



## TOPIC

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### Osaka's emblematic restaurant Kuidaore shuts down 大阪名物「くいだおれ」、閉店

The popular restaurant Kuidaore, located in Dotombori, Osaka, closed its business in July. But even as the curtain has fell on the restaurant's sixty-year history, the future destination of the famous statue of Kuidaore Taro, its emblematic figure, remains unclear.

The restaurant was filled with many fans on the day of closure. A little after 9 p.m., Ms. Michiko Kakinoki, the proprietress of the restaurant, addressed the attendance, thanking them and saying that "Kuidaore was the happiest restaurant in Japan".

Since the upcoming closure of the restaurant was revealed, the widely popular Kuidaore Taro has been in great demand to appear in various events. However, no decision has been taken so far regarding the goodwill of the restaurant business, the sale of the trademark rights and the future use of Taro.

It has been revealed that approximately 200 commercial propositions have been made regarding Taro and the trademark rights, including "some exceeding 1 billion yen". However, the most likely plan for Taro, whose brand image has been building up since the announcement of the closure of the restaurant, is the maintenance of the current management in charge of all issues regarding copyright and the sales of related products.



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Many, be it locals or personalities, have expressed their desire to see Taro stay in Dotombori. In response, the restaurant stated that "it is not something that we can determine only between ourselves and we definitely cannot ignore the strength of the opinions that have been expressed", and is now said to be studying the possibility to "make good use of Taro by keeping him in Dotombori".

(i) <http://www.business-i.jp/news/sou-page/news/200807090058a.nwc>

(ii) <http://www.asahi.com/business/update/0708/OSK200807080092.html>

(iii) <http://mainichi.jp/select/today/news/20080709k0000m040088000c.html>

大阪・道頓堀の大衆食堂「くいだおれ」が7月に閉店を迎えた。看板人形「くいだおれ太郎」の行き先は決まらないまま、約60年の歴史に幕が閉じられた。

閉店当日、同店は多くファンで埋め尽くされ、最後の営業を終えた午後9時すぎ、店頭姿を見せた女将(おかみ)の柿木(かきのき)道子会長は、「大阪名物くいだおれは、日本一幸せな店でございました。おおきに。」とあいさつした。

閉店の発表後、人気が過熱した看板人形の「くいだおれ太郎」は、多数のイベントに引っ張りだこの状況。ただ、閉店を迎えた現時点でも、飲食事業の営業権・店の商標権の売却先や太郎の活用方法は未定のまま。

太郎や店の商標権売却をめぐるっては、約200件の買収提案があり「10億円を超える打診もある」とのこと。ただ、閉店の発表後ブランドイメージが高まる結果となった太郎については、現在の経営陣が保有したままで著作権の管理やグッズ販売をする案が有力となっている。

また、太郎については、地元や著名人などから「道頓堀に残してほしい」との声が相次いでいる。そこで、同店は、「我々だけでは決められないが、これだけ声が上がっているのに無視はできない」とし、「太郎は道頓堀に置いたままで活用する」という方向で検討を進めているという。

( i ) <http://www.business-i.jp/news/sou-page/news/200807090058a.nwc>

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Japan filing the highest number of patent applications in the world;  
China rapidly progressing (WIPO announcement)  
特許出願件数、日本が1位、中国は躍進(WIPO発表)

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) has published statistics on the number of International Patent Applications filed in the fiscal year 2006. Japan took the first place regarding the number of filings, followed by the U.S., South Korea, Germany and China.

According to the WIPO statistics, a total number of 1,760,000 international patent applications were filed throughout the world in the fiscal year 2006, representing a 4.9% increase from the previous year. Japan filed a total of 514,047 applications, while the U.S. filed 390,815. The number of applications filed by South Korea, Germany, and China were respectively of 172,709, 130,806 and 128,850. 76% of the total number of applications were filed by the top five countries.

China's rapid progress is remarkable. Its proportion in the number of filings went from 1.9% in the fiscal year 2000 to 7.3% in the fiscal year 2006.

On the other hand, Japan, for the first time in approximately 40 years, dropped to the second place in the ranking of the number of patent applications filed with the patent office in each country, with 409,000 applications filed in the JPO (Japan Patent Office), while 426,000 applications were filed in the USPTO (the United States Patent and Trademark Office) - thus allowing the USA to take the top position.

The main cause of this evolution is thought to be that Japanese companies are now directly filing patent applications with local patent offices, and that foreign companies are starting to select more carefully which applications to file with the JPO.

From the point of view of the nationality of the applicant (companies and individuals), Japan took the first place with around 514,000 filings, while the USA and South Korea followed with around 391,000 and 173,000 filings respectively.

