



Meeting Report
ISO/TC 37/SC 2/WG 1 – Language coding (ISO 639 series)

Date of meeting: Monday, 2011-06-13
Location of meeting: Seoul, SOUTH KOREA
Report prepared by: Gerhard Budin

Attendance: 7 participants / 7 countries:

	Name	Country
1	Gerhard Budin (acting as Convener)	Austria
2	Johanne Marquis	Canada
3	Debbie Garside	United Kingdom
4	Takaharu Osada	Japan
5	Dori Nissan	France
6	John L. George	USA
7	Jenny Pellaux (ISO/CS)	Switzerland

1. Opening of the meeting

Gerhard Budin convened the meeting. He informed the participants that Håvard Hjulstad could not be present to chair the meeting this year and opened the session at 09:15. He welcomed all the participants.

2. Roll call of participants

An attendance list was circulated (see attendance above).

3. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted as presented in document ISO/TC 37/SC 2/WG 1 **N206** (also circulated as ISO/TC 37/SC 2 **N604**).

4. Appointment of a drafting committee

The following were appointed to the drafting committee: G. Budin (Austria), D. Garside (UK) and J. Marquis (Canada).

5. Report of the previous meeting

The report was circulated as ISO/TC 37/SC 2/WG 1 **N201** (also circulated as ISO/TC 37/SC 2 **N572**) and was made available on the ISO/TCServer in September 2010. G. Budin invited all participants to read the report.

6. Report of the ISO/TC 37/SC 2/WG 1 Convener

Document ISO/TC 37/SC 2/WG 1 **N207** (also circulated as ISO/TC 37/SC 2 **N648**). G. Budin read through the report.

7. Annual Report 2010–2011 on the ISO 639 series of International Standard on Language Coding / Report of ISO 639 RA Joint Advisory Committee

The report was submitted (ISO/TC 37/SC 2/WG 1 **N205**, also circulated as document ISO/TC 37/SC 2 **N637**). G. Budin read through the document and reminded all participants of the overall goal of 639 as stated under paragraph 7: ... The intention is to develop the ISO 639 code tables to provide language encoding solutions for the needs of language and content industries as well as for documentation and information centres and providers.



He also commented briefly on the Registration Authorities and stated that since the ISO Concept Database was kind of abandoned, a new host would have to be found for the ISO 639 Series. Jenny Pellaux informed the group that the ISO directory can be used for storing the 639 data for static purposes.

G. Budin mentioned the possibility that the Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics in Nijmegen in the context of the CLARIN project could still be willing to host the 639 database, since it is already in charge of the DCR repository governed by ISO 12620, and since this option had been discussed with them already some years ago. This possibility will further be examined by G. Budin together with Peter Wittenburg. G. Budin will inform WG 1 as soon as there are results on this issue.

All tables of all current parts of ISO 639 should be merged into one table and represented in one database. This database would be an integral part of ISO 639 but will also need to support the language coding development process.

A strong governance structure is needed: Maintenance Team, Validation Team and Secretariat.

D. Nissan wished to know if the ISO 639 series would remain bilingual (English-French). G. Budin believes that we should establish a bilingual structure in order to attract as many users as possible and to use ISO 639 series as a means to promote linguistic diversity, in line with UNESCO's goals.

8. Status of published parts ISO 639-1 to 639-6

All planned parts of ISO 639 have been published:

ISO 639-1:2002 Codes for the representation of names of languages – Part 1: Alpha-2 code, developed by ISO/TC 37/SC 2. Periodic review closed 2007-12-18; IS confirmed 2008-02-20; next periodic review scheduled 2013-01-15.

ISO 639-2:1998 Codes for the representation of names of languages – Part 2: Alpha-3 code, developed by a joint committee of ISO/TC 46/SC 4 and ISO/TC 37/SC 2. Periodic review closed 2008-12-17; IS confirmed 2010-07-20.

ISO 639-3:2007 Codes for the representation of names of languages – Part 3: Alpha-3 code for comprehensive coverage of languages, developed by ISO/TC 37/SC 2. Periodic review closed 2010-06-17; IS confirmed 2010-07-20.

ISO 639-4:2010 Codes for the representation of names of languages – Part 4: General principles of coding of the representation of names of languages and related entities, and application guidelines, developed by ISO/TC 37/SC 2. Published 2010-07-16; periodic review scheduled 2013-07-15.

ISO 639-5:2008 Codes for the representation of names of languages – Part 5: Alpha-3 code for language families and groups, developed by ISO/TC 37/SC 2. Published 2008-05-15; **currently undergoing periodic review (closing 2011-09-16)**.

ISO 639-6:2009 Codes for the representation of names of languages – Part 6: Alpha-4 representation for comprehensive coverage of language variants, developed by ISO/TC 37/SC 2. Published 2009-11-17; periodic review scheduled 2012-10-15.

9. “Next generation” ISO 639

As H. Hjulstad pointed out in the document “Next Generation” ISO 639 document (ISO/TC 37/SC 2/WG 1 N208, ISO/TC 37/SC 2 N649), a number of things will need to be done:



1. the data model needs to be finalized;
2. a host organization for database and secretariat needs to be found;
3. all ISO 639 data needs to be merged, and from that point maintained in one database;
4. the Maintenance Team and the secretariat need to be up and running.

The remainder of the meeting focused mainly on reviewing document "2nd WD 639-0" (ISO/TC 37/SC 2/WG 1 **N204**, ISO/TC 37/SC 2 **N647**) submitted by H. Hjulstad. D. Garside has accepted to update the document in consultation with H. Hjulstad and to submit a revised version to be circulated to SC 2 members in December 2011 in an effort to advance the document to CD level.

10. Requirements concerning a subsequent meeting

A one-day meeting will be needed during the next annual meeting at the end of June 2012, in Madrid, Spain.

11. Any other business

No other business.

12. Approval of resolutions

Four resolutions were passed during the meeting.

13. Closure of the meeting

The convener closed the meeting at **12:50**.

TC 37 / SC 2 / WG 1
 Seoul, SOUTH KOREA
 Language Coding - 639 Series
 Monday, 2011-06-13, 09:00 to 16:30

	NAME	COUNTRY	ORGANIZATION	Please, use print characters
1				Business Card Attached <input type="radio"/>
2	Johanne Marquis	CANADA	SCC	Business Card Attached <input checked="" type="radio"/>
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4	Takaharu Osada	JP	JISC	Business Card Attached <input type="radio"/> HHG0156@nifty.com
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6	NISSAN DORT	AFRANCE	AFNOR	Business Card Attached <input type="radio"/>
7	John L. GEORGE	USA	ANSI	Business Card Attached <input type="radio"/>
8	Jenny Pellaw	ISO/CS		Business Card Attached <input type="radio"/>
9				Business Card Attached <input type="radio"/>
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11				Business Card Attached <input type="radio"/>
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