

To: Unicode Technical Committee
From: Deborah Anderson
Date: 17. August 2003
RE: Letters in support of encoding N'Ko

-----Original Message-----

From: berete adama [mailto:bereteadama@yahoo.fr]
Sent: Tuesday, August 12, 2003 5:19 AM
To: dwanders@socrates.Berkeley.EDU
Subject: salutation et encouragement

Cher Dr .anderson

Je suis BERETE ADAMA un des ressortissants Guinéens resident au Caire, j'écris à exprimer mon support pour l'inclusion de N'KO dans unicode qui est un des scénarios qui sont encouragés par le scénario qui chiffre l'initiative. Cet effort pemettra les gens MANDEN pour être capable de communiquer avec N'KO.un scénario qui aété inventé par SOULEMANA KANTE pour aiderv et encourager l'alphabétisation .N'KO est utiliser en Afrique Ouest et dans beaucoup d'autre emplacements dans le monde dans les plusieurs publications.il esr important d'inclure N'ko dans unicode afin qu'il sera possible de communiquer dans l'email et sur le tissu dans N'ko .cela aidera étendre l'alphabétisation et faire la communication parmi les gens Manden plus facile (surtout ceux qui souhaitent apprendre N'ko),comme utilisateur de N'ko je suis dans support plein de l'effort chiffrer N'ko et promettre mon support pour le travail du scénario qui chiffre l'initiatve dans cet effort.

Par BERETE ADAMA étudiant Guinéen au Caire Egypte
E-mal : bereteadama@yahoo.fr.
Tel : (0020)127320596

-----Original Message-----

From: dabo Dabo [mailto:darboe@hotmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, August 07, 2003 2:28 AM
To: dwanders@socrates.Berkeley.EDU
Subject: suggestion

Dear sir/madam

I'm one of the N'ko student.and I would like to express my supportfor the inclusionof N'ko into Unicode,which is one of the scripts being promoted by the Script Encoding Initiative.

This efoort will be no doubt enable the manding people to be able tocommunicate with N'ko, this script is invented by Solayman Kanteto help promrte litracy.Nko is widely spoken in West Africa and in many parts of the World in various publications. It would be important that if Nko became included in Unicode, this will help to spread literacy and make communication easier

amongst the Manding people and as others who wish to learn N'ko, I'm in full support of the effort to encode N'ko and pledge my support for the work of the Script Encoding Initiative in this endeavour.

faithfully

Bubakary S. Darboe.

-----Original Message-----

From: Baba Mamadi Diane [mailto:Diane@kanjamadi.com]

Sent: Wednesday, August 06, 2003 2:29 PM

To: dwanders@socrates.Berkeley.EDU

Subject: N'Ko Proposal

Chère Deborah Anderson .

Je suis Mr Baba Mamadi Diané Professeur de N'ko à l'université du Caire-Egypte, de nationalité Guinéenne et réside actuellement au Caire-Egypte; dont la Langue natale est le N'ko .

Mon souhait le plus ardent serait de voir la réalisation de l'unicode; qui sera un atout très important pour la communauté Mandingue. Non seulement il nous aidera pour l'application de nos pages Web page à l'internet et la dactylographie de nos textes concernant les livres du N'ko. Surtout concernant les programmes pouvant servir les petites entreprises et les supermarchés en N'ko.

Je vous encourage; afin que vous soyez nos interprètes pour la réalisation de ce projet auquel nous tenons énormément.

Comme je suis un écrivain et éditeur de journaux et livres.

Je suis sûr que le seul obstacle qui freine aujourd'hui l'épanouissement et le progrès scientifique du N'ko est son Codage au niveau de l'unicode.

J'ai appris le scénario du N'ko depuis mon enfance. Et j'aimerais communiquer à l'internet avec le monde; mais cela est impossible car le N'ko n'est pas codé dans l'unicode.

Le fait qui m'a marqué le plus dans la vie est qu'un homme d'affaires a perdu ses affaires à cause d'une lettre N'ko en image virtuelle qu'on lui a envoyée et qu'il n'a pas pu ouvrir à cause du manque de programme pouvant lui permettre de voir et lire son message. Et si le message était codé; il n'aurait pas besoin de recevoir une image virtuelle. Je suis convaincu, l'importance capitale du travail que vous allez faire pour le codage du N'ko à l'unicode.

Mes salutations déférentes à vous .

Par Mr Baba Mamadi Diané

Professeur de N'ko à l'université du Caire-Egypte.

Tél & Fax: (+202) 49 80 630

Adresse postale:

Bp: 39 Al-goriah Caire-Egypte.

www.kanjamadi.com

-----Original Message-----

From: Nouhu Kaba [mailto:nouhumkaba@yahoo.com]

Sent: Tuesday, August 05, 2003 12:10 PM

To: dwanders@socrates.Berkeley.EDU

Subject: N'ko inclusion into Unicode

Dear Dr.Anderson,

I am Nouhu M.kaba,a Liberian and a member of the N'ko group in Cairo.I am writing to express my support for the inclusion of N'ko into Unicode,which is one of scripts being promoted by the script Encoding Initiative this effort will enable the Manden people to be able to communicate with N'ko,a script that was invented by Soulemana Kante to help promote literacy.N'ko is used in west Africa and in many other locations in the World in various publications.It is very important that N'ko be included in Unicode so that it will be possible to communicate in email and on the web in N'ko.This will help to spread literacy and make communication easier amongst the Manden people (and others who wish to learn N'ko),who are spread throughout the world.As a user of N'ko, i am in full support of the effort to encode N'ko and pledge my support for the work of the script Encoding Initiative in this endeavor.

sincerely yours,

N! ouhu m.kaba, a Liberian national

-----Original Message-----

From: kes sammmm [mailto:kksan2003@yahoo.com]

Sent: Tuesday, August 05, 2003 10:27 AM

To: dwanders@socrates.Berkeley.EDU

Subject: letter

Dear dr. Anderson,

I am Musa Camara a member of the groupJamiatou Siratal Mostaquima I am writing to express my support for the inclusion of N'ko Unicode, which is one of the scripts being promoted by the script encoding initiative.

