

JAPANESE PRO-PATENT POLICY:
AN ANALYSIS OF ITS IMPACT ON THE JAPANESE
BIOTECH/PHARMACEUTICAL AND SEMICONDUCTOR INDUSTRIES

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Abstract

Through the analysis of two particular industries in Japan, the biotech/pharmaceutical and semiconductor industries, this thesis articulates the complexity of a patent system. In particular, the thesis analyzes the divergent impacts of pro-patent policy among different industries and different types of firms in Japan. The author's survey of patent experts in Japanese firms confirmed the complexity of a patent system and further found the respondents' skepticism about the U.S. style of pro-patent policy. Therefore, even though it is unarguable that the Japanese government should aim at pro-patent policy as a long-term policy goal, the timing and the process of such policy reform needs to be determined carefully, taking into account the current international technological competitiveness of major domestic firms and their potential for innovation.

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