



# **IDN TLD**

**ICANN Cape Town - 1st Dec 2004**

James Seng  
james@seng.cc



# Disclaimer

Opinions expressed in this presentation  
*may or may not* reflect the opinions of  
Infocomm Development Authority of  
Singapore



# Perfect solution

- In an ideal world, we have an perfect 100% solution for our problem
- In the real world, there is no 100% fool proof solution
  - **Every proposals have some problems of some form**
- Look for solution that has “least amount pain”
  - **so long it works, can scale and can be implemented reasonably**



# Deal with Edge Case

- Deal with Edge Case by creating exemptions handling
  - **Don't throw out the whole proposal just because it has some edge case**
- An easy way to handle Edge Case is non-action (in the short term)
  - **It is better than non-action for all IDN TLDs**
  - **Deal with them as we move along**



## **Difficulties in IDN TLDs**

- Prudent: ICANN is concerned about creating large numbers of TLDs in a short period of time.
- GTLD, STLD or CCTLD?
- ISO 3166 for IDN CCTLD?



# GTLD, STLD & CCTLD

- Start with ccTLD
  - **No dispute over the operators of ccTLD - not creating new SOA**
  - **ccTLD knows what is needed in their community**
  - **ccTLD are bounded experiment - each one may do only a few language on their ccTLD**
  - **Not every ccTLD is ready for IDN ccTLD or wants to do so**
  
- Exemption:
  - **Handle GTLD and STLD separately with different set of rules**
  - **ccTLD may not cater to minority languages - handle those languages via GTLD or STLD**



# ISO 3166 for IDN ccTLD

- ISO 3166 equivalent for IDN ccTLD isn't going to happen
  - **ISO 3166 is for postal addressing - 2 or 3 letter Latin Code is sufficient for their purpose**
  - **No incentive for ISO to translate ISO 3166**
- Waiting for ISO 3166 translation is going to delay IDN ccTLD indefinitely if not a political mine-field for anyone who attempts to do so.



# Rules not List

- Stop looking for a list to reference
  - **It isn't going to happen!**
  - **A list won't tell you who going to operate it either**
  
- Thinks of rules and requirements
  - **Fulfill the rules and requirements, you'll get IDN ccTLD**





# Proposal Procedure

- Applicant must be existing ccTLD operator (with demonstrated capability to handle IDNs)
- IDN ccTLD proposed must be a “major” language of the region
  - **E.g. Official language, spoken by majority etc**
  - **Exemption: minority languages should be deal with domestically or sTLD/gTLD if necessary**



# Proposed Procedure

- Applications publish on ICANN website for X days for public comments and official objections
  - **Official objections must be valid and relevant and only be filed by existing TLD operators**
  - **In case of official objection, application put on hold while the parties work out their differences**



# Pros & Cons

- Allows non-controversial IDN ccTLD to proceed
- Handful of IDN ccTLD will be created at the end
  
- Need more work
  - **Deal only with major languages - minorities are sidelined**
  - **Does not deal with gTLD or sTLDs**