

**ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 2/WG 2
PROPOSAL SUMMARY FORM TO ACCOMPANY SUBMISSIONS
FOR ADDITIONS TO THE REPERTOIRE OF ISO/IEC 10646¹**

Please fill all the sections A, B and C below.

Please read Principles and Procedures Document (P & P) from <http://www.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/WG2/docs/principles.html> for guidelines and details before filling this form.

Please ensure you are using the latest Form from <http://www.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/WG2/docs/summaryform.html>.

See also <http://www.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/WG2/docs/roadmaps.html> for latest Roadmaps.

A. Administrative

1. Title: Proposal to encode two Kana characters concerning YE.

2. Requester's name: Nozomu Katō

3. Requester type (Member body/Liaison/Individual contribution): Individual contribution

4. Submission date: 2008-1-14

5. Requester's reference (if applicable): _____

6. Choose one of the following:

This is a complete proposal: Yes

(or) More information will be provided later: No

B. Technical – General

1. Choose one of the following:

a. This proposal is for a new script (set of characters): No

Proposed name of script: _____

b. The proposal is for addition of character(s) to an existing block: Yes for one,
 No for one (due to no empty point in the proper block)

Name of the existing block: HIRAGANA (and KATAKANA)

2. Number of characters in proposal: 2

3. Proposed category (select one from below - see section 2.2 of P&P document):

A-Contemporary B.1-Specialized (small collection) B.2-Specialized (large collection)

C-Major extinct D-Attested extinct E-Minor extinct

F-Archaic Hieroglyphic or Ideographic G-Obscure or questionable usage symbols

4. Is a repertoire including character names provided? Yes

a. If YES, are the names in accordance with the “character naming guidelines” in Annex L of P&P document? Yes

b. Are the character shapes attached in a legible form suitable for review? Yes

5. Who will provide the appropriate computerized font (ordered preference: True Type, or PostScript format) for publishing the standard? Nozomu Katō

If available now, identify source(s) for the font (include address, e-mail, ftp-site, etc.) and indicate the tools used: _____

6. References:

a. Are references (to other character sets, dictionaries, descriptive texts etc.) provided? Yes

b. Are published examples of use (such as samples from newspapers, magazines, or other sources) of proposed characters attached? Yes

7. Special encoding issues:

Does the proposal address other aspects of character data processing (if applicable) such as input, presentation, sorting, searching, indexing, transliteration etc. (if yes please enclose information)? Yes

Information about the sorting order is enclosed.

8. Additional Information:

Submitters are invited to provide any additional information about Properties of the proposed Character(s) or Script that will assist in correct understanding of and correct linguistic processing of the proposed character(s) or script. Examples of such properties are: Casing information, Numeric information, Currency information, Display behaviour information such as line breaks, widths etc., Combining behaviour, Spacing behaviour, Directional behaviour, Default Collation behaviour, relevance in Mark Up contexts, Compatibility equivalence and other Unicode normalization related information. See the Unicode standard at <http://www.unicode.org> for such information on other scripts. Also see <http://www.unicode.org/Public/UNIDATA/UCD.html> and associated Unicode Technical Reports for information needed for consideration by the Unicode Technical Committee for inclusion in the Unicode Standard.

¹ Form number: N3102-F (Original 1994-10-14; Revised 1995-01, 1995-04, 1996-04, 1996-08, 1999-03, 2001-05, 2001-09, 2003-11, 2005-01, 2005-09, 2005-10, 2007-03)

