Title: **Concerns on revision processes of Unicode Technical Reports**

Date: 2011-6-1

Source: Japan

Background

The Unicode consortium publishes a series of documents called Unicode Technical Report, which may be further categorized as Unicode Technical Annex (UAX) or Unicode Technical Standard (UTS).

ISO/IEC 10646 refers to some of the Unicode Technical Reports both normatively and informatively.   In particular, ISO/IEC 10646:2011 (2nd Ed.) contains normative references to UAX #9, UAX#15, and UTS#37.

Published Unicode Technical Reports may be updated (i.e., revised) through processes defined by the Unicode Consortium.

Concerns

Once normatively referenced, the content of the Report is considered as a part of the International Standard.   Updates to those Reports can cause issues; if we don't revise 10646 to refer to the updated Report, 10646 and the Unicode Standard may diverge, that's what we all don't want.   On the other hand, if we WG 2 set a policy to automatically revise 10646 to refer to the updated Report, such a practice effectively gives a *carte blanche* to the Unicode Consortium on the revision of (a part of) an International Standard.

Currently we WG 2 always have a discussion when revising 10646 to refer to an updated version of the Unicode Technical Report.   It is not automatic process.   However, a question arose in Japan whether WG 2 is possible not to revise 10646.   As written previously, simply keeping old references is unacceptable, and WG 2 seems to have no other choice than accepting the update and revising the reference.   Moreover, we often approve the change to 10646 before actually see the updated Report.

The Japanese National Body (not just the mirror committee to SC 2 but the body to the ISO and IEC as a whole) wants to reserve a member right to control the contents of International

Standards through participating in meetings and voting. Japan understands that the Unicode Consortium's update process of its Technical Report is open, e.g., availability of a draft updates are announced publicly or the discussion on the technical contents of the updates takes place primarily in public mailing lists, but at the same time it is concerned that the decision of approval is a right of selected consortium members.

Japan wants to see the Unicode Consortium's commitment to listen to WG 2 opinions on the updates to Unicode Technical Report before it decides and to respect the WG 2 consensus.

Requested Action

Japan suggests WG 2 to have the following resolution:

> **RESOLUTION M58.XX (Normatively Referenced Unicode Technical Reports):**
> Considering the concerns expressed in the document N4092, WG 2 requests the Unicode Consortium to accept the following:
>   1. When proposing updates to any Unicode Technical report that is normatively referenced by ISO/IEC 10646, the Unicode Consortium will submit a notification of the planned update and/or the draft update text to WG 2, before the Consortium officially approves the update;
>   2. The Unicode Consortium will consider all feedback on such a planned update received as liaison contributions from WG 2, and expressing the opinions of WG 2 and/or its participating NB members regarding a planned update; and
>   3. In the event that the Unicode Consortium and WG 2 have different opinions on details of such an update, the Consortium will give full consideration to the WG 2 opinions and make its best effort to collaborate with WG 2 to reach a consensus.
>
> WG 2 also asks the Unicode Consortium to submit a written commitment for registration as a WG 2 document that the Consortium accepts and will follow the above.

(End of Document)