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# **Speedy International Patent Application**

In 2008, the United Nations World Intellectual Property Office recorded 1.76 million international patent application filings. This figure saw a slight fall last year, with filings falling down by 4.5%, which WIPO chief economist Carsten Fink ascribes to the US financial crisis. The US still holds the top position as country with most patent applications, with Japan and Germany ranking second and third, respectively. China has shown a grand leap, ranking 5th next to Republic of Korea. China edged out France, increasing patent application by up to 30%.

Economies from many nations are keen on going for patent applications as a strong way of protecting their intellectual property and inventions. Innovations can be stolen by a competitor laying claims over patent ownership, and this can happen in the domestically and internationally.

The first thing to remember in patent application is that timing can mean life and death. The first to file the patent application has possession of the invention, even if this person may not necessarily be the first to have fabricated the material or merchandise.

Filing an international patent through the PCT or the International Patent Cooperation Treaty leaves an applicant to retain a priority date (typically your U.S. filing date) for 30 months while processing entry into any of the 141 countries and regions under the PCT Union, for a one-time comparatively low government registering fee.

This great advantage has solved the timing and cost matters. Patent applications filed through the PCT harvest the gains of postponing both the huge costs linked with individual country filings and also the decision as to which countries to enter for 2 years, while retaining an earlier priority date.

Preparations for patent application through the Patent Cooperation Treaty entail a documentation of the state and background of intellectual property statute law in the inventor's country, and a foreknowledge of the cogencies of securing patent in other countries.

This preceding info is an enabler in a sure-fire and successful patent application through the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

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