Title: Report on IRG meeting #11
Date: Tue, 26 May 1998
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Incorporating additions from: Michael Kung, Microsoft Corporation


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Subject: IRG #11 meeting report
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This is my report of ISO/IEC JTC1/SC2/WG2/IRG(Ideographic Rapporteur Group) #11
meeting that took place from 5/11/98 to 5/15/98. This report is intended for
UTC use. The meeting was held in Justsystem in Tokushima, Japan. Delegations
representing China, Taiwan, Japan, Korea, Vietnam, Hong Kong, and US attended
the meeting. Japan was the largest delegation with eight members for the
delegation. The delegation from US included Michael Kung (Microsoft), Hideki
Hiura (Sun) and Nelson Ng (Oracle). Mr. Zhang Zhoucai from China, the IRG
Rapporteur, chaired the meeting.

I will start off by providing a one liner bullet item for each issue pertaining
to UTC interest. The numbers within parenthesis serve as an index to the more
detailed report of each item below.

Highlights

(1) Delegation reports
(2) WG2 related issues
(3) CJK UNIFIED IDEOGRAPHS EXTENSION B(Ext. B)
(4) Unification rule for Ext. B
(5) Ideographic Description Sequence
(6) Font request for printing Unicode 3.0
(7) Miscellaneous
(8) Future IRG meetings.

(1) **Delegation reports**

* Korea has identified the source list for determining the characters to be
submitted for ISO10646 Plane 2. This list will be used to for the stage 2
submission. Korea has no plan for stage 1 submission.

     Clarification (Michael Kung):
     Korean DO have submission for stage 1 at the end of the IRG meeting. It is
     about 200+ characters. They have the characters selected back in Korea and
     misunderstood the submission schedule. It is not clear whether it was
     submitted at the end of meeting.

* In Japan, JISC is in the processing of developing the extension of JIS X0208.
The estimate is about 2,000 characters for level 4 extension and 3,000
characters for level 5 extension. The characters are targeted for stage 2
ISO10646 Plane 2 submission. Japan has no plan for stage 1 submission.

* TCA of Taiwan has identified 30,017 characters for stage 1 ISO10646 Plane 2 submission (based on CNS 11643-1992 edition). The National Bureau of Standards in Taiwan started a project on 11/97 to develop a new CNS standard by translating the ISO 10646-1, Technical Corrigendum 1 and Amendment 1 to Amendment 9 from English to Chinese. The estimated completion date for the project is the end of 5/98.

* HKITF has formed a project to develop "Hong Kong Supplementary Chinese Character Set for IT Interchange" (for the Hong Kong government's characters, 3,000+ total). Based on this project, Hong Kong has identified 1,252 characters for stage 1 ISO10646 Plane 2 submission. (Extension A includes some characters from the Hong Kong set.)

* The Chinese government is fully behind the IRG work. China is planing to adopt GBK Chinese Internal Code Specification as a national standard by the end of 1999. In addition, about 2,000 of less frequently used characters for people and place name will also be included for this standard. China has created a document IRG/N542 SuperCJK which is a super set of all the characters found in Kangxi Dictionary and Han Yu Da Zi Dian. There are about 55K characters in SuperCJK. About 26K of these characters are already encoded in BMP and Vertical Extension A. China is planning on submitting the remaining 27K characters for stage 1 ISO10646 Plane 2.

* Vietnam has identified 849 characters for stage 1 ISO10646 Plane 2 submission.

* US reported that The Unicode Standard, Version 2.1 is ready for publication. Only two new characters are added to the repertoire Euro Symbol and the Object Replacement character. UTC is planning on publishing The Unicode Standard, Version 3.0, however, the schedule is not available at this point.

(2) **WG2 related issues**

In WG2, DAM-13 is being balloted. However, Japan found 87 characters in the G column which are not in the G column source list. IRG agreed to vote YES on DAM-13 and then publish an editorial corrigendum later to add the new sources. In addition, Japan also found 7 non-existing characters included in the G column due to a mistake in JIS X0208. China refused to remove those characters because they are referenced by existing software. The agreement is that China will add a special note to state that those characters were originated from JIS X0208.

In WG2, pDAM-15 contains only the Kangxi Radicals. Taiwan and China claimed the CJK Radical Supplements is necessary. So the IRG Rapporteur has the action item to take the necessary steps to include both into pDAM-15.

(3) **CJK UNIFIED IDEOGRAPHS EXTENSION B (Ext. B)**

In order to meet the ISO 10646-2 schedule, IRG understands that the ISO10646 Plane 2 repertoire must be frozen by 3/99. During this IRG meeting, each national body has submitted a unified character repertoire for stage 1 ISO10646 Plane 2. The project for stage 1 ISO10646 Plane 2 will be named as "CJK UNIFIED IDEOGRAPHS EXTENSION B". IRG is planning on submitting a working draft of Extension B to WG2 on 9/98. IRG will have a special working group meeting for the editors from 8/4/98 to 8/6/98 in Beijing, China to produce a working draft of the unified character repertoire for 9/98 WG2 submission. Michael

Kung will be representing US as the editor of this project during the 8/98 IRG meeting.

