

**IRG Meeting #29 in San Jose, California, USA****Notes of Discussion at the Plenary Session  
Held in the Morning of 12 November 2007****Opening and Appointments**

The meeting started at 10:00 a.m.

The host welcomed all representatives to the meeting.

The Rapporteur appointed Mr. Retarkgo Yan (HKSAR) to serve as the meeting secretary, Mr. Peter Cheng (HKSAR) as the drafting group leader and to collect name cards to prepare the email address and participant list.

The Rapporteur then reviewed the draft Agenda. Based on suggested revision, the Agenda was approved followed by a roll call.

The drafting group representatives Mr. Chen Zhuang (China), Mr. Retarkgo Yan (HKSAR), Mr. Satoshi Yamamoto (Japan), Mr. KIM, Kyongsok (ROK), Mr. Tseng, Shih-shyeng (TCA), Mr. Richard Cook (USA) and Mr. Ngo Trung Viet (Vietnam) would review and agree on Resolutions of the meeting.

**Review of WG2 Meeting #51 Resolutions**

The Rapporteur reported to members IRG related issues in WG2 Meeting #51 Resolutions.

- M51.10, WG2 accepted Japan's submission of six characters for encoding. The meeting would discuss and provide feedback to WG2 as per WG2 request.
- M51.11, disposition of PDAM5 ballot comments was noted. In the case when a character had a Kangxi reference, virtual code should not be used.
- M51.12, editors were recommended to go through final text prepared for PDAM5.

- M51.35, WG2 invited IRG to develop a set of principles and procedures to guide its work, with due considerations for the current WG2 Principles and Procedures.
- M51.36, WG2 endorsed the IRG activity to review and feedback on Annex S of ISO/IEC 10646: 2003, without impacting already unified ideographs in the standard,
- M51.37, WG2 thanked the IRG for the feedback in document WG2 N3282. WG2 requested SC2 to forward this document to national bodies and liaison members for information.
- M51.38, WG2 endorsed IRG's plan to investigate and report on the recommendation of Proper Name Block.
- M51.39, WG2 requested the IRG to report back to WG2 with a more complete plan related to the identified "Urgent-need" ideographs, along with a prioritization of this work with respect to other existing IRG work items.

### **Review of Follow up Items**

The Rapporteur reviewed the action items of the last IRG #28 meeting.

- M28.5, the review and elaboration of Annex S was in progress. Two members Mr. Clement Chau and Prof. Tam Mei Leng from the Macao SAR will would join the Annex S Review Ad Hoc Group.
- M28.6, the Extension D project was slightly behind schedule with font submission. The CJK D v2.2 had been produced and would be discussed in the meeting.
- M28.8, response to WG2 on the security issue of IICORE completed.
- M28.11 (referring to WG2 Meeting #51 resolution M51.38 above) WG2 agreed IRG to investigate the scale and report on the recommendation of Urgent Need Block.
- M28.12, all characters had been submitted and the document was due 12.11.2007. China Chief Editor Mr. Chen Zhuang would ask Technical Editor Ms. Wang Xiaoming to produce a document for CJK-B Source Visual Reference.

## **Activity Reports of Member Bodies**

Chief Editors took turn to briefly present the salient points in their Activity Reports as follows:

### **China (IRG N1356)**

Chinese editors reviewed the CJK\_Dv21 and focused on questioned characters in D set. They were now preparing “evidences” of all G source characters for the next meeting. Old hanzi experts from Beijing Normal University (北京師範大學) finished selecting oracle glyphs of Shuowen Jiezi (《說文解字》) radical 101 to 140 as required by IRG#28. The list was submitted to IRG#29 with document number IRGN1355. The old hanzi experts from China and TCA met in Harbin from 13 to 15 September 2007 and the report N1337 had already been submitted to the IRG. As agreed at IRG#28, Chinese editors prepared a proposal (IRGN1366) containing 5,751 characters used in ID system and electronically processed ancient books. The new Specified Hanzi List (規範漢字表) was almost finished by the Ministry of Education. This list contained 9,077 hanzi, most of them had been already issued to public in the General Purpose Hanzi List for Modern Chinese Language (G7 現代漢語通用字表). The Ministry of Education was now collecting comments from related government departments and related organizations. Chinese delegation attended the WG2#51 in Hangzhou in this September.

