

Proposal to rename and reassign some Japanese TV Symbols from L2/08-077R3

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Reference: "Japanese TV Symbols": ISO/IEC JTC1/SC2/WG2 N 3469, as of Date: 2008-04-23;
Unicode document number: UTC L2/08-077R3, found at: <http://std.dkuug.dk/jtc1/sc2/wg2/docs/n3469.pdf>)

While character placement and naming in the Unicode Standard and 10646 are in principle arbitrary to some extent, proximity to like characters does aid users of the standard, as does the avoidance of misleading character names. This document suggest a carefully selected set of proposed changes that the author feels will significantly improve the standard.

The referenced document has proposed a set of 186 symbols from a Japanese ARIB standard (referred further as "ARIB symbols") which were accepted by WG2 in April 2008 and subsequently by the UTC in May 2008.

64 of these symbols were assigned within the "Miscellaneous Symbols" block (U+2600...26FF).

Several of the tentative code positions and character names selected can and should be improved before all aspects of this repertoire are irrevocably frozen. This author had earlier submitted some concerns about code allocation and character name choices in L2/08-158 and L2/08-215. Some of these concerns have been resolved in discussion; the remaining concerns are summarized here.

The main concerns are:

1. Symbols which resemble technical symbols, i.e. ARIB 9388 and 9389, should be assigned within the Miscellaneous Technical Symbols block (U+2300...23FF), rather than in the Miscellaneous Symbols block (U+2600...26FF).
2. Symbols with a more geometrical than iconic appearance (e.g. ARIB 9101...9105, 9132, 9376) and which have been named like geometrical symbols, should be assigned within the Miscellaneous Symbols and Arrows Block (U+2B00...2BFF).
Because of their general nature, over time, these symbols can be expected to see usage outside the ARIB context, therefore their placement in the proximity of other general and non-iconic symbols is highly preferable.
3. Traffic related symbols specific to left way traffic should be named so, as otherwise applying such symbols by name in a right way traffic context is misleading.

One benefit of the proposed changes is that the Miscellaneous Symbols block at U+2600...26FF would not be filled up almost completely right now, leaving space for more iconic symbols to be encoded in the future in the same BMP block.

Acknowledgements:

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In concrete terms, the changes as described in columns 5 and 6 of the table below are proposed.

(The table part resembling columns 1 to 4 were taken from the reference document L2/08-077R3, where the original tables have these 4 columns. Shadowed parts are these for which no action is proposed.)

Column 1 "**UCS**" denotes the Unicode point proposed in L2/08-077R3.

It is set in parentheses for the points where another allocation is proposed.

Column 2 "**glyph**" contains the originally proposed glyph.

Column 3 "**Name, description**" contains the originally proposed name.

Column 4 "**ARIB**" denotes the ARIB number as specified in the document:
http://www.arib.or.jp/english/html/overview/doc/6-STD-B24v5_1-1p3-E1.pdf
(Note: the exact link has changed since the submission of L2/08-215).

Column 5 "**New U.**" contains (if not empty) the proposed changed Unicode point.

Column 6 "**New name / remark**" contains the proposed changed glyph (if one is shown, i.e. only for ARIB 9123 MOUNTAIN), the proposed changed name (if one is shown in the first line outside of parentheses), the proposed alternative name (if marked as usual by "="), cross reference (if marked as usual by "→"), and remark in parentheses (if applying; these remarks are in no case explicitly proposed for inclusion in the code tables as "informative notes").

