

took place in early 2007, have resulted in a range of improvements, such as the replacement of a complex formula of capacity unit co-efficient to a simplified method of determining capacity entitlements, the removal of prescriptions on the use of certain aircraft types, and the modernization of other aspects of the agreement that benefit both sides. Delegations have decided to meet again in early 2008. Such development is consistent with the main thrust of the Economic Framework, which supports continuing the existing dialogue between Canadian and Japanese aeronautical authorities to support people-to-people, commercial and cultural exchanges between the two countries.

### *Intellectual Property*

As the importance of intellectual property is increasing rapidly, Canada and Japan are discussing possible areas of cooperation in the field of intellectual property, including patent examination. For example, the Japan Patent Office and the Canadian Intellectual Property Office are consulting on (1) establishing mechanisms that allow a patent applicant to obtain a foreign patent expeditiously by providing the foreign patent office with the search and examination results of the domestic patent office (Patent Prosecution Highway), (2) establishing a new legal framework for patent filing and examination that allows a patent applicant to obtain a foreign patent at a low cost by providing the foreign patent office with the search and examination results of the domestic patent office (New Route), and (3) establishing information infrastructures and systems to make patent prosecution history available for patent offices through the Internet. Canada and Japan also work together on intellectual property issues in a number of international forums, including the G8, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum (APEC) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).