C. Technical - Justification

1. Has this proposal for addition of character(s) been submitted before? If YES explain	No
2. Has contact been made to members of the user community (for example: National Body, user groups of the script or characters, other experts, etc.)? If YES, with whom? If YES, available relevant documents:	Yes <i>Rick McGowan, Benjamin M Scarborough, Jeroen Ruigrok van der Werven.</i>
3. Information on the user community for the proposed characters (for example: size, demographics, information technology use, or publishing use) is included? Reference:	No
4. The context of use for the proposed characters (type of use; common or rare) Reference:	Rare
5. Are the proposed characters in current use by the user community? If YES, where? Reference:	Yes <i>They are found in some dictionaries and scholarly publications. See examples below.</i>
6. After giving due considerations to the principles in the P&P document must the proposed characters be entirely in the BMP? If YES, is a rationale provided? If YES, reference:	Yes Yes <i>Kana for WI, WE, and YE are all obsolete letters now. While WI and WE are already encoded in the BMP, YE is not yet. For further information, see below.</i>
7. Should the proposed characters be kept together in a contiguous range (rather than being scattered)?	No
8. Can any of the proposed characters be considered a presentation form of an existing character or character sequence? If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided? If YES, reference:	No
9. Can any of the proposed characters be encoded using a composed character sequence of either existing characters or other proposed characters? If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided? If YES, reference:	No
10. Can any of the proposed character(s) be considered to be similar (in appearance or function) to an existing character? If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided? If YES, reference:	No
11. Does the proposal include use of combining characters and/or use of composite sequences? If YES, is a rationale for such use provided? If YES, reference: Is a list of composite sequences and their corresponding glyph images (graphic symbols) provided? If YES, reference:	No
12. Does the proposal contain characters with any special properties such as control function or similar semantics? If YES, describe in detail (include attachment if necessary)	No
13. Does the proposal contain any Ideographic compatibility character(s)? If YES, is the equivalent corresponding unified ideographic character(s) identified? If YES, reference:	No

Summary

Hiragana and Katakana of the present-day do not include letters for "YE". This is because the "E" sound and the "YE" sound had merged in the 10th century in Japanese. In other words, "E" and "YE" were distinguished before, and were being represented by distinct Kana letters.

This is a proposal to add two missing Kana characters to the BMP of UCS for providing a way to distinguish in writing between "E" and "YE" mainly for Japanese classical literature.

Proposed Characters

1. The character "ゑ" (U+3048, HIRAGANA LETTER E) was derived from a cursive form of kanji "衣". This was being used to represent the "E" sound before "E" and "YE" merged. Therefore, the necessary Hiragana character is "HIRAGANA LETTER YE" in order to distinguish between "E" and "YE".

Shape of *HIRAGANA LETTER YE*

This character was derived from a cursive form of kanji "江", which was pronounced as "YE" when the distinction existed.

2. The character "ヱ" (U+30A8, KATAKANA LETTER E) was developed from parts (right half) of kanji "江". As mentioned above, this was being used to represent the "YE" sound originally. In the context that "E" and "YE" should be distinguished *ヱ* should be used to represent its original sound "YE"; therefore the missing Katakana character is "KATAKANA LETTER ORIGINAL E".

Shape of *KATAKANA LETTER ORIGINAL E*

This character was developed from parts (first three strokes) of kanji "衣". As mentioned above, this character was pronounced "E".

E and YE (until the 10th century)

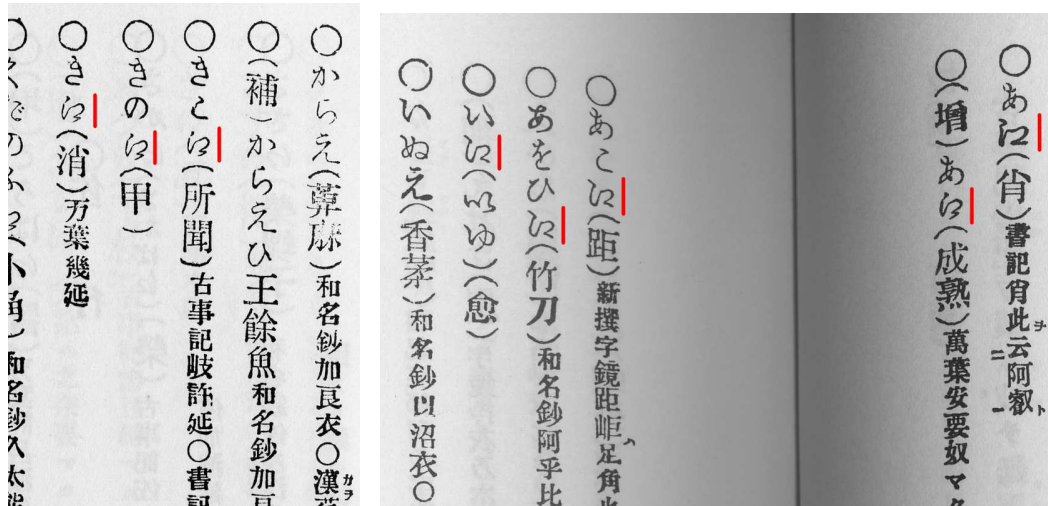
Pronunciation	e [e]	ye [je]
Original Kanji	衣	江
Hiragana	ゑ ^{*1}	ゑ ^{*3}
Katakana	ヱ ^{*4}	ヱ ^{*2}

