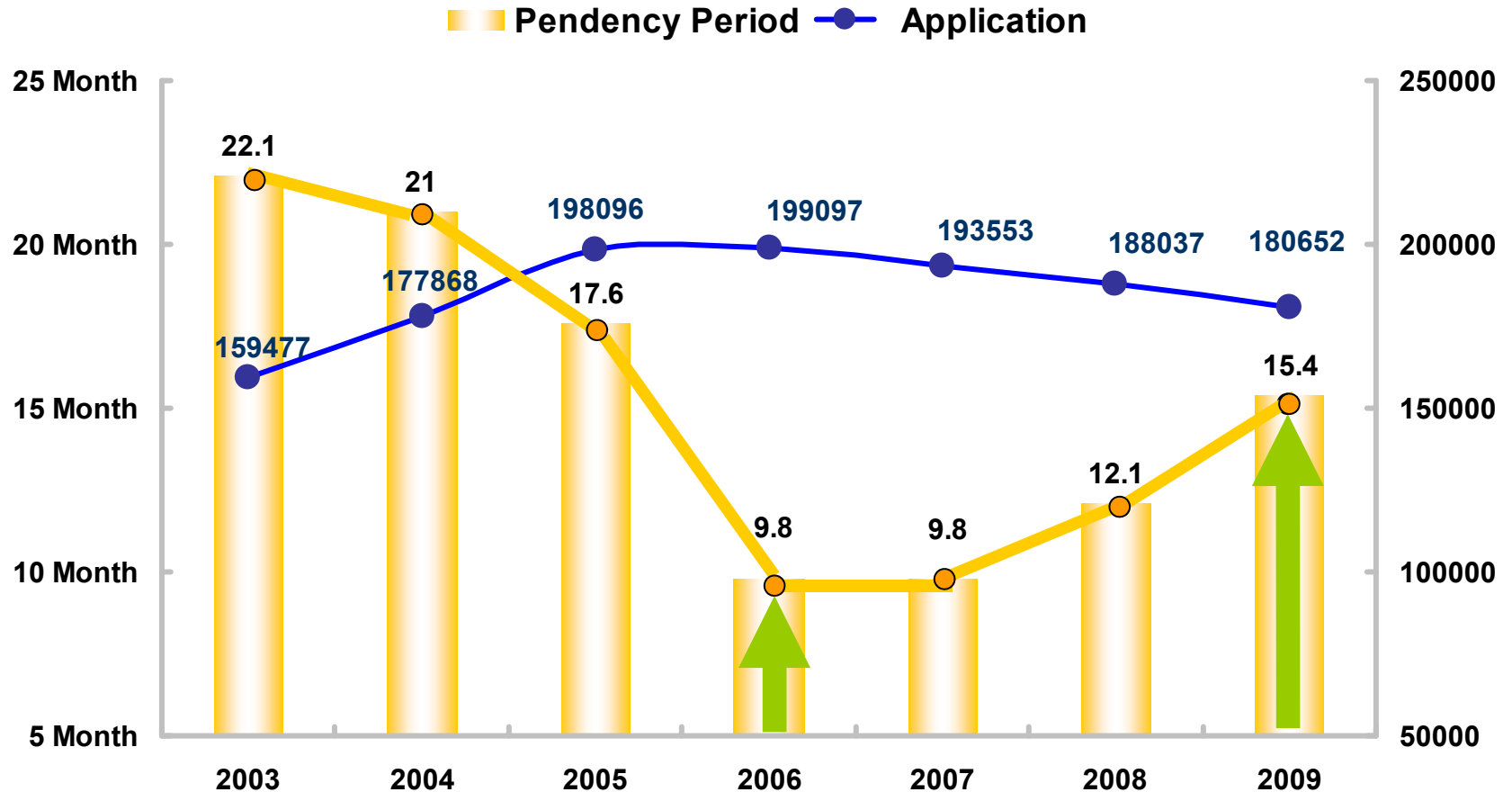
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