TO: UTC
FROM: Deborah Anderson, IR to WG2
DATE: 29 October 2008
RE: Brief WG2 Meeting #53 Report

The WG2 meeting #53 at Hong Kong was held from October 13-17 2008, at Hong Kong Polytechnic University, and included the participation of 10 national bodies (including India), 2 liaisons, and 1 invited expert. The host, Dr. Lu, and her host institution, Hong Kong Polytechnic University, were very attentive to needs of the representatives and gracious hosts. They treated members to a bounteous Cantonese dinner – complete with ducks' feet – on Wednesday evening, and the dinner was very much appreciated by all.

On the whole, the meeting went smoothly, with one official ad hoc meeting (Tangut), and a few unofficial discussions (Old Turkic and topics on various Indic scripts). Old Hungarian, potentially a very hot topic, was postponed until the next WG2 meeting in Dublin, when at least one representative from Hungary will be present.

The focus of the meeting was to progress Amendment 6, which was accomplished. PDAM 6 was slimmed down, as Tangut has been put into Amendment 7 and Nushu removed for further study. Amendment 6 is now slated to progress to FPDAM November 2008. A new amendment was begun, PDAM 7, populated with Tangut, Mandaic, Brahmi, Batak, UCAS extensions, and a few other characters for the Cyrillic, Oriya, Malayalam, Tifinagh, Hiragana, Latin, and Arabic scripts.

Other topics:
Ideographic Variation Sequences seem to be under consideration by various national bodies, but several outstanding questions remain among members. Any clarifications from the UTC in response to NB's questions would probably be greatly appreciated.

Fonts: Michel firmly and repeatedly reminded members to provide a font when submitting proposals. He asked for non-Extension B fonts to be sent to him by the end of December 2008, and Extension B before 15 October 2009.

The response on the Korean standard KS X1026-1 was apparently limited to the comments from the US/UTC (L2/08-228); ROK requested technical comments be provided. On another topic, raised in L2/08-375, ROK will draft a document with proposed changes to 10646 (and, presumably, will send text to Unicode for changes to its standard). For Unicode, the proposed changes will involve the section "Transforming into Standard Korean Syllables (p. 120 *TUS*) and Table 3-13 Korean Syllable Break Examples (p. 121).

The tatwheel/kashida discussion during the meeting resulted in an action item for the US and Ireland (and other interested parties) to come up with a general policy for tatwheel/kashida to be contained in the Principles and Procedures document, much as was done for dandas.

The Government of India requested the proposal for four characters for Kashmiri (L2/08-250) be postponed for the time being. The GoI reported that additional characters for Kashmiri will be proposed soon.

The outcome of the Tangut ad hoc, ably overseen by Erkki Kolehmainen, was documented in a report (L2/08-377); the upshot was that collaboration between China, US, UK, and Ireland regarding unification, missing characters, etc., needs to take place in order for this script to remain in Amendment 7.

Roadmap update: Plane 3 is now called "Tertiary Ideographic Plane." "Old Hanzi" will be removed from the Roadmap, which should instead include Oracle Bones, Bronze (ca. 4000 characters), and Small Seal characters (ca. 10,000 characters).

The codechart production was passed off back and forth between Michael Everson and Michel.

The full set of resolutions can be found in L2/08-368.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie