

Report on IRG Meeting 36

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Meeting IRG #36 was held 11-14 April 2011 in Chongqing, China. I attended as representative from the US and as Unicode Liaison.

From our perspective, the main issue involved was a proposal from the UTC to register a set of simplified Chinese characters with the IVD. (IRG N1757) This proposal was presented to the IRG FYI only as part of my action items 123-A5 and 109-A40. I'll write up a separate document summarizing the reaction to this proposal; here let me just say that the only concern raised was that any IVD registration made by the UTC might be perceived as a pseudo-encoding and we need to make sure that doesn't happen.

The main work for the editorial committee had to do with more font reviews for Extension B (among others). The IRG plans to do another round of review of Extension B, this time double-checking to make sure that everybody has changed their fonts the way they were supposed to. The IRG is asking that WG2 postpone the vote on the FDIS of 10646, 3rd edition to accommodate this.

Over the course of font review, Taiwan found half a dozen cases where their font for Extension C needed to be changed. In all but three of the cases, the changes were unifiable, but in the other three they were not. The only way to accommodate Taiwan would be to remove the T-source for the three characters in question, and since they were T-source-only, that would leave them without formal sources. I expressed our willingness to add them to UTR 45 if needed, although Korea would prefer that they have a pseudo-T-source indicating that there is, in fact, no source for these forms. Korea is supposed to raise the issue with WG2.

(I'm also going to write up a document about the lack of quality control in Taiwan's work. The majority of font problems for Extension B are from Taiwan, and we haven't been able to find any actual documentation on CNS 11643 backing up all of Taiwan's assertions as to needed glyph changes for Extension C. I really think we should be raising this with WG2, although I'm not sure what course of action would be best.)

Some minor tweaks were made to Extension E. China was told that if they don't follow through on their action items from previous IRG meetings, some of their characters would be dropped from Extension E, and Macao withdrew one character and has another in jeopardy, since the only evidence in favor of it was a handwritten document where the character was *not* obviously the same as what they submitted. A new version of Extension E will be issued this summer and solid work on it will resume with the fall IRG meeting.

The Old Han group made some forward progress, although not as much as we would have liked. Japan presented an excellent proposal to ground the Old Han work solidly on the character-glyph model, and everybody is supposed to go home and study it. The really disappointing thing was that the overall reaction to Japan's proposal was, "What's the character-glyph model?"

The full set of resolutions for the meeting are online at <http://appsrv.cse.cuhk.edu.hk/~irg/irg/irg36/IRGN1770Resolutions.doc>.