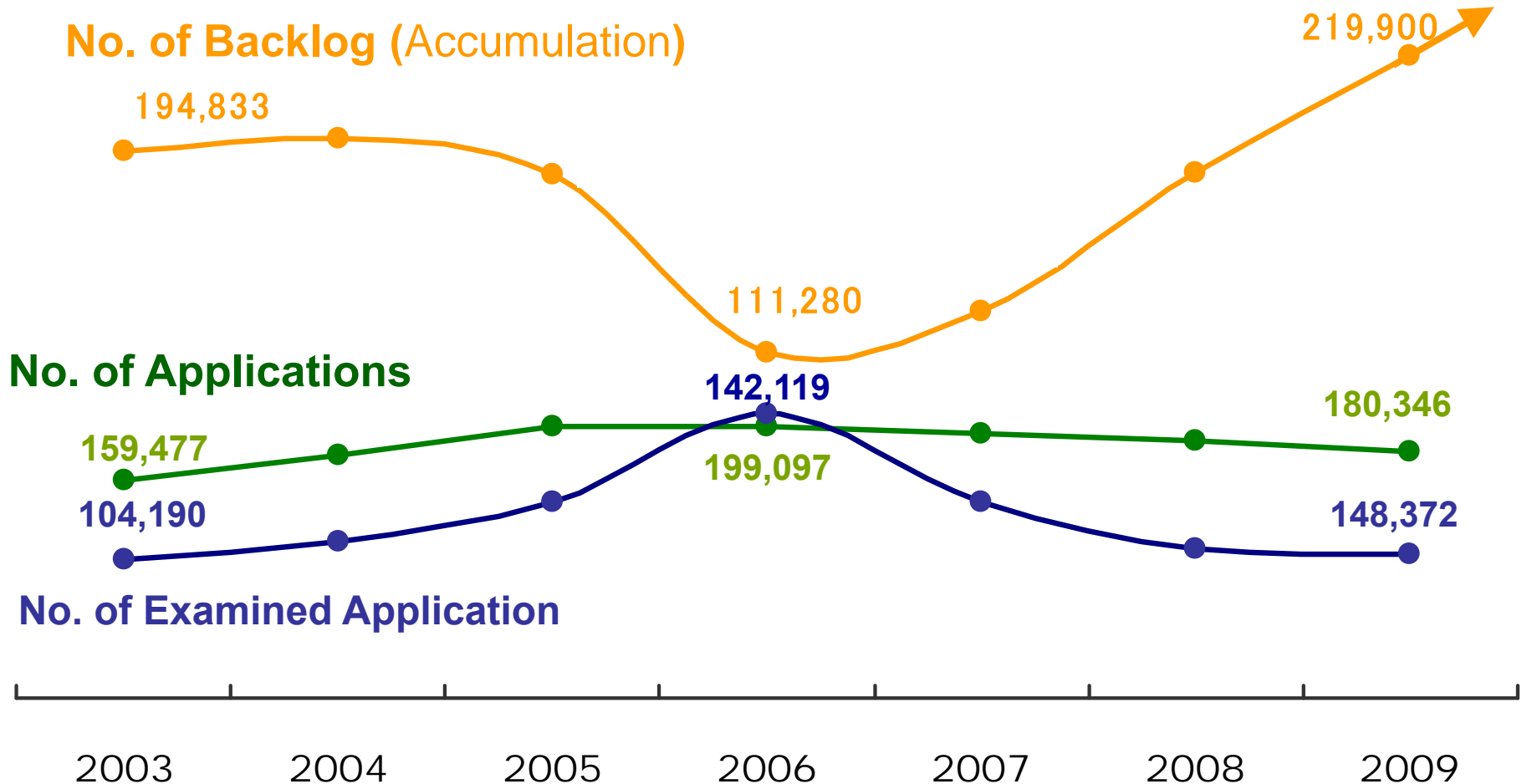
1. Current Status: Pendency Period