### **DPR Korea**

No written report from DPR Korea.

### **HKSAR (IRG N1358)**

Fourteen characters had been preliminarily accepted for inclusion in the Hong Kong Supplementary Character Set (HKSCS). Twelve characters were already in the ISO 10646 Standard while two of the characters would be submitted to the IRG upon approval for inclusion in the HKSCS. The HKSAR Government had developed an ‘IICORE Comparison Utility’ on Ubuntu Desktop Linux platform to promote the adoption of the IICORE. As a further step to promote the wider adoption of the ISO 10646 standard in Hong Kong, the HKSAR Government promulgated in August 2007 the "Revised Principles for the Inclusion of Characters in the HKSCS" to be effective from 31 March 2008. The HKSAR

Government had informed the local IT industry about the change in writing and posted the decision on the official web site: [http://www.info.gov.hk/digital21/eng/hkscs/revised\\_principles.html](http://www.info.gov.hk/digital21/eng/hkscs/revised_principles.html).

A web version of the CD-ROM on promoting Common Chinese Language Interface was made available for access from both Windows and MacOS platforms and placed at <http://www.ccli.gov.hk> to allow more people to view the content. The website had been designed to categorize information in user clusters with content and features consolidated for youth and students, parents and teachers, IT professionals, and small and medium enterprises. There was also a special section to invite the industry and academia to contribute practical solutions and useful hints to tackle daily usability problems.

### **Japan (IRG N1359)**

Japan's national body for SC2 (JSC2) responsible for all the JTC1/SC2 activities was set at the IPSJ/ITSCJ (Information Processing Society of Japan, Information Technology Standards Commissions of Japan). After the IRG#28, JSC2 had been working on reviewing CJK ExtensionC (PDAM 5), and ExtensionD and the Annex S draft. JSC2 kept studying the necessity of un-encoded ideographs. JSC2 submitted six remaining ideographs for data broadcasting to the last WG2, and provided a proposal of 120 government characters to this meeting. Four delegates attended the IRG Xi'an meeting in June 2007, and one delegate attended the last WG2 Hangzhou meeting in September this year. JSC2 recently invited Prof. SUZUKI, Atsushi, one of the most active Jaguwen experts in Japan, to make a contribution to the IRG's old hanzi project. The Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry continued studying the actual usage of Kanji glyphs for Japanese e-government and JSC2 picked 120 very stable characters as the urgent repertoire and submitted as the Japan's proposal (IRG N1367). Japan reviewed the proposal to code proper names in a separate area and recognized the need of characters for proper names and issues of dealing with them as CJK unified ideographs. However, after considering the cost and potential confusion that might cause a number of other serious problems, Japan concluded that further study about the impact of introducing such block and/or the possibility of a better solution was necessary.

### **Macao SAR (IRG N1360)**

The Macao representatives were unable to join the IRG #29 meeting due to intensive work schedule and sincerely apologized for their absence. Nevertheless, they had reviewed CJK Ext C and D. Macao nominated Mr. Clement Chau and Prof. Tam Mei Ling to join the Annex S review group. The Committee for Unification of Computer Chinese Character Encoding in Macao SAR had been working with full effort. The consultation of “Macao Information Systems Character Set” among public departments in Macao was completed in September and Macao planned to publish the regulations in 2007.

### **Republic of Korea (IRG N1361)**

The Korean national body had collected from its national project about 2,300 characters that were not included in the Unicode or Korean standards. Korea suggested that this list with source information be included as ‘Urgent Need characters’. KIRG members were also investigating han characters native in Korea used in old scores, traditional mathematical books and the books related to the science of divination with the ‘Character Codes Research Center’ in Korea University together. KIRG members were preparing an investigation plan about han characters for personal names and expected to work with the ministry of government administrations and home affairs together.