*1 U+3048 HIRAGANA LETTER E

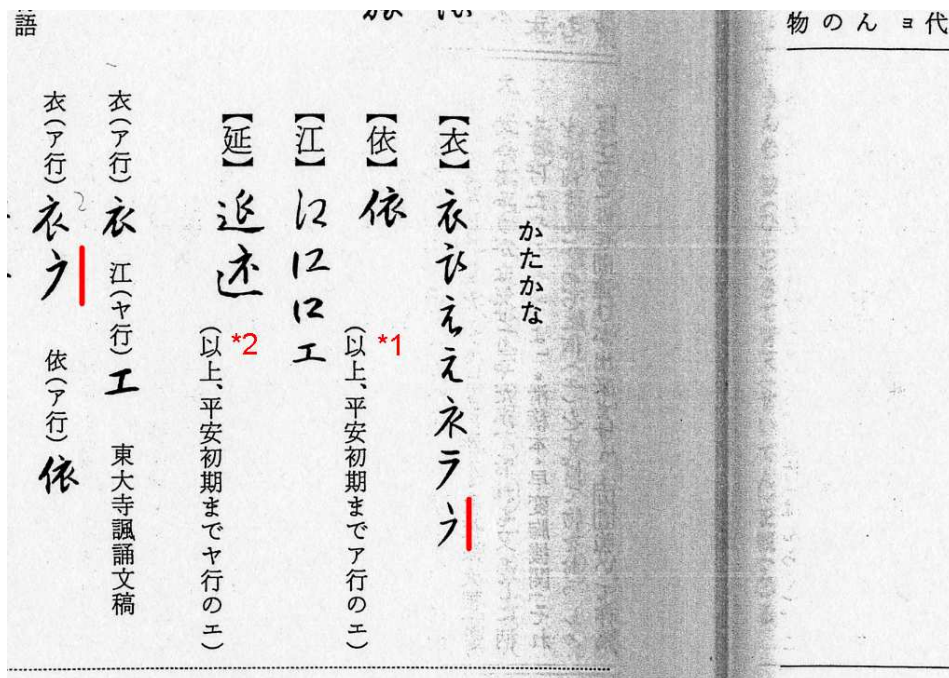
*2 U+30A8 KATAKANA LETTER E

*3 Proposed character: HIRAGANA LETTER YE

*4 Proposed character: KATAKANA LETTER ORIGINAL E



2. Examples of HIRAGANA LETTER YE, from Okumura Teruzane (奥村栄実), *Kogen E-Ye-ben* (古言衣延辨) printed version, 1891.



3. Development and variants of KATAKANA LETTER ORIGINAL E, from *Nihon Kokugo Daijiten* reduced-size edition (日本国語大辞典・縮刷版) volume 2, Shōgakukan (小学館), 1979, 1992.

*1: it is noted here that the right side characters were E until the early Heian period.
 *2: it is noted here that the right side characters were YE until the early Heian period.

Relevant Information

I have contacted Jeroen Ruigrok van der Werven, who has been preparing another proposal concerning Katakana. As of 14th December 2007, characters in each proposal do not cover nor conflict with the other. Our proposals could be combined, however, I would like to make it clear who is responsible for what characters, including fonts; so that I have chosen to submit my proposal to the Unicode Consortium separately.

<END OF PROPOSAL>