● No. of Applications and Pendency Period



1. Current Status: Accumulated Backlog

● No. of Applications, Examined Applications and Backlog



2. Reasons for the Backlog

● Increasing Backlog

- ✓ Each year 8,000 applications; the total backlog is 220,000 applications

● Rapidly Growing Number of PCT ISR Requests

PCT ISR Request	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	May 2010
Outside	20	735	2,853	11,657	13,978	5,656
KR	3,850	5,163	6,071	7,165	7,090	3,280
Total	3,870	5,898	8,924	18,818	13,356	8,936

● Focus on Quality Examination

3. KIPO's Efforts: Expanding the Workforce

● Number of Staffs

2004

2010



558



819

● 42.4% of Examiners have a PhD

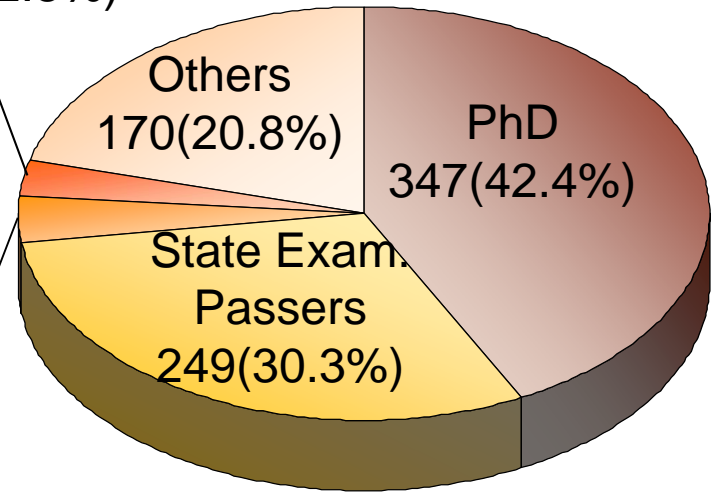
Patent Attorney
23 (2.8%)

Others
170(20.8%)

PhD
347(42.4%)

State Exam.
Passers
249(30.3%)

Certified Technician
30 (3.7%) (2.8%)



3. KIPO's Efforts: Increased Examination Productivity

● Infrastructure Optimization

- ✓ Outsourcing of Prior Art Searches

Year	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010 (expectation)
Paris Route	78,824	80,825	74,432	78,593	59,782	64,884
PCT Route	-	-	-	-	5,672	4,492

● Enhanced examination guidelines

- ✓ PCT ISR and IPER expert guidelines

● Enhancement of the automation system

- ✓ User friendly examination system (KIPOnet)

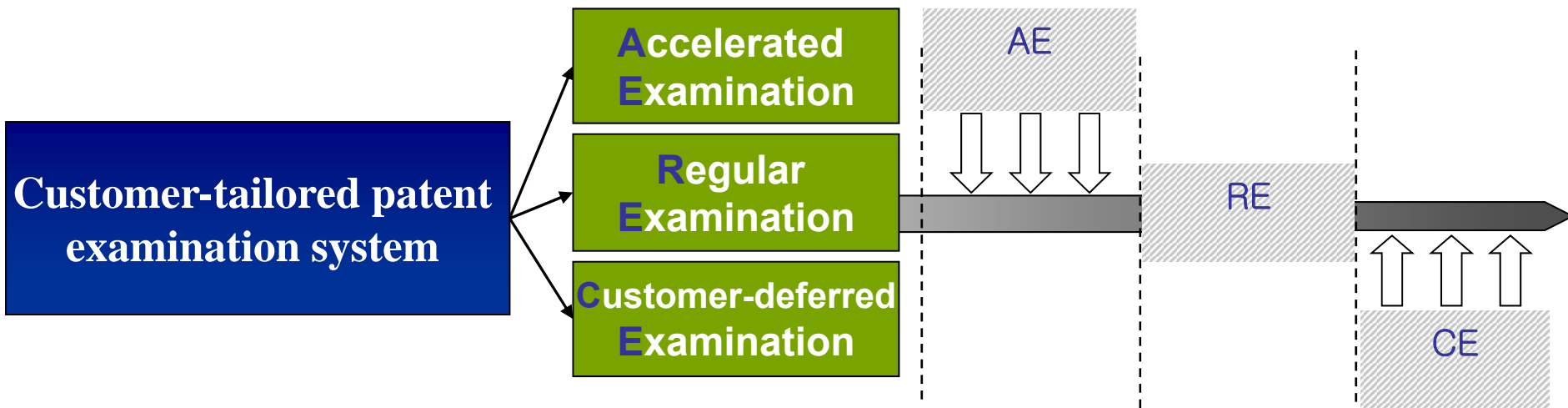
● Maximizing the Capability of Examiners

- ✓ Designated PCT specialist and more examiner training opportunities

3. KIPO's Efforts : Customer-tailored Policy

● Three-Track Examinations: Customer-tailored Patent Examination System

- ✓ Customers may choose an **accelerated track**, a **regular track** or a **customer-deferred track**.