### **TCA (IRG N1362)**

After reviewing 2,518 Taiwanese characters and 2,772 Hakka characters most of which were currently used in textbooks of primary schools and junior high schools and considering possible unification, TCA proposed to add 24 characters as urgent need characters for encoding. TCA attended the old hanzi expert group working meeting in Harbin, China from 13 to 15 September 2007 and reviewed the consolidated old hanzi set in IRG N1345 and discussed the document IRG N1346.

Based on the project from BSMI (Bureau of Standards, Metrology and Inspection), the Chinese Foundation for Digitization Technology (CMEX) was revising a standard named “CNS 14754 : Sorting attributes for Chinese data processing” which specified five attributes of Chinese characters: radical, stroke count without radical, total stroke count, stroke sequence and pronunciation. Those attributes were intended for use to

sort formatted Chinese data, such as names of people. Because CNS 11643-1 specified a new classification of the basic strokes of Chinese characters, the attribute stroke sequences had to be revised according to the new classification.

### **Unicode/USA (IRG N1363)**

The Unicode Consortium focused its work on the ongoing development of Unicode 5.1. A database of potential ideographs for encoding was being prepared as a Technical Report and would make the full database, including those characters that had not been and would not be submitted to the IRG, available to the public for reference.

### **Vietnam (IRG N1365)**

Vietnam had developed TrueType fonts for characters in CJK D. The font was processed carefully to make sure all the errors and mistakes were detected and corrected. In contributing to the mutual work of the IRG, Vietnam also took part in reviewing CJK D. Vietnam prepared to submit 1,345 new characters collected from the book of “Guide to pronunciation of Nôm and Hán-Việt characters”, published the first time in 1999 by Father Anthony Trần Văn Kiệm, and the 4th Edition in 2004 by VNPF (ISBN 1-881608-06-9, September 2004, LC Control No. 2005270158).

### **Old Hanzi Expert Group**

The Old Hanzi Group met in Harbin from 13 to 15 September 2007. There were no change in the Principles and Procedures. Radicals 101 to 180 in Shouwen were discussed and submitted in Consolidated Old Hanzi Submission (IRGN1345). The rest of the consolidation would be after the 30th IRG meeting. A work plan had been developed and the IRG resolved to accept the Report of the Old Hanzi Expert Group (N1337) and noted its work plan.

### **IRG Font Production Requirement**

The document IRGN1349 would be supplied to IRG Technical Editor to ensure that the produced font could be handled.

## **IDS Issues**

Japan proposed as per the document IRGN1372 for better use of IDS for IRG development and characters submission. The Rapporteur suggested the document be discussed at editorial group meeting.

## **Proper Name Block**

Japan mentioned its concern on having a Proper Name Block in its Activity Report. It related to the extension work the IRG had been doing. There were submissions of Proper Name like place names and person's names that they had to be unified under the current principles of CJK. These characters could not be included but had already been coded in certain members' standard. The issue needed to be addressed if members wanted to include those characters into the ISO standard. How it could be implemented would also relate to the variation technology. The item would be discussed after Dr. Ken Lunde's presentation on IVS.

## **Future Meetings: Change of Hosting Arrangement**

ROK proposed a change of hosting schedule from June 2009 to June 2008 to host the 30<sup>th</sup> meeting in Korea and members agreed. The subsequent hosting would then be deferred for China to host IRG#31 in November 2008 and the HKSAR to host IRG#32 in June 2009 accordingly. The schedule would be tentative and the HKSAR would check and confirm after obtaining approval from authority. The Rapporteur requested ROK to prepare a document IRGN1355 to document the proposed change of hosting arrangement.

The Rapporteur adjourned the plenary session at 11:55 am and asked the CJK Editorial Group to meet at 1:30 pm. Another plenary would be held on Wednesday afternoon.

**--End--**

**Notes of Discussion at the Plenary Session**  
**Held in the afternoon of 14 November 2007**

The plenary started at 3:00 p.m after Dr. Ken Lunde gave a presentation on Ideographic Variation Sequences and Dr. Richard Cook gave a presentation on Character Description Language.

