

Japan's Scientific Excellence

Japan's recent Nobel Prize recognition offers a timely reminder of the depth of its scientific expertise—and a reason to reconsider Japan's place in an international patent strategy.

In 2026, **Kenso Soai** was awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry. His pioneering research on asymmetric autocatalysis has advanced our understanding of how chemical reactions can produce one molecular mirror image rather than the other.

This recognition follows two major Japanese achievements in 2025. **Susumu Kitagawa** shared the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for the development of metal-organic frameworks, porous materials with potential applications in carbon capture, gas storage, water harvesting and catalysis. **Shimon Sakaguchi** shared the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for discoveries concerning peripheral immune tolerance, which have opened new avenues for research into immune-related treatments.

These achievements illustrate Japan's capacity to contribute fundamental discoveries with implications for industries worldwide.

A policy commitment to turning research into innovation

Japan is also renewing the policy foundations that connect scientific research with industrial development.

The Seventh Science, Technology and Innovation Basic Plan emphasizes strengthening basic research, focusing support on strategic technology areas, improving collaboration among universities, industry and government, and promoting international scientific engagement. The Basic Plan is supported with proposed budget plan 2027 increased almost doubled over the past years. For details of the Basic Plan, refer to our Circular-1 Oct.2026.

For international businesses, these priorities provide a useful context for evaluating research partnerships and commercial opportunities in Japan..

Why include Japan in your patent portfolio?

Where Japan forms part of your commercial plans, Japanese patent protection can help you:

- Protect inventions relevant to products sold, manufactured or used in or imported into Japan.
- Establish a stronger basis for licensing and technology transfer.
- Define rights relevant to collaboration with Japanese companies and research institutions.

- Build a portfolio aligned with future market entry and business development.

A Japanese filing can be an important step in preparing for opportunities that may emerge later.

Let us help you plan your Japanese filings

We welcome inquiries from international industries/enterprises, patent firms and patent attorneys seeking local assistance with Japanese patent protection.

We would be pleased to discuss filing Japanese national application or national phase entry of PCT, claim preparation, and examination strategy.

If you are reviewing your international filing destinations or advising clients on opportunities in Japan, please contact us to discuss the relevant applications, upcoming deadlines and estimated costs.

Japan's scientific achievements continue to open new possibilities. A considered Japanese patent strategy can help your business—or your clients—take advantage of this opportunity.