Kamatapuri Bhasha Unnayan Parishad

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Ref. No. K.B.U.P./8/02/09   Date 22-02-2009

Unicode Technical Committee, Chair: Lisa Moore, The Unicode Consortium. P.O.
Box-391476, Mountain View.CA-94039-1476, U.S.A.

Sub: Prayer for proposing new character(s) or new scripts of Kamatapuri Language.

Your Excellency,

We, on behalf of "Kamatapuri Bhasha Unnayan Parishad" of North Bengal, beg to state that the Kamatapuri Bhasha is the mother tongue of about two crore people of North Bengal(West Bengal), Purnia of Bihar, Goalpara, Dhubri, Bangaigaon, Kokrajhar of Assam irrespective of religion, race, caste or sex. Kamatapuri language differs from Bengali or Assamese in respect of historical grounds, phonology, morphology, syntactical matters and alphabets. The language has roots in the ancient Kingdom of Kamatapur, from whence the ancestry of the language. In the 15th and 16th century during the reign of Maharaja Biswa Singha (1494-1535 AD) and Maharaja Naranarayanan (1535-1587 AD), Kamata kingdom reached cultural zenith which was *supported by* books available in the State Library of Cooch Behar. Many great writers and authors namely as Harihar Bipra, Bakul Kayastha, Sankar Deva, Madhav Deva, Damodar deva, Pitambar Sirdhanta Bagisa, Purosottom Vidya Vagis, Gobinda Misra etc. adorned the Royal Court and country at large. Their creative literatures such as drama, kavya, songs of different varities, stories, books etc. enriched the kamatapuri language. Analyzing these documents Shashi Bhushan Dasgupta says, "The language of the texts, composed by the poets of Cooch Behar and around (some Poets hailed from Kamarupa), also shows striking similarity. It represents the dialectical peculiarity of the form of the sixteenth to the nineteenth centuries, and such as it shows striking affinity with the Assamese language in 'vocabulary' as well as in 'phonology' and 'morphology'." (A catalogue of Bengali manuscripts (1948), Cooch Behar State, Introduction, page-vii-viii). So, we pray to state to ensure a distinct of socio-linguistic community publications and meetings, the new script of fonts are needed for its corresponding glyph image to employ appropriate input methods, rendering and font technologies to meet the users requirements.

Therefore, you would kindly accept our proposals with input of the character(s) or new scripts of Kamatapuri Language through use of windows keyboards.

Thanking you with regards-,

Dhirendra Nath Das
Secretary
Kamatapuri Bhasha Unnayan Parishad

Yours faithfully,

President
Kamatapuri Bhasha Unnayan Parishad
22/2/009

ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 2/WG 2
PROPOSAL SUMMARY FORM TO ACCOMPANY SUBMISSIONS
FOR ADDITIONS TO THE REPERTOIRE OF ISO/IEC 10646[1]
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:** *Kamatapuri language special characters*
2. Requester's name: *Kamatapuri Bhasha Unnayan Parishad (Kamatapuri Language Development Board)*
3. Requester type (Member body/Liaison/Individual contribution): *Member body*
4. Submission date: *8th February 2009*
5. Requester's reference (if applicable): *Dharma Narayan Barma, President of Kamatapuri Bhasha Unnayan Parishad, phone: +91-3582-245049.*
   Correspond with: Dr Dhirendra Nath Das, Secretary of Kamatapuri Bhasha Unnayan Parishad, phone: +91-3581-257443, mobile: +91-9474429110
6. Choose one of the following:
   This is a complete proposal:
   (or) More information will be provided later: *X*

B. Technical – General

1. Choose one of the following:
   a. This proposal is for a new script (set of characters): *Yes*
      Proposed name of script: *Kamatapuri*
   b. The proposal is for addition of character(s) to an existing block:
      Name of the existing block:
2. Number of characters in proposal: *7*
3. Proposed category (select one from below - see section 2.2 of P&P document):
   A-Contemporary *x*   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? *This information will be provided later. We have started email correspondence with font designers for Indo-Aryan scripts.*
   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, see attached document*
   b. Are published examples of use (such as samples from newspapers, magazines, or other sources) of proposed characters attached? *These glyphs were used in historical writings of the 15th to 18th century and earlier (see list of manuscripts in attached document); they are now being revived by the Kamatapuri Bhasha Unnayan Parishad. Future publications of Sotal (journal of the language board) and other publications of the Board will use these glyphs.*
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)?
   Input of the characters will be through use of Windows keyboards. These characters involve no special processes that are not common with rendering of other vowels in Indic languages.
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

