

# IRG 37 Liaison Report

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The 37th meeting of the Ideographic Rapporteur Group was held in Mountain View, California, from 7 to 10 November 2011, hosted by Google. Ken Lunde was the head of the L2 delegation, and I was present as Unicode liaison. Michel Suignard also attended for three days in his capacity as 10646 editor. Richard Cook participated for part of the final day, and various individuals from Google and L2 spent some time at the meeting or joined us for meals. Dr. Lu Qin was present as Rapporteur, and delegations were present from Mainland China, Taiwan, Japan, South Korea, Vietnam, and Macao. Dr. Lu also served as the Hong Kong delegation when necessary.

The official resolutions are available at: <http://appsrv.cse.cuhk.edu.hk/~irg/irg/irg37/IRGN1810Resolutions.doc>.

As has been the case at most recent IRGs, there were three big items discussed and a number of smaller ones.

## **Extension B**

The review of Extension B is finished. There were some corrections to glyphs and mappings made by the Editorial Working Group, but Michel was able to incorporate them and produced a final set of Extension B charts while still at the meeting. Errors doubtless remain, but the general consensus is that eradicating all errors is not possible and we've already spent too much time on Extension B as it is.

In the process of the Extension B review, one character (U+2105D) was orphaned and given a U-source reference (UCI-00948). I have also updated the status for ideographs in UTS #45 to reflect the current state of Extension E and made required glyph and attribute changes to UTC-00791. The former will necessitate an update to the data files for UTS #45 before Unicode 6.1 is published.

## **Extension E**

Extension E is nearing the end of its development process. The current intention is for it to undergo two final rounds of review and then be submitted to WG2 during or shortly after IRG #38 in June.

This will be done partly through the time-honored process of deferring encoding of doubtful ideographs. Issues involved with the finalizing of Extension E provoked considerable informal discussion of the IRG process and how it can be improved or streamlined. Ken Lunde (et al., probably) will be authoring a document for the UTC including some suggestions, but the short version is that the IRG is still slowed partly by QA issues but primarily by the sheer mass of some submissions, and a revival of the UNC process may be helpful.

### **Old Hanzi**

The current work of the Old Hanzi working group was discussed (frequently with more heat than light), but there is little actual progress on that front—other than an absolute insistence that its business be conducted in English. There were further requirements for tightening up the processes the Old Hanzi working group uses.

The Old Hanzi working group and IRG are effectively severed at this point, since they have separate meeting schedules; indeed, the Old Hanzi working group did not even meet at IRG #37. A consensus is building that they should be formally split off into their own entity within WG2. There are some genuine advantages and disadvantages to this, and if it ever becomes a reality, we will have to discuss the matter carefully to make sure whether we think it will be beneficial.

The IRG still tends to refer to this group, by the way, as the "Old Hanzi ad hoc." If nothing else, people really need to decide on a different name, because it has long since stopped being an "ad hoc" group.

### **Other Business**

Ken Lunde, Richard Cook, and I presented a document regarding the benefits of using switching to IVSs instead of encoding further compatibility ideographs. This was also brought up during the review of Extension B, since there were proposals to change mappings which would have involved compatibility

ideographs.

Ken also brought up a suggestion to add J-source references for U-source characters originally derived from Adobe-Japan1-6. Japan expressed a willingness to consider the idea but was on the whole not very keen about it. As an alternative, they proposed modifying the U-source reference to indicate that the characters in question are intended for Japanese. In the long run, modifying the U-source reference may be a better approach.

The issue of whether or not total strokes should be included in IRG submissions as well as radical-stroke numbers was raised very late in the meeting. IRG members were divided on the matter (China and Taiwan were fine with it, Japan and Korea were reluctant, Vietnam and Macao had no opinion), and basically the response to WG2 is, "We need to think it over."

Google did an excellent job of hosting. Paternal pride compels me to note that delegates were greeted by a banner with Unicode-tan and Google-tan on either end; Wikipedia has an article about the quintessentially Japanese concept of an OS-tan, and the t-shirt design is available at <http://bit.ly/rLp6fN>. Nobody at the meeting even attempted to translate the text on the front of the t-shirt.

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