

Comments on the encoding of Lao Letters Pali JHA and NYA

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This document provides feedback on

L2/17-106R Rajan et al., Revised Proposal to Encode Lao Characters for Pali.

We commend the authors for their laudable efforts and we agree with most of the proposal. However, we believe that the encoding of two of the proposed characters could be improved by adopting a Modified Scheme as tabulated below.

Code Point		Glyph	Character Name
17-106R	Modified Scheme		
U+0E8C	U+0E8B	ꠇ	LAO LETTER PALI JHA
U+0E8E	U+0E8C	꠆	LAO LETTER PALI NYA

The relevant code points U+0E8A through U+0E8E compare to their Thai counterparts as follows, with cognates shown in the same background color.

Lao Letter and Pali Value			Thai	
Code Point	17-106R	Modified Scheme	Glyph	Code Point
U+0E8A		ꠇ ja	ช	U+0E0A
U+0E8B		ꠇ jha	ช	U+0E0B
U+0E8C	ꠇ jha	꠆ ña	ฉ	U+0E0C
U+0E8D		꠆ ya	ญ	U+0E0D
U+0E8E	꠆ ña		ฉ	U+0E0E

Advantages of the Modified Scheme include:

- LAO LETTER PALI JHA is a cognate of U+0E0B THAI CHARACTER SO SO. Encoding the former at U+0E8B conforms to the convention on encoding Thai-Lao cognate pairs.
- Under the Modified Scheme, the Lao letters for the Pali palatal series **ca cha ja jha ña** is encoded consecutively at U+0E88 through U+0E8C.

- 17-106R provides one attested list (page 14) of extended Lao letters that takes into account the Thai-Lao correspondence. The list supports the Modified Scheme, under which the palatal series of the list (Pali **ca cha ja jha ña ya**) is encoded consecutively at U+0E88 through U+0E8D.