C. Technical - Justification

1. Has this proposal for addition of character(s) been submitted before?	*No*
If YES explain	

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.)? *Yes*

If YES, with whom?	*This proposal is prepared by the Kamatapuri Bhasha Unnayan Parishad*
If YES, available relevant documents:	*See attached request signed by the Secretary and President of the Board.*

3. Information on the user community for the proposed characters (for example:

size, demographics, information technology use, or publishing use) is included?	*This language is used by the indigenous Indo-Aryan speaking population of north Bengal and west Assam (India), and northern Bangladesh. The speaking population is difficult to ascertain because it exists in the great dialect continuum of Indo-Aryan, in which the language boundaries are not clear cut but fuzzy. Forthcoming Ethnologue (16th edition, to be published March/April 2009) will include the following information for 'Kamta' language (with 'Kamatapuri' as alternative name):*
	spoken by Rajbanshi, deshi mussalman ('indigenous Muslims'), Koch Rajbanshi and others in India, and by all native castes in Rangpur and Dinajpur areas of Bangladesh
	population 15,000,000 = 10,000,000 in Bangladesh + 5,000,000 in India.
	There are considerable number of publications in the language (at least 100 books), including dramas, poems, songs, stories, magazines, journals, films, music videos. A grammar and dictionary in Kamatapuri language are to be published within the year.
Reference:	*Dr Matthew Toulmin, Visiting Research Fellow of Serampore College, West Bengal, undertook PhD level studies on the various dialects of this language and will verify the above information regarding population.*

4. The context of use for the proposed characters (type of use; common or rare)	*common*
Reference:	*This script will be used in all the publications of the Kamatapuri Bhasha Unnayan Parishad.*
5. Are the proposed characters in current use by the user community?	Not in publications. Once we have the fonts then we will start to use in our publications.
If YES, where? Reference:	

6. After giving due considerations to the principles in the P&P document must the proposed characters be entirely
in the BMP? *Yes*

If YES, is a rationale provided?	*This is a living language. There are a large number of speakers, and though most are still illiterate it is hoped that we can change this situation in coming years. The Kamatapuri Bhasha Unnayan Parishad will promote the use of these characters through its publications and meetings.*
If YES, reference:	*Dr. Dhirendra Nath Das (Secretary of Kamatapuri Bhasha Unnayan Parishad)*

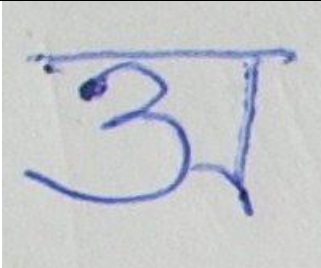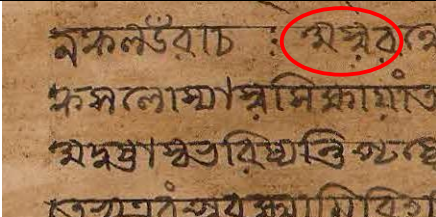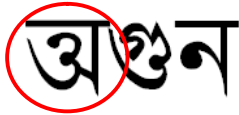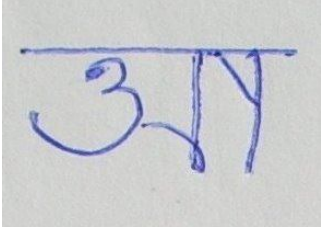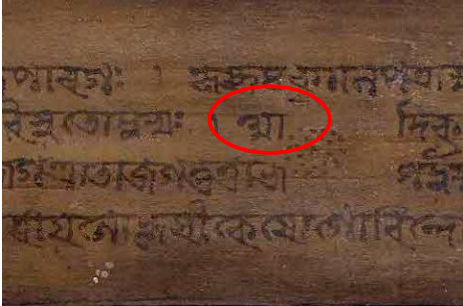|	
7. Should the proposed characters be kept together in a contiguous range (rather than being scattered)?	*Yes*
8. Can any of the proposed characters be considered a presentation form of an existing character or character sequence?	*No*
If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?	
If YES, reference:	
9. Can any of the proposed characters be encoded using a composed character sequence of either existing characters or other proposed characters?	*No*
If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?	
If YES, reference:	
10. Can any of the proposed character(s) be considered to be similar (in appearance or function) to an existing character?	*Yes*