(i) <http://headlines.yahoo.co.jp/hl?a=20080804-00000004-rcdc-cn>

(ii) <http://www.47news.jp/CN/200807/CN2008073101001023.html>

世界知的所有権機関(WIPO)は、完全統計が可能な2006年度の国際特許出願件数を発表した。出願件数は、日本が1位で、その後順に、米国、韓国、ドイツ、そして中国が5番目であった。

WIPOの発表によると、2006年の世界全体の国際特許出願件数は前年比4・9%増の176万件であり、1位の日本は51万4047件、2位の米国は39万0815件、次いで韓国17万2709件、ドイツ13万0806件、中国は12万8850件となっている。そして、上位5か国で全出願件数の76%を占めている。

また、中国の躍進が著しく、全体に占める割合は、2000年の1・9%から7・3%に拡大した。

一方、2006年に各国当局が受け付けた特許出願件数では、日本の特許庁が40万9000件で約40年ぶりに2位に転落し、米国の特許商標庁が42万6000件で1位となった。

これは、日本企業が現地の当局に直接出願したり、日本国内での出願を選別し始めていることが主な要因であるとみられている。

また、出願人(企業や個人)の国籍別では、1位が日本で51万4000件、続いて米国の39万1000件、韓国の17万3000件の順であった。

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## Nissan Motor to start a fully-fledged license business centered on the company's own technology 日産自動車、自社技術のライセンス事業を本格開始

Nissan Motor Co., Ltd. have announced their intention to expand their intellectual property business, the focus of this expansion being to provide their technology to companies external to the car making industry. It is rare for a carmaker to sell its technology to companies external to its industry. The aim is to create new value, while further enhancing in-house research and development. Additionally, taking into account the decrease in profit caused by the slowdown in US domestic sales, it is thought that another objective for Nissan is the diversification of the company's sources of profits - an objective which could be achieved by the implementation of a business centered on intellectual property rights and making use of the company's technology reserve.

The following three technologies will be made available:

(1) The first technology is related to around-view monitors. This technology makes it possible to visualize the vehicle from above. Possible fields of applications include agricultural or construction machinery, especially in terms of ameliorating their workability and safety.



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(2) The second technology is related to far-infrared ray image sensors. This technology makes it possible to obtain fine heat images of, for example, the human body. Applications into fields such as heat source security devices and the like are under study.

(3) The third technology is one related to grape polyphenol filters. This technology makes it possible to remove a great part of the allergic substances causing hay fever, thanks to the anti-allergic effects of the natural grape seed polyphenol. It is currently considered for use in housing ventilation units, among others.

(i) <http://www.kanaloco.jp/localnews/entry/entryxiiiiaug080888/>

(ii) [http://www.nissan-global.com/JP/NEWS/2008/\\_STORY/080804-01-j.html](http://www.nissan-global.com/JP/NEWS/2008/_STORY/080804-01-j.html)

日産自動車株式会社は、異業種への技術供与を核とした、知的資産ビジネスを拡大すると発表した。自動車メーカーが異業種に技術を販売するのは珍しい。新たな価値の創造、及び、自社研究開発のさらなる活性化を目指すのがねらい。また、米国での販売不振で収益にブレーキがかかるなか、蓄積した技術を活用して知的財産権ビジネスを本格化して収益源を多様化するとの狙いもあるとみられている。

今回、供与の対象となっている技術は下記の3つ。

第一は、アラウンドビューモニターに関する技術。この技術は、車両を上方から見下ろしたような映像が表示することができる技術であり、建設用や農業用の機械などの作業性・安全性向上に向けた活用が検討されている。

第二は、遠赤外線イメージセンサーに関する技術。この技術は、人体などの熱画像が精細に得られる技術であり、熱源監視装置等の分野への展開が計画されている。

第三は、ブドウポリフェノールフィルターに関する技術。この技術は、天然ブドウ種子ポリフェノールの抗アレルギー物質効果によって、花粉症の原因となるアレルギー物質を大幅に除去する技術であり、住宅の換気ユニット等への活用が検討されている。

( i ) <http://www.kanaloco.jp/localnews/entry/entryxiiiiaug080888/>

( ii ) [http://www.nissan-global.com/JP/NEWS/2008/\\_STORY/080804-01-j.html](http://www.nissan-global.com/JP/NEWS/2008/_STORY/080804-01-j.html)



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Please contact us if you have any comments or require any information.

Please acknowledge that the purpose of our column is to provide general information on the field of intellectual property, and that the description here does not represent our legal opinion on a specific theme.

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