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Minutes from JTC1/SC2/OWG-SORT Meeting 3 – April 27 2006

Convenor: Alain LaBonté

Attendees: Ken Whistler, Yasuhiro Anan, Michael Everson, Asmus Freytag,
              Umamaheswaran, Kyongsok Kim, Erkki Kohlemainen (observer)

              Many other attendees of SC2 were also in the room but did not indicate that they
              were participating directly. Some intervened to confirm some elements of the
              discussion.

1. The convenor presented the agenda which was modified as follows:

Final Agenda – Meeting 3

1. Approval of the agenda
2. Results of the FPDAM 3 ballot on ISO/IEC 14651 (**SC2 N 3831**) and action to be taken
3. FPDAM 3 Disposition of Comments (**SC2 N 3846**)
4. Recommendation to SC2 Secretariat on issuing FDAM 3 ballot
5. Recommendation to SC2 Plenary on a new edition of ISO/IEC 14651 (after reminder of **PDAM3 DoC actions**)
6. Reminder and review of the Sophia-Antipolis recommendation to the SC2 Plenary on extending the mandate of the OWG and clarifying its name (**SC2 N 3809**)
7. Discussion on IRG contribution on order of CJK strokes (**SC2WG2 N 3063**)
8. Presentation by Pr Gim on a new syntactic structure for order description simplification (**SC2 N 3859**, **SC2 N 3860**)
9. Other business
10. Future meetings
11. Closing

2. Document SC2 3831 containing the FPDAM3 Ballot responses was reviewed. There were 17 National Bodies voting in favour, 0 voting against, 3 abstaining, and 12 National Bodies not voting, making the ballot pass all the criteria, so that it can technically proceed to the next balloting step.

3. Disposition of comments (document N3846) was approved by the experts of the group, with editorial comments from JP all accepted. The editor, Mr. Alain LaBonté, has fixed all the reported problems. ITTF may do some editing as it is finally responsible for the quality of presentation for final publication.

   Mr. Erkki Kohlemainen suggested different style for presenting comments so that they be more readable, as they were presented in grey. Mr. Alain LaBonté indicated that in the Disposition of comments, many editors never produce the original comments, they just produce the answers to the comments. But in any way, the style will be adjusted to still make a clear separation between the comment and the answers, such as using italics for the comments and bold text for the answers.

4. The group recommends that the revised text be sent for PDAM 3 ballot by the secretariat to ITTF.

5. The group recommends to SC2 Plenary that a new project for a new edition of ISO/IEC 14651 be started, as there will be technical changes beyond amendment 3: the next edition will have new tables and possibly new text as well.

This next edition should carefully make sure that what had been postponed as per the Disposition of Comments of the PDAM3 ballot processed in Sophia-Antipolis be taken care of in the new

ordering table. The editor, Mr. Alain LaBonté, indicated that new text for consolidated edition is ready in English and in French, but that the table needs to be ready too (en+fr versions) before we initiate the new CD ballot. Mr. Ken Whistler will send a new table by June 4 to the editor, who will also make a French version. The CD ballot should be initiated on 2006-06-11. Initial plans are for FCD ballot on 2006-10-31 and FDIS ballot in May 2007.

6. Document N3809 was presented again as a reminder and will be the object of a resolution at the SC2 Plenary to the effect that the editing group is working under OWG rules of the JTC1 Directives, that it should be renamed OWG-SORT, and the group reconfirmed with the task to maintain ISO/IEC 14651. By acclamation, Mr. Alain LaBonté is reconfirmed as OWG-SORT convener until the next SC2 Plenary.

7. About CJK stroke order (Reference document SC2/WG2 N3063), Mr. Ken Whistler mentioned that there is a culturally appropriate method of ordering the strokes and that it should be reflected in the CTT. Amendment 3 will not be modified at this point but the next edition will order the 16 CJK strokes that are in the Amd. 2 per input in WG2 N3063. The strokes in the CTT are in the same order as the binary order in ISO/IEC 10646. The other strokes coding to be formally standardized a in yet-to-be-published amendment will be ordered correctly in a future amendment of the next edition of ISO/IEC 14651, to respect synchronization with the ISO/IEC 10646 and Unicode standard publication processes.

 8. Pr. Kim Kyongsok presented documents SC2 N3859 (other reference N3860), which describes a potential new syntactic structure for ordering (not only for Hangul). It is a proposal for a new structure of CTT to make it easier to sort Hangul. Dr Umamaheswaran and Mr. Michael Everson both noticed that it looked like there was some pseudo-code in the table, which would make the table not a simple table anymore. There is some algorithm built in.

The editor, Mr. Alain LaBonté, said that the proposal seemed to be a way of reducing the number of lines that goes into the table.

Mr. Ken Whistler mentioned that the syntax of the current table and the table format was particularly designed to be compatible with POSIX implementations. A trivial extension to the way POSIX implementation was the premise. The proposal would break that assumption about CTT. There is nothing in the standard that forces anybody to use the CTT format as is. So anybody could reformat the table to any convenient format or structure that one would like and nothing prevents anybody to change it to the rule-based structure such as Pr. Kim was presenting. The standard allows to do that in any implementation -- i.e. rule-based tables with rule-based tailoring. But there were strong objections to adding this syntax normatively into the CTT due to the POSIX and third-party implementation compatibility guarantee.

Dr. Asmus Freytag mentioned that SC2 will always have the problem of keeping the data tables stable. If there is a breakthrough in understanding a particular sorting problem then the methodology can be documented, but not fitted back into the CTT. The editor, Mr. LaBonté, also said that it would be a very good candidate documentation for the current informative annex on pre-processing, which is nevertheless currently outside of the scope of the standard itself.

Professor Kim confirmed that the method is a sort of preprocessing -- similar to the collation element imbedded in the table -- but different indeed in that it is stateful. Out of the preprocessing that modifies character coding, the result could be applied the CTT rules for ordering. That is exactly what preprocessing is about. The editor mentioned that applications need preprocessing of all kinds and that this one could be informatively documented in the standard.

Mr. Yasuhiro Anan requested that Professor Kim write explanatory material about that method.

Mr. Ken Whistler mentioned that the CTT does not have the concept of a state machine nor of parsing. The process is totally stateless. All the CTT does is 'replace a variable' with its

associated weight. Pr. Kim's proposal is trying to put a state machine within the CTT and that this is simply not possible in the standard.

Pr. Kim was in agreement that this could be put in an informative annex and that applications can run the preprocessing followed by the sorting mandated by the standard. Over time Pr. Kim suggested that we could perhaps make this into a separate standard, and the editor agreed with him.

Pr. Kim Kyongsok was also invited to provide the editor, M.r. Alain LaBonté, with text for an informative annex on what he presented before June 1st so that it be included in the new edition and if not ready at this date, Korea is invited to contribute it in its national member body ballot on the CD.

9. There was no other business discussed at this meeting.

10. Future meetings are aligned with WG2 meetings, the next meeting being planned to be held in Akihabara (Tokyo), the week of 25 September 2006.

11. End of the minutes of this meeting.