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L2/09-012

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
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DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
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दिनांक/Dated.....

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D.O.No.....

13(6)/2008-HCC(TDIL)

January 7th, 2009

Subject: Encoding of additional characters in Unicode for representation of Kashmiri.

Reference: Document L2/08-250 (ISO/IEC JTC1/SC2/WG2 N3480).

Dear Dr Davis,

This is with reference to the proposal submitted to Unicode Technical Committee by Mr. Micheal Everson, Representative, Ireland and Mr. Pravin Satpute, Red Hat India to encode four characters in the Devanagari block of the Unicode Standard for representation of Kashmiri in Devanagari script.

A meeting of expert was organized at DIT on October 23rd, 2008 at DIT, New Delhi to discuss the issue. Experts from Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL) Mysore, Central Hindi Directorate (CHD), Commission for Scientific & Technical Terminology (Ministry of MHRD, Govt. of India), C-DAC examined the Devanagari Unicode for representation of Kashmiri language and agreed that there is need to encode additional characters for representation of Kashmiri in Devanagari. However, the glyphs recommended by CHD for these characters are different than proposed through above document also there are some more characters, which need to be encoded. One of the authors of this proposal, Mr. Pravin Satpute, also participated in the meeting.

Central Hindi Directorate is the recommending authority of "Parivardhit Devanagari" i.e. Extended Devanagari set for representation of the other languages in Devanagari (requirement of Devanagari over and above for Hindi). CHD also, organized a meeting of Kashmiri experts to finalize the recommendations on December 12, 2008. Experts have diverse view on the issue and hence the matter needs to be discussed further to come to a consensus. CHD is in the process of finalizing the draft recommendations which need to be discussed with all the stakeholders and make take 3-4 months time.

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In view of the above, it is requested that UTC should not take any decision regarding encoding of the characters as proposed in the L2/08-250 (ISO/IEC JTC1/SC2/WG2 N3480) to avoid any discrepancies.

In addition to above, the Perso-Arabic code page is also being examined to identify, if any, specific requirements of representing Kashmiri language needs to be looked into.

Thanking You,

Yours sincerely,


(Swaran Lata)

Dr. Mark E. Davis,
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*Issue
BR*

COPY TO:

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:With a request to forward the letter to the respective Working Group of ISO with a request to take it up for discussion in ISO-WG only after we send our final recommendations.