Following is the proposed schedule for this project.

Date	Actions
	IRG works on working draft of Unified CJK Ext. B
Aug. 98	IRG working group meeting in China. IRG completes working draft of Unified CJK Ext. B
	IRG submits working draft of Unified CJK Ext. B to WG2
Sept. 98	WG2#35 WG2 reviews submitted working draft of Unified CJK Ext.B from IRG
Dec. 98	IRG#12 IRG works on the feedback
	IRG submits final draft for Unified CJK Ext. B to WG2
Mar. 99	WG2#36 WG2 integrates final draft from IRG into FCD ISO10646-2
	WG2 ballots FCD ISO10646-2
May 99	IRG#13 IRG reviews any available comments on FCD ISO10646-2
Sept. 99	WG2#37 Ballot results of FCD 10646-2 should be available.

Following is the Plane 2 submission plan from each national body

Extension B submissions
China   27K characters
Japan   Submission for Extension C only
Taiwan   31K characters
Hong Kong   1252 characters
Korea   Submission for Extension C only
Vietnam   5K characters

Since Ext. B are rarely used characters, China believes that most of the characters for Ext. B will not have all five columns filled in as in BMP and Ext. A. Therefore, China suggested to reduce the number of columns for submission. However, Japan had strong objection to the change. Finally, China agreed to keep the same format as Ext. A during the working draft submission of Ext. B. UTC/L2 members should consider this issue and discuss it during the next WG2 meeting.

(4) **Unification rule for Ext. B**

IRG is recommending to modify the Unification rules stated in ISO10646-1 Annex T to unify the Unified CJK Ideographs Extension B. The changes is documented in IRG/N567. The main difference between this document and Annex T is the removal of the source separation rule and added the following new sources.

G-source: IRG/N542 "SuperCJK"
            IRG/N555 "HK characters for inclusion in relapse One of Plane 2
            extension"
T-source: IRG/N544 "Proposal of the Unification Repertoire for Plane2"
            IRG/N547 "Proposal of the Repertoire for Plane 2"
K-source: IRG/N567 "Proposal of the Repertoire for Plane 2"

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V-source:    IRG/N543 "Nom Repertoire for ISO/IEC 10646-UCS, CJK Extension A and
             plane 2"
             IRG/N558 "Nom additional Repertoire for ISO/IEC 10646 plane 2"
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With the exception of US, who abstained, all other IRG members agreed to the
modification of the Unification rules. This is to allow UTC/L2 to review the
modification during the next UTC/L2 meeting and formulate an opinion.

(5) **Ideographic Description Sequence**

During this IRG meeting, the full text explaining Ideographic Description
Sequence is drafted in IRG N575R. It will be submitted to WG2 for discussion.

(6) **Font request for printing The Unicode Standard, Version 3.0**

The US delegation brought up the following formal request during the IRG
meeting
* UTC will need TrueType font for all 5 columns of the Vertical Extension A
* UTC will need TrueType font for the V column of existing Han characters in
  BMP
* UTC needs the source list the Vertical extension A characters
* UTC would like to know how many characters came from each source.

The font will be used by Unicode Inc. and individuals it designates only for
the purposes of printing Unicode 3.0, 10646, and producing on-line code charts.
All other rights belong to the original font vendors.

Following is the formal response from IRG
* IRG can provide soft copy of the mapping tables and sources to UTC.
* There are only bitmap font for V column of existing Han characters in BMP.
* Only G & T columns in Vertical extension A have TrueType fonts and the rest
  are in 96x96 bitmap.
Since the copyright of the fonts belong to the vendor, IRG does not have the
right to distribute the font. IRG has asked its members to assist Unicode
Consortium to obtain the approval for using the font too.

To print Unicode 3.0, the IRG is willing to provide hardcopy of the code table
to Unicode Consortium if vendors agree.

IRG would like to know the schedule for Unicode 3.0. The US delegation will
find more information regarding the schedule for the next IRG meeting.

(7) **Miscellaneous**

In order to help to facilitate the communication of meeting information, the US
delegation recommends the following meeting procedures.

* Approval of the previous meeting minutes should be adopted as the first
  agenda item in each IRG meeting.
* The next agenda item should be the approval of the meeting agenda and
  adoption of contribution papers.
* The last agenda item of each meeting is to draft the initial agenda of the
  next meeting.
* Members should try to propose any new agenda item at least three months
  prior to the next meeting.

The suggestions should be viewed as guidelines and not strict requirements. Although some of the members feel the suggestion is useful, detailed discussion was not done due to time constraint. US delegation will have more offline discussion with Mr. Zhang on this issue.

(8) **Future meetings**

In order to allow out of town attendees of both UTC and IRG meeting to have an easier traveling schedule, IRG has agreed to move IRG #12 to December 7th to 11th , 1988 which is the week immediately following the December UTC meeting.

IRG #12 will be held in Oracle, Redwood Shores.
IRG #13 will be held in Hong Kong around May, 1999.

Many thanks to Mr. Tatsuo Kobayashi of JUSTSYSTEM Corp. for hosting the meeting with great logistic arrangement and hospitality.

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