Hi Choon Sai,

The initial draft of the dispute resolution policy and the cost structure etc. does not take into consideration that the WIPO / ICANN procedures are designed for an international arena.

In Singapore, the existence of a trademark can be an open and shut case. If the trademark existed prior to the registration of the domain name then the registration clearly violates the terms of registration. Moreover all parties are clearly known since sgnic requires identification (ROC cert etc.) in order to register the domain.

Thus in, for example, there are several cases of local trademark owners (some with .com domains registered) finding their .com.sg domains already taken , a clear violation of their trademark rights and it only requires a registry check which could incur a small administration charge - not the lawyers fees that come about from the arbitration process.

Alternatively - where it can be proved that it is a clear case of cybersquatting, totallly without merit, the squatter could be made to pay the fees.

In the international arena, covered by WIPO, there are more issues to consider since each party may have established rights to the domain in different arenas - such as in the recent Armani case.

Just my 2cents worth.

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