

L2/08-242

Attn. M. Chandramani Singh
Deputy Secretary, Education (S)
Government of Manipur
Imphal, 795001 - INDIA

June 18, 2008

Dear Secretary Singh,

Thank you for your letter dated 29 April 2008, regarding the encoding of Meetei Mayek into Unicode, the worldwide character encoding standard that today underlies most recent fonts and software, including word processing programs and browsers.

Please allow me to provide further feedback on actions taken by members of the Unicode Technical Committee and national body representatives to ISO/IEC JTC1/SC2/WG2 regarding the encoding of Meetei Mayek. As I wrote on 1 May 2008, the spelling of Meetei Mayek and the character ordering in the code charts were modified to be in agreement with the practice in Manipur, as specified in Order 1/2/78-SS/E of the Education Department of the Government of Manipur, published in the *Manipur Gazette* dated 1980-04-24. Since then, we have continued to review the situation.

We now believe it will be most expeditious to separate the historical characters from the characters used in the modern orthography and encode them in two separate blocks. I enclose here copies of the two proposals.

One addresses the 57 characters in use in the orthography of Manipur. We propose that these modern characters be encoded in Unicode in a block named *Meetei Mayek*. Regarding the digits, it is our understanding that the number 10 is formed by a one and a zero, and thus we have proposed to encode a zero character. If there is a misunderstanding regarding the basic digits, please let us know.

For the use of scholars and historians, we have proposed that historic characters be encoded in a separate block named *Meetei Mayek Extensions*.

Please understand that the Unicode Standard caters to many users of software text processing -- from educational institutions, governments, and businesses, to scholars, historians, and individuals around the world. The goal of the Unicode Standard is to support worldwide user communities with varying needs. The standard in no way endorses one alphabet or collection of characters over others.

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If there are any further issues or concerns please do not hesitate to contact the Consortium. I look forward to our ongoing work together to ensure that the character encoding needs of the Government of Manipur are met by the Unicode Standard.

Sincerely,

Lisa Moore
Chair, Unicode Technical Committee

Enclosures:

- JTC1/SC2/WG2 N3473, L2/08-232: Proposed Encoding for Meetei Mayek Block
- JTC1/SC2/WG2 N3478, L2/08-239: Proposed Encoding for Meetei Mayek Extended Block

Cc: Ms. Swaran Lata, Government of India, Ministry of Information Technology
Mr. Manoj Jain, Government of India, Ministry of Information Technology