If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?	*The scripts for Indo-Aryan languages are structured similarly, and there are many similarities between the scripts of related Indo-Aryan languages. The Kamatapuri language has most of its characters in common with the Bengali (Bangla) and Assamese (Asamiya) set of characters. Kamatapuri can be most efficiently encoded by treating it in the same way as Assamese; that is, with a limited set of alternative characters which differ from Bengali.*
If YES, reference:	*Dr Dhirendra Nath Das (Secretary, Kamatapuri Bhasha Unnayan Parishad)*

11. Does the proposal include use of combining characters and/or use of composite sequences?   *No*

    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:

12. Does the proposal contain characters with any special properties such as

    control function or similar semantics?   *No*

        If YES, describe in detail (include attachment if necessary)

13. Does the proposal contain any Ideographic compatibility character(s)?   *No*

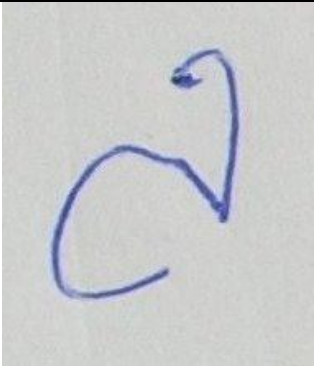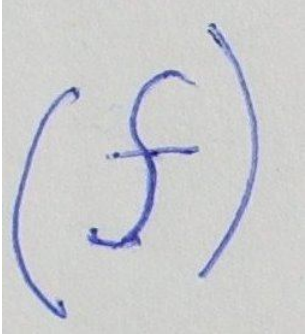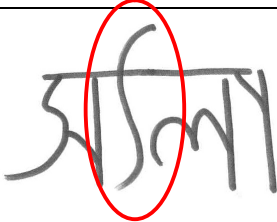   If YES, is the equivalent corresponding unified ideographic character(s) identified?

        If YES, reference:

Submitter's responsibilities

The national body or liaison organization (or any other organization or an individual) proposing new character(s) or a new script shall provide:
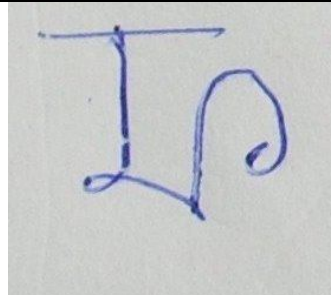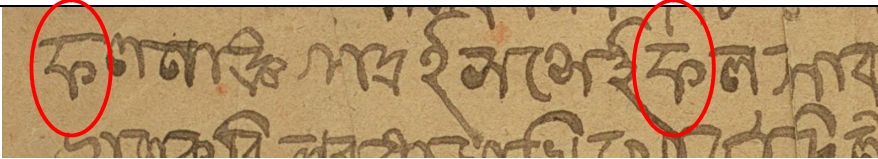
1.   Proposed category for the script or character(s), character name(s), and description of usage.