- **Accelerated examination:** Within 3 months of the date of the request
- **Customer-deferred examination:** Within 3 months of the date specified by the customer

	2008	2009	Total
Accelerated examination	16,198	20,307	36,505
Customer-deferred examination	858	1,691	1,749

3. KIPO's Efforts: Global Work-sharing

IP5 Global Work-sharing & Cooperation

Background

- ✓ Increase of **Efficiency and Quality** of Patent Examination
- ✓ Needs of **International Consistency** of Examination Result



IP5 Cooperation Framework

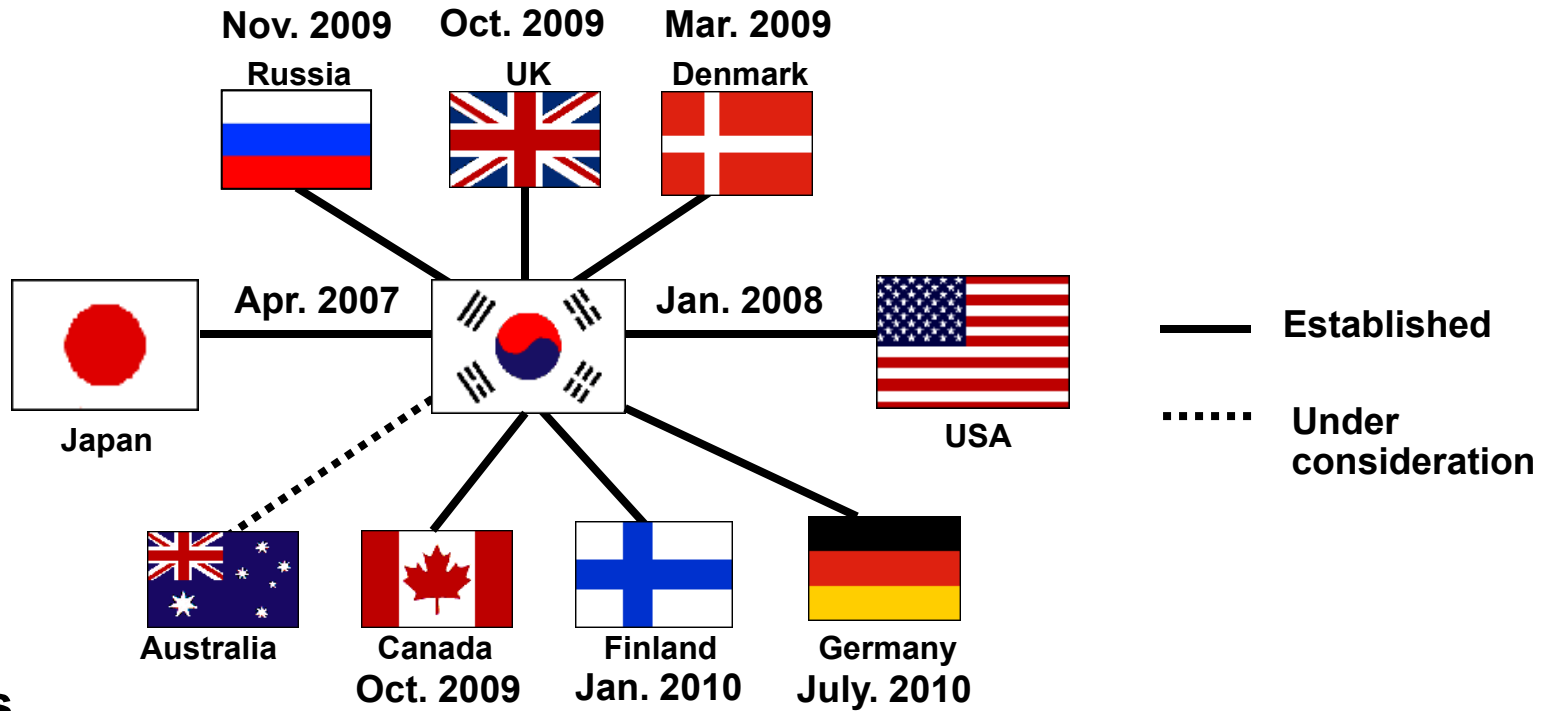
- ✓ Discussion on **Work-sharing and Harmonization** of Patent System among the EPO, IPO, KIPO, SIPO, USPTO
- ✓ 10 Foundation Projects

✓ IP5 Examination Workshop

“Sharing Examination Know-how and Examination Criteria”

3. KIPO's Efforts: Global Work-sharing

● Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH)



● Statistics

		2007	2008	2009	Total
	KOR→JPN	24	24	33	81
	JPN→KOR	81	110	137	328
	KOR→USA	-	125	275	397
	USA→KOR	-	70	91	161

3. *KIPO's Efforts: Global Work-sharing*

SHARE (Strategic Handling of Applications for Rapid Examination)

