METI JPO-RIETI国際シンポジウム標準必須特許を巡る紛争解決に向けてプレゼンテーション資料

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International Arbitration as a Possible Means for Resolving IP Disputes

Dr. Klaus Grabinski, Bundesgerichtshof (Federal Court of Justice)

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JPO conference on Licensing 5G SEPs - SEP/FRAND

Tokyo, Japan

Arbitration agreement necessary

- An arbitration agreement is often the legal basis to resolve disputes in a running contractual relationship between two or more parties, e.g. to resolve a dispute in a running license agreement.
- In disputes about the infringement of a patent (including SEPs) it takes a common agreement of both parties before the dispute can be resolved in arbitration proceedings.
- Before entering into an arbitration agreement the patent (SEP) owner and the implementer have to consider whether this is the best option to resolve the pending dispute.

Upsides of arbitration

- Keep the dispute confidential.
- Have a speedy proceeding.
- Both parties may influence on who is going to be the arbitrators.

Downsides of arbitration

- No power to issue an injunction in case of a hold out.
- No jurisdiction on patent validity erga omnes.
- No transparent case record.

Arbitration as a complementary tool with regard to litigation?

CJEU in Huawei ./. ZTE (16 July 2015), para 68:

"... where no agreement is reached on the details of the FRAND terms following the counter-offer by the alleged infringer, the parties may, by common agreement, request that the amount of the royalty be determined by an independent third party, by decision without delay."

- Bringing the initial SEP case to a court and transferring the determination of the amount of royalties to arbitration.
 - If the SEP owner does not submit a FRAND offer the court may dismiss the action.
 - The SEP owner may obtain an injunction from the court if the implementer is unwilling to take a license.
 - The implementer may challenge the validity and the essentiality of the SEP.
 - Both parties may request that the amount of the royalty is determined in confidential arbitration proceedings.