A font containing the proposed changed glyph is found at:
<http://www.europatastatur.de/material/AribAlternative.ttf>

| UCS | glyph | Name, description | ARIB | New U. | New name / Remark |
|--------|-------|---|------|--------|--|
| (269E) | | THREE LINES CONVERGING RIGHT = someone speaking (close caption) | 9388 | U+23E9 | |
| (269F) | | THREE LINES CONVERGING LEFT = background speaking (close caption) | 9389 | U+23EA | |
| 26BD | | BASEBALL | 9316 | | |
| 26BE | | SQUARED KEY = parental lock | 9071 | | |
| 26C4 | | SNOWMAN WITHOUT SNOW = light snow | 9367 | | |
| 26C5 | | SUN BEHIND CLOUD = partly cloudy | 9380 | | |
| 26C6 | | RAIN = rainy weather | 9382 | | |
| 26C7 | | BLACK SNOWMAN = heavy snow | 9384 | | |
| 26C8 | | THUNDER CLOUD AND RAIN = thunderstorm | 9386 | | |
| 26C9 | | TURNUED WHITE SHOGI PIECE | 9370 | | |
| 26CA | | TURNUED BLACK SHOGI PIECE | 9371 | | |
| (26CB) | | WHITE DIAMOND IN SQUARE → 233A apl functional symbol quad diamond | 9376 | U+2B5B | |
| 26CC | | CROSSING LANES = accident → 292C falling diagonal crossing raising diagonal | 9001 | | |
| 26CD | | DISABLED CAR | 9002 | | |
| (26CE) | | TRAFFIC WARNING = obstacles on the road → 2762 heavy exclamation point ornament | 9003 | U+27BF | HEAVY EXCLAMATION MARK = obstacles on the road → 0021 exclamation mark → 2762 heavy exclamation point ornament (This character is unique in this set that it is a bold variant of a common punctuation mark, being inherently this punctuation mark. As such, its place is in the Dingbats block.) |
| 26CF | | PICK = under construction | 9004 | | |
| 26D0 | | CAR SLIDING = icy road | 9005 | | |
| 26D1 | | HELMET WITH WHITE CROSS = maintenance | 9006 | | |
| 26D2 | | CIRCLED CROSSING LANES = road closed | 9008 | | |
| 26D3 | | CHAINS = tire chains required | 9010 | | |
| 26D4 | | NO ENTRY | 9011 | | |
| 26D5 | | ALTERNATE ONE-WAY TRAFFIC * left way traffic | 9009 | | ALTERNATE ONE-WAY LEFT WAY TRAFFIC |
| 26D6 | | BLACK TWO WAY TRAFFIC * left way traffic | 9020 | | BLACK TWO WAY LEFT WAY TRAFFIC |
| 26D7 | | WHITE TWO WAY TRAFFIC * left way traffic | 9021 | | WHITE TWO WAY LEFT WAY TRAFFIC |
| 26D8 | | BLACK LANE MERGE * left way traffic | 9022 | | LEFT BLACK LANE MERGE |
| 26D9 | | WHITE LANE MERGE * left way traffic | 9023 | | LEFT WHITE LANE MERGE |
| 26DA | | DRIVE SLOW | 9024 | | JAPANESE DRIVE SLOW SIGN (As this design is not compatible with any sign meaning "drive slow" in at least Europe or North America, the naming has to specify its application area, as long as the symbol is not named by its appearance.) |