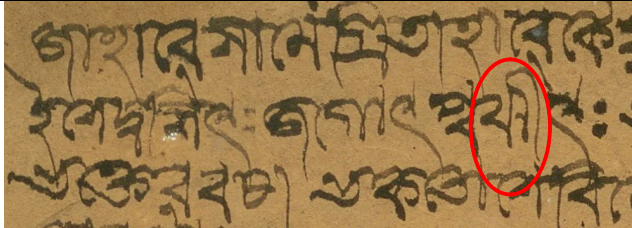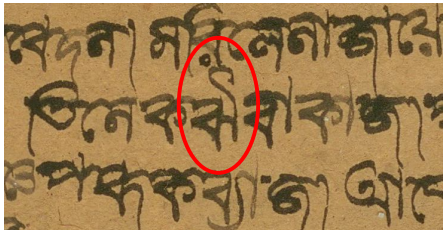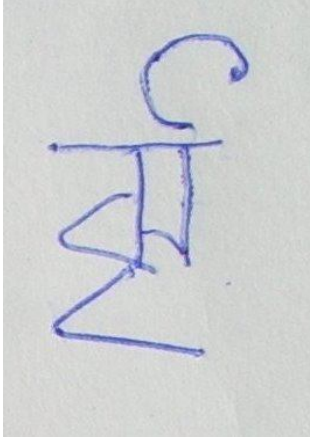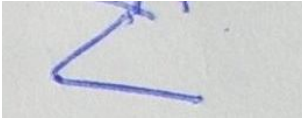category: Kamatapuri language

character name	glyph	usage	Examples of Kamatapuri letters from scanned historical manuscripts which are kept by members of the language development board.	Circled words in Bengali script
Kamatapuri letter A		Same as other Indic languages letter A (e.g. Devanagari, Bengali, Oriya)		অ ়র Notes: the character is similar to Bengali letter a, but with an extra arc (where Bengali has one arc, Kamatapuri has two.) অগুন
Kamatapuri letter AA		Same as other Indic languages letter AA (e.g. Devanagari, Bengali, Oriya)		আ Notes: the character is similar to Bengali letter aa, but with an extra arc (where Bengali has one arc, Kamatapuri has two.) আন্ধার

Kamatapuri letter AE		Similar to other Indic languages letter AA (e.g. Devanagari, Bengali, Oriya)	This is a novel character introduced by the KBUP, so is not found in manuscripts.	As there is no corresponding character in Bengali script, Kamatapuri writers attempt to capture this phoneme in a variety of ways using existing Bengali letters, which leads to confusion. এলা / এ্যালা / এ্যলা The proposal is for a unique character to indicate this phoneme in its independent form.
Kamatapuri vowel sign AE	(ignore the brackets)	Similar to other Indic languages vowel sign AA (e.g. Devanagari, Bengali, Oriya)	This is a novel character introduced by the KBUP, so is not found in manuscripts.	As there is no corresponding character in Bengali script, Kamatapuri writers attempt to capture this phoneme in a variety of ways using existing Bengali letters, which leads to confusion. সেলা / স্যালা / স্যেলা The proposal is for a unique character to indicate this phoneme in its consonant-dependent form.

Kamatapuri letter vocalic R		Same as other Indic languages letter vocalic R (e.g. Devanagari, Bengali, Oriya)		ঋৎ Note: the character is similar to Bengali letter vocalic R, but with a loop at the top above the horizontal line কঋবা
Kamatapuri letter vocalic RR		Same as other Indic languages letter vocalic RR (e.g. Devanagari, Bengali, Oriya)	This character could not be found in the manuscripts with KBUP in time for the proposal.	Notes: This character is the same as letter vocalic R except for the two strokes which are added underneath vocalic R to form vocalic RR. The character is similar to Bengali letter vocalic RR ৠ, but with a loop at the top above the horizontal line

Kamatapuri letter PHA		Same as other Indic languages letter PHA (e.g. Devanagari, Bengali, Oriya)		ফল Note: the character is similar to Bengali letter PH, but the line joining the horizontal is perpendicular and straight rather than curved (as in Bengali)

2.	Justification for the category and name(s).

Kamatapuri is the language name chosen by the Kamatapuri Bhasha Unnayan Parishad (Kamatapuri Language Development Board). This language name has roots in the ancient kingdom of Kamatapur, from whence the ancestry of the language is traced (see Toulmin, Matthew, 2006, Reconstructing linguistic history in a dialect continuum: the Kamta, Rajbanshi, and Northern Deshi Bangla subgroup of Indo-Aryan. Ph.D. thesis, School of Language Studies, Australian National University. Available online: http://thesis.anu.edu.au/browse.html)