● **SHARE**

- ✓ Cooperative search & examination system between KIPO & USPTO

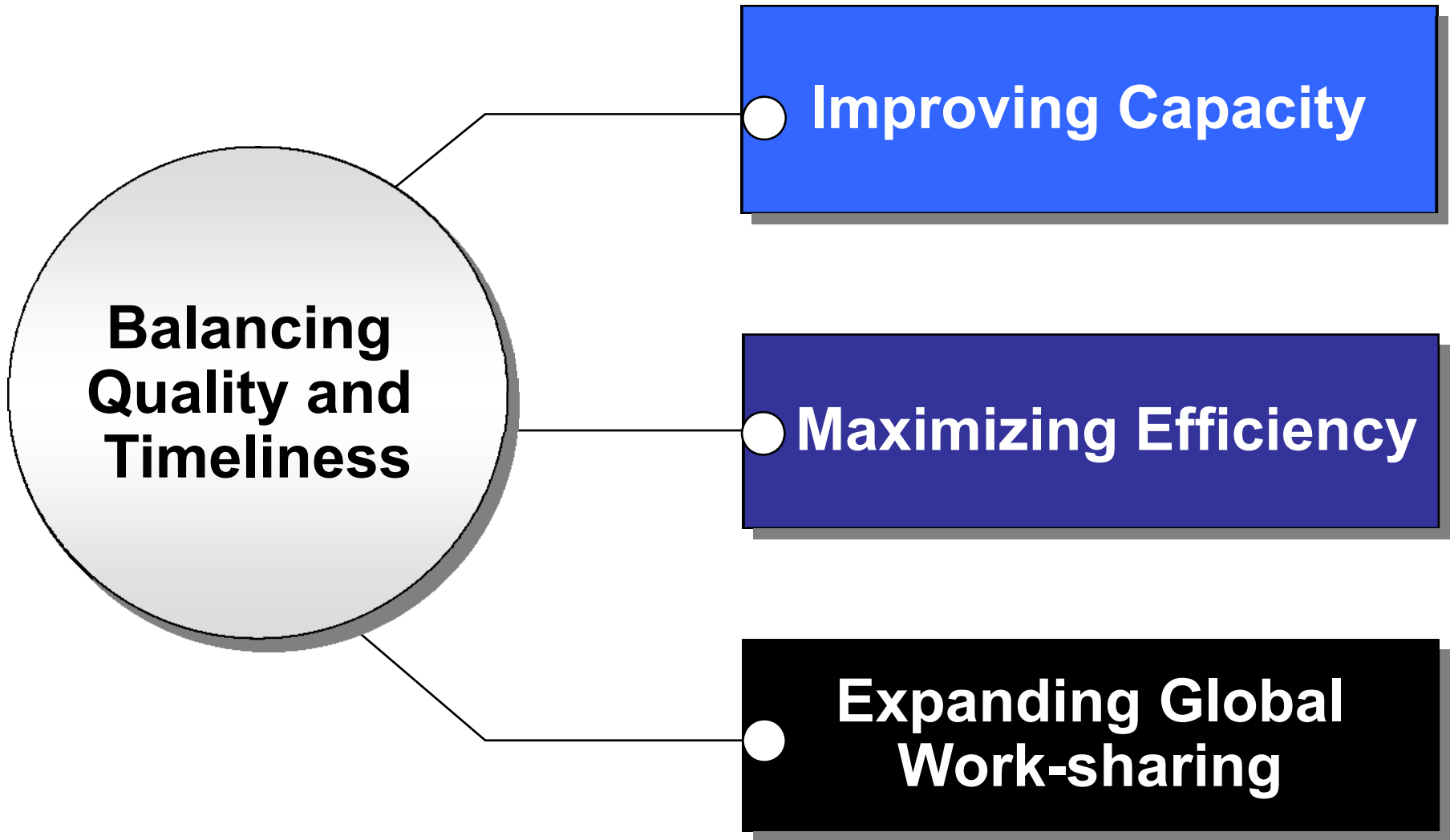
● **Benefits**

- ✓ Increase in examination effectiveness and less redundancy
- ✓ Decrease in the overall pendency period
- ✓ Improvement in quality

● **KIPO-USPTO SHARE Pilot**

- ✓ Initiated September 1, 2009 (400 cases)
- ✓ Selected in narrow fields of technology (batteries, fuel cells etc)
- ✓ Manual prioritization and notification of work product availability to the offices

4. KIPO's Future Plans



Thank you !

KIM, Changryong

Deputy Commissioner

Korean Intellectual Property Office