This effort will enable the Manden people to be able to communicate with n'ko,a script that was invited by soulmana kante to help promote literacy,N'ko is used in west Africa and in many other locations in various publications. It is very important that n'ko be included in Unicode so that it will be possible to communicate in email and on the web in n'ko. This will help to spread literacy and make communication easier among the Manden people (and others who wish to learn N'ko) who are throughout the world. As a user of N'ko,I am in full support of the effort to encode N'ko and pledge my support for the work of the script Encoding Initiative in this endeavor.

Sincerely,

Musa Camara

-----Original Message-----

From: kes sammmm [mailto:kksan2003@yahoo.com]

Sent: Tuesday, August 05, 2003 9:56 AM

To: dwanders@socrates.Berkeley.EDU

Subject: letter

Dear Dr. Anderson.

My name is Keba Sano . I am a resident of Cairo Cityn. My parents are from Guine-Bissau where they still live , and I have friends from all over the world. I got interested in N'KO,when I was little. I would like to communicate with the Internet

With My parents and relatives in N'KO. But I can't , because it Is not part of Unicode...

Could you help with (a) and (b) above? That would be greatly appreciated. If ! you have any questins, please let me know.

With many thanks.

(Below is a letter sent via attachment)

8338 WILLIAMS AVENUE
PHILADELPHIA PA 19150-2023

August 17, 2003

Script Encoding Initiative
C/o Dr. Deborah Anderson
Dept of Linguistics
1203 Dwinelle Hall #2650
Berkeley, CA 94720-2650
U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Anderson,

SUBJECT: N'KO INCLUSION IN UNICODE

I am sending you this letter to emphasize the great need to include N'Ko script into Unicode.

Before I discuss why I think N'Ko should be include in Unicode, please let me thank and congratulate you and your colleges from S.E.I. for your effort on behalf all the other scripts you are working on including N'Ko. As for us members of the Manden communities around the world we are forever grateful. S.E.I. efforts, when successful, will give the opportunity of literacy to over 20 millions Manden speakers. One day the world will recognize and reward you for those efforts.

Let me tell how the entry of N’Ko in Unicode will benefit a large number Mandenka’s. It will increase literacy by given the opportunity of education to a group of Manden speaker who otherwise will not have a chance to read because European language schools are in short supply. It will also improve literacy by increasing the number of books published in N’Ko. It will promote religion by helping religious leader write religious books for their members without going through extraordinary means. The following link is one of the examples. It will improve communication between Manden study professors, and universities by facilitating communication between them and Manden people.

Beside all those reasons, there are small but significant other reasons. For instance, the internet in West Africa, like in more technologically advanced societies in Europe and in America, is becoming a central medium of communication. The growth of email communication is passing most current communication medium Africa. For example in West African countries like in the Republic of Guinea, the email is much more cost effective then the telephone. This is because the send and received period of an email is generally instantaneous, and the expense is cost effective. For an example, a call from Conakry, Guinea to a relative in another country, including the United States, will easily cost you 10,000 Guinea Francs. On the other hand an email will cost around 1,000 Guinea Francs for two or three times the same amount of words. Because the internet is accessible in a large number of internet cafes in most major cities, the email is very popular among businesses and ordinary people. Nevertheless, this medium of communication is not available to N’Ko educated population with the entry of the N’Ko script in Unicode the door will be opened.

Let me illustrate with a case in point:

On my last trip to Africa, I met a successful business woman who was a used clothes trader, at a business conference. She, like most of her colleagues, transacts her business mostly in N’Ko.. Like other business people in this class, they never had the chance to attend French schools. They found that it was easier to learn their native writing N’Ko instead French.

During the meeting, I spoke about the use of internet to reduce cost. She walked to me and said to me “Karamoo (teacher in Manden), I have been using the internet for a while.” I was quite interested, and I asked her how useful was the internet to her? She said “as you know, the postal system here is unreliable. One is never sure whether or not an important letter will arrive when it should, if it does at all. When I heard that I could send correspondence by email and it is received instantaneously, I started sending most of my mail via email.”

I said, “but you don’t write French, how do you send your emails?”

“I write all my mails precisely in N’Ko, then I read it carefully to the secretary in the Cyber-café who enters it into the computer in French and sends it for me. It is a little time consuming but it is faster then sending it by hand, especially if you are sending the same letter to more then one client. The drawback is that there is a chance that there may be

some problems in the translation, but because of the speed, it is worth it. As you know a large number of used clothes traders read and write N'Ko. The speed gives me a definite advantage." She concluded that she wished that she could type it herself in N'Ko. She said that she would even buy a computer for her business. There are numerous cases of business and ordinary people like her that would be helped by including N'Ko in Unicode.

Once again Dr. Anderson, please accept my personal thanks and extend the same to your colleagues at the S.E.I.

Sincerely,

Mamady Doumbouya
President
N'Ko Institute of America