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ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 2/WG 2

Universal Multiple-Octet Coded Character Set (UCS) - ISO/IEC 10646

Secretariat: ANSI

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| Title: | Opinions on Encoding Tai Lue |
| Source: | China National Body |
| Action: | To be considered by by WG2#44 |
| Distribution: | SC2/WG2 Experts |
| Reference | WG2 N2242R, WG2 N2634 |

After received the *proposal to encode the Tai Lue script in the BMP of the UCS* (N2634), the Minority Languages Committee of Yunnan Province of China invited some experts to discuss it several times. Prof. Zhang Gongjin (The Central University for Nationalities) also reviewed the proposal and provided his comments. Chinese Dai experts put forward their opinions as the following:

1. The Tai Lue script (Xishuang Banna Dai script) is mainly used in China, China had submitted a proposal (N2242R) on encoding Tai Lue script at WG2#39 (Athens meeting) in 2000. Chinese Dai (NOT TAI !)experts think this proposal is basically reasonable and hope that WG2 recognizes N2242R as the original contribution.
2. Chinese Dai experts noticed that the number of characters in N2634 is not the same as in N2242R, and do not understand why this difference comes.
3. Typeface used in N2634 does not conform to the conventions and writing way of Dai people.
4. The description of the spelling rule in part E of N2634 seems unclear. Chinese Dai experts couldn't understand "*tone mark on the right of the consonant*". What does

the sentence “*which are modified with a hook showing that the inherent vowel is killed*” mean ? The sentence “*Tai Lue consonants denote two tonal registers*” is difficult to understand.

5. In “*Table A. Tai Lue Combining Sequences*”, would be invalid syllables in Tai Lue, but they are used as examples. Some usages of I.P.A are wrong either.
6. The use of punctuation marks in Tai Lue is in line with Chinese. If there is any mistake in the sample, it should be typos of the publications.
7. Tai Lue scripts include New Tai Lue and Old Tai Lue. Both of them are currently in use in Xishuang Banna, Menglian, and other areas in China. It is pointed out that Old Tai Lue is now used for governmental archives, primary school text books, bulletins and business signs, especially in the research of ancient classics. For this reason, it is suggested to leave enough space in BMP of ISO/IEC 10646 for the characters of both New Tai Lue and Old Tai Lue.
8. “Dai” is used as an internationally standardized name in Pinyin for Dai nationality and Dai script. It is highly required to use “Dai” rather than “Tai” when the script is encoded in ISO/IEC 10646.

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