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5th of July, Juche 89(2000)

Dear Sir

We, the Standardization Committee of the DPR of Korea, appreciate ISO and JTC1 on developing a lot of the international standards including ISO/IEC 10646-1 to help each country and nations in the field of information technology.

ISO/IEC 10646-1 is an important international standard with political character that reflect directly the vital interests of each sovereign state and nations, since it has defined encoding gathering on the writing habit of international languages.

However, the part of the Korean character in ISO/IEC 10646-1 is defined according to the character name and character order used only in South Korea, and it doesn't reflect the interests of all the Korean character users. And it encroaches on the interests of DPRK and all the Korean nations such as the Koreans in China and abroad.

Until today, since our country is divided into two, the ISO registered separately the ISO 3166 "Country name sign", ISO 4217 "Money unit mark of countries", ISO IR202 "Korean character two bite code for the information exchange", ISO IR 149 "Hanguk character two bite code for

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information exchange” to respect the interests of the state and nation, and was very equitable.

But it was not in the part of the Korean character in ISO/IEC 10646-1.

The part of the Korean character in ISO/IEC 10646-1 reflected only the proposal of the South Korea in 1993, and in 1998 again corrected sharply reflecting only the proposal of the South without any discussion with us.

We, the Standardization Committee of the DPRK, regard it as an ignorance of the interests of the sovereign state and submitted the proposal to correct the part of the Korean character in ISO/IEC10646-1 to the ISO according to the principle of the developing of the international standard.

But, on our proposal, ISO accepted only the supplement of the new character assuming that the developed international standard cannot be corrected.

This means that they only thought that the correction of some part of the Korean character would be confused internationally and would harm the commercial benefit of some companies.

This cannot be compared with the dignity and the interest of the sovereign state and nation, and it opposes to original mission and principle of ISO and it is an unsuitable action that impair the impartiality of the organization.

Comparing the name of the Korean character and its order of the ISO/IEC10646-1 with the historical data, “Hangul” of ISO/IEC 10646-1 should be defined in the name of “Korean character” that had been used by all the Koreans, not the “Hanguk character of symbolic unit” defined in the KS C 5601.

The order of the Korean character used by all Korean nations until now was 《 ㄱ, ㄴ, ㄷ, ㄹ ... 》, 《 ㅏ, ㅑ, ㅓ, ㅕ ... 》 since our character was created and the rule of the modern character was completed.

Only the South Korea registered their way to ISO ignoring the rule of their own and Korean nation in the way of 《 ㄱ, ㅋ, ㄴ, ㄷ, ㄹ ... 》
《 ㅏ, ㅑ, ㅓ, ㅕ ... 》, although they recognize these rules mentioned above.

The published certified data related with this (annex) could be the clear authority.

On the basis of all this, the CSK wishes you to take account once again our NP on the correction of the part of the Korean character of ISO/IEC10646-1.

If ISO stick to your unsuitable argument that you cannot change the Korean name and order since it is an international confuse and the commercial damage, we inform you that DPRK would exercise sovereignty regarding it as an infringement of the dignity of DPRK through the international standard.

We look forward to your positive reply as soon as possible.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely yours

Cho Chun Hui
Secretary- General
The Standardization Committee of DPR of Korea

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Cho Chun Hui', written in a cursive style.

Annex 1

The basic content of the DPR of Korea

1. We suggest to correct the block name and gathering name of the Korean Alphabets and Korean syllables defined in the BMP table as follows:

“ HANGUL JAMO” to “KOREAN ALPHABETS”
“HANGUL SYLLABLES” to “KOREAN SYLLABLES”

2. We suggest to correct the order of the Korean Alphabets (1100-11FF) as the Annex A of JTC1 N5999.
3. We suggest to correct the order of Korean syllable of 11172 character (AC00-D7A3) as the annex C of JTC1 N5999.

Annex 2

The published certified data on the name and order of the Korean character.

1. Publication data on the “Korean character”

The name of our character had been called considering the national dignity and aspect. Consequently our character was called like “the Korean writing” (Korean character) or “the Korean alphabet”.

If “HUNMINJONGUM” “the Korean letter” was the name that was first made by the letter creators reflecting the special character of the letter, the name like “the Korean alphabet” (Korean character), “Korean letter” was the name made and called commonly by all the Koreans including the scholar named Mun Min.

The name of “the Korean character” was called after the creation of our letter since our country’ s name was “Korea”, and from 17-18 century it was called more, as the national consciousness grew higher.

Sin Gyong Jun, a realist scholar of 17 century, said our letter as the “Korean letter” in the “HAENG ZANG ZO” of the “Rryo Am Yu Go”.

After that, at the end of the 19 century and in the early of 20 century, with the strong love of their own nation, the Korean letter campaigners including Ju Si Gyong called our letter as the “Korean alphabet” to attach importance to our language and letter and to encourage its use.

Ju Si Gyong said in the preface of the “Korean language Grammar” (1893) that “Se Jong created 28 Korean alphabet” and in “the Study of National language Grammar and syllable” (1908), “Korean language Grammar” (1910) said that “the Korean alphabet was adapted the pictograph in accordance with the calligraphy”. Including this, he defined our letter as “the Korean alphabet” “Korean letter” in his various writings.

As our letter renowned, our letter was called with the name of “Korea” in foreign language.

At first, foreigners called “Koryo” to “Korea”, and gradually called “Cho Son” also to “Korea”.

According to the “Korean alphabet and philology” written by Kim Yun Gyong, G vonder Gabelentz of Germany defined our letter as the “Koreanishen schirift” at the book of “Akademicder Wissen Schaften” of 1892, and H.B. Hulbert of Britain defined our letter as the “Korean alphabet” at the “Korean repository”(Vol III 365-367) of 1896.

In addition to this, L.de Rosny of France defined our letter as the “Korean alphabet” in his book written in 1864 and J.S Gale of Britain in his “Korea Branch R.A.S” (Vol IV part 1) of 1912.

Since then, from the last of 19 century, the foreign scholars began to call our letter with our country’ s name.

Gradually “the “Korean alphabet” (Korean character) came to known as the basic name to be called individually with the various foreign letters.

From then, the “Korean character” was widely used as the name of the nation’ s language of DPRK and the Korean nations living beyond the seas.

2. The publication data on the order of the Korean character.

1) The alphabet order of the “Korean language regulation” issued by the National Language Assessing Committee of DPRK in 1988 is as follows:

Consonant:

ㄱ, ㄴ, ㄷ, ㄹ, ㅁ, ㅂ, ㅅ, ㅇ, ㅈ, ㅊ, ㅋ, ㆁ, ㄷㅌ, ㄷㄹ,
ㅅㅌ, ㅅㄹ, ㅈㅌ

Vowel:

ㅏ, ㅑ, ㅓ, ㅕ, ㅗ, ㅛ, ㅜ, ㅠ, ㅡ, ㅣ, ㅖ, ㅗ, ㅛ, ㅜ, ㅠ, ㅡ, ㅣ,
ㅏ, ㅑ, ㅓ, ㅕ

2) The alphabet order of the “Hanguk philology and literature” issued in South Korea in 1988 is as follows:

Consonant: ㄱ, ㄴ, ㄷ, ㄹ, ㅁ, ㅂ, ㅅ, ㅇ, ㅈ, ㅊ, ㅋ, ㆁ, ㄷㅌ, ㄷㄹ,

Vowel: ㅏ, ㅑ, ㅓ, ㅕ, ㅗ, ㅛ, ㅜ, ㅠ, ㅡ, ㅣ