**Development of IRG Work Principles and Procedures**

Mr. Mike Ksar, WG2 convenor, briefed members on the Principles and Procedures document for UCS (WG2N3002) and suggested members to take the document as base for ongoing refinement of Principles and Procedures. The document contained descriptions of what had to be done in preparation, submission and handling of proposals for additions of characters to the repertoire of the standard (ISO/IEC 10646 and the Unicode standard). Mr. Ksar recommended IRG to work out its own set of guidelines, Principles and Procedures for members' compliance that they could follow and prepare along with their contributions for incorporation. As for decision on characters submitted, reasons had to be properly recorded which should include reasons for deciding why adding, why unifying, why not unifying, etc. When members look at the document, one should be able to keep track of why a character was being incorporated or not.

Also, members were strongly encouraged to look for unification of ideographic characters over discussion with the information from sources. Mr. Ksar reminded members that they were to explain Annex S rules but not to change them. The Annex S rules were the base developed long ago, it was important to note that such rules should be well-understood and applied when determining unification.

Mr. John Jenkins presented UTC recommendations for IRG Principles and Procedures, which had two specific areas to focus on. One was to track the decisions made, particularly the editorial decisions, in any readily available form. Such decisions might be updated to Annex S as reference case.

As part of proposal process, members should keep track of information



required for characters submission and provide additional information before the meeting and the editorial group were to raise questions on the submission. In the case of place name, where the place was, how the place was pronounced, etc. should be provided.

The other issue would be to make sure that the information about submitted characters received could be made available to editorial committee members in a uniform way for their reference. Documenting what we were doing and the reason why we had done that could facilitate the later processing of submissions by members.

The IRG Rapporteur nominated Mr. John Jenkins and Mr. Yasuhiro Anan to draft the IRG Work Principles and Procedures and requested volunteers from member bodies to review the document. The plenary resolved to leave a session in each IRG meeting to perfect Annex S as a living document.

The plenary session closed at 3:50 pm followed by Annex S Review discussion.

**--End—**

**Notes of Discussion at the Plenary Session**  
**Held on 15 November 2007**

The meeting started at 8:30 a.m for Editorial Group discussion on CJK\_D outstanding matters followed by discussion of drafting group report at 10:15 a.m.

The CJK Editorial Report of IRG29 was discussed and agreed upon.

The IRG instructed the Rapporteur to submit document Ext. C Correction Request to WG2 (IRGN1392) and IRGN1393 for changes on three characters.

**Urgently Needed Characters**

The IRG Rapporteur clarified that members reached the agreement on the scope of the urgently needed characters to exclude submission of large size as that would affect the processing of the CJK Ext. D. There had not been any priority set in the IRG for CJK Ext. D and urgent need characters as to which one had higher priority against the other. The Rapporteur sought members' view on three possible options to handle urgent need block. They were (1) Work in parallel with CJK Ext. D; (2) Merge Urgent Need Block with CJK Ext. D; and (3) Process Urgent Need Block before CJK Ext. D.

After voting, the IRG resolves to process the Urgently Needed Character Set in parallel with the CJK Ext. D project based on their individually agreed schedules.

**Work schedules**

Members discussed and resolved the timetable for handling/reviewing CJK Ext. B, CJK Ext. D and Urgently Needed Characters.

The meeting closed at 12:30 p.m. and resumed at 1:30 p.m. for the Editorial Group followed by Annex S discussion on the Ad Hoc group report.

The plenary started at 4:25 p.m. to discuss the Annex S review schedule which was reflected as one of the Resolutions of the meeting.

The IRG welcomed members and experts to join the Annex S Review Ad Hoc Group. Any interested parties might contact Mr. John Knightley (Chief Drafter) directly. There was no need for application to the IRG.

### **Approval of the Resolutions (N1377)**

The meeting scrutinised the Resolutions item by item and approved N1377 unanimously.

### **Close of IRG Meeting #29**

The meeting closed at 5:15 p.m. followed by a group photo-taking session.

**--End--**