| | | | | | |
|--------|---|---|------|--------|---|
| (26DB) |  | HEAVY WHITE DOWN-POINTING TRIANGLE = drive slow → 25BD white down-pointing triangle | 9025 | U+2B5C | (in other parts of the world, the sign means "give way".) |
| 26DC |  | CLOSED ENTRY | 9026 | | LEFT CLOSED ENTRY |
| (26DD) |  | SQUARED SALTIRE = closed entry → 22A0 squared times | 9027 | U+2B5A | |
| (26DE) |  | FALLING DIAGONAL IN WHITE CIRCLE IN BLACK SQUARE = closed to large vehicles | 9028 | U+2B58 | |
| 26DF |  | BLACK TRUCK = closed to large vehicles, alternate | 9029 | | |
| 26E0 |  | RESTRICTED ENTRY 1 | 9030 | | RESTRICTED LEFT ENTRY 1 |
| 26E1 |  | RESTRICTED ENTRY 2 | 9031 | | RESTRICTED LEFT ENTRY 2 |
| (26E2) |  | HEAVY LARGE CIRCLE = basic symbol for speed limit → 25EF ○ large circle | 9032 | U+2B4E | |
| (26E3) |  | HEAVY CIRCLE WITH STROKE AND TWO DOTS ABOVE = public office | 9101 | U+2B57 | |
| (26E4) |  | HEAVY OVAL WITH OVAL INSIDE = prefectural office | 9102 | U+2B56 | |
| (26E5) |  | HEAVY CIRCLE WITH CIRCLE INSIDE = municipal office → 25CE bullseye | 9103 | U+2B55 | |
| (26E6) |  | HEAVY CIRCLE = town or village office → 25CB white circle | 9104 | U+2B4D | |
| (26E7) |  | HEAVY CIRCLED SALTIRE = police station → 2A02 n-ary circled dot operator | 9105 | U+2B4F | |
| 26E8 |  | BLACK CROSS ON SHIELD = hospital | 9109 | | |
| 26E9 |  | SHINTO SHRINE | 9112 | | |
| 26EA |  | CHURCH | 9114 | | |
| 26EB |  | CASTLE | 9115 | | (The name implies that more pictorial variants of the symbol are legitimate glyph variations.) |
| 26EC |  | HISTORIC SITE | 9116 | | HISTORIC SITE SIGN → 2E2B one dot over two dots punctuation (1.: As here a special meaning is associated to an abstract symbol which is not obvious in all applications, the suffix "sign" is appropriate.) (2.: Unlike ARIB 9003 HEAVY EXCLAMATION MARK, this symbol is not semantically connected to the punctuation mark it resembles superficially. Therefore, it is not a Dingbat.) |
| 26ED |  | FACTORY → 2699 gear | 9118 | | GEAR WITHOUT HUB = factory → 2699 gear → 263C white sun with rays (1.: Neither is the symbol a picture of a factory, nor is it recognized as factory symbol for any wider audience. Therefore, naming this symbol by a meaning only used in a specific context is inappropriate.) (2. The name proposed here is in accordance with the naming of ARIB 9119 proposed as U+26EE, regarding the "gear" as a geometric form and thus being a naming by appearance.) |
| 26EE |  | GEAR WITH HANDLES = power plant or power substation | 9119 | | |

| | | | | | |
|--------|---|---|------|--------|--|
| 26EF |  | LIGHTHOUSE | 9120 | | GEAR WITH HEAVY HUB = lighthouse → 2699 gear (1.: Neither is the symbol a picture of a lighthouse, nor does it conform with international standards like these for nautical maps. Therefore, naming this symbol by a meaning only used in a specific context is erroneous.) (2. See remark 2 on ARIB 9118 proposed as U+26ED.) |
| 26F0 |  | MOUNTAIN | 9123 | | → 25B2 black up-pointing triangle  (the rounded form is different from U+25B2, is more like a mountain, and is more like the original ARIB symbol.) |
| 26F1 |  | UMBRELLA ON GROUND = bathing beach | 9124 | | |
| 26F2 |  | FOUNTAIN = park | 9125 | | |
| 26F3 |  | FLAG IN HOLE = golf course | 9126 | | |
| 26F4 |  | BLACK BOAT = ferry boat terminal | 9127 | | |
| 26F5 |  | WHITE SAILBOAT = marina or yacht harbour | 9128 | | |
| (26F6) |  | SQUARE FOUR CORNERS = intersection | 9132 | U+2B59 | |
| 26F7 |  | SKIER = ski resort | 9138 | | |
| 26F8 |  | ICE SKATE = ice skating rink | 9139 | | |
| 26F9 |  | PERSON WITH BALL = track and field or gymnasium | 9140 | | |
| 26FA |  | TENT = camping site | 9141 | | |
| 26FB |  | JAPANESE BANK SYMBOL | 9144 | | |
| 26FC |  | GRAVEYARD = memorial park or cemetery | 9145 | | |
| 26FD |  | FUEL PUMP = gas station, petrol station | 9146 | | |
| 26FE |  | CUP ON BLACK SQUARE = drive-in restaurant | 9147 | | |
| 26FF |  | WHITE FLAG WITH AN HORIZONTAL MIDDLE BLACK STRIPE = Japanese self-defense forces site | 9149 | | |