3.   A representative glyph(s) image on paper:

The glyphs are provided in the table above.
These glyphs are similar to Bengali-Assamese glyphs. However, they are use by a distinct sociolinguistic community, known variously as the Kamatapuris, deshis, rajbanshis, of north Bengal, Bangladesh and western Assam. Further justification:

- The Kamatapuri language has 7 vowels: /i, e, æ, a, ɔ, o, u/. Bengali-Assamese script has no distinct character for /æ/. (See the Toulmin reference

  above, or e.g. Toulmin, Matthew, In press, Rajbanshi/Kamta, as spoken in India and Bangladesh[Translated into Russian]. In Tatiana Oranskaia, ed.

  New Indo-Aryan Languages, Languages of the World Series, Moscow: Nauka.)
  Two of the glyphs proposed above (Kamatapuri letter AE and vowel sign AE) are necessary to represent the Kamatapuri phonology in its orthography. The alternative currently in use is to combine other letters to represent this phoneme; but this results in inconsistent spelling across the various writers in the language. A unique character for this phoneme will solve the ambiguity problem. Two forms of the character will be needed (independent and dependent), as for other Indic vowels.
- The other five proposed glyphs are variations of the Bengali-Assamese orthography, as used in traditional Kamatapuri literature and now revived by the Kamatapuri Bhasha Unnayan Parishad. The justification for using these variants is for reasons of tradition. The Kamatapuri language has a tradition of writing that extends back several centuries. In the documents of various periods you can find the use of the five proposed glyphs above: Kamatapuri letter A, letter AA, letter vocalic R, letter vocalic RR, letter PHA. Please see the following historical documents, with the date of writing for examples of the use of these glyphs. (All manuscripts are in the hands of the Kamatapuri Bhasha Unnayan Parishad.)
  o *Bhadra Mandal Bidhi*, by Shri Kashinath Deb Samman, c. 2nd day of Awashin 1307 (Bengali calendar).
  o *Grihaswarga Bidhi,* by Shrimwak Deb Sharmman, c. 1314 (Bengali calendar).
  o *Tarpan Bidhi,* by Shri Jaggaswar Deb Sharmman, c. 14th day of Jastha 1314 (Bengali calendar).
  o *Mahabharat, Biratparba and Banparba,* by Raj Krishna Das, c. 7th day of Chaitra, 1262 (Bengali calendar).
  o *Mahabharat, Biratparba,* by Shri Parbananda Deb Barman, c. 1202 (Bengali calendar).
  o *Durgapuja paddati,* by Shri Shibkanta Deb Sharmma, 20th day of Badra 1305 (Bengali calendar).

If the proposed glyph image is similar to a glyph image of a previously encoded ISO/IEC 10646 character, then additional justification for encoding the new character shall be provided.

> ***Note:*** Any proposal that suggests that one or more of such variant forms is actually a <u>distinct</u> character requiring separate encoding should provide detailed, printed evidence that there is actual, contrastive use of the variant form(s). It is insufficient for a proposal to claim a requirement to encode <u>as characters</u> in the Standard, glyphic forms which happen to occur in another character encoding that did not follow the Character-Glyph Model that guides the choice of appropriate characters for encoding in ISO/IEC 10646.
>
> ***Note:*** WG 2 has resolved in Resolution M38.12 not to add any more Arabic presentation forms to the standard and suggests users to employ appropriate input methods, rendering and font technologies to meet the user requirements.

4.
5.

6.   List of all the parties consulted:

Towards ensuring that all significant stakeholders have been consulted, WG 2 requests that submitters solicit feedback from other groups who use the proposed characters, and list these contacts. Submitters are encouraged to provide the email id-s of the submitters as well as other experts who have been consulted to facilitate any clarification queries.

- Shri Dharma Narayan Barma, Rtd. Teacher, Village – Langalgram; Post office – Haripur, Police Station – Tufanganj; District – Cooch Behar. Phone: +91-3582-245049.
- Shri Dhirendra Nath Roy, Rtd. Govt. Serviceman, Millpara, ward No.-3, Post Office – Dhupguri, District – Jalpaiguri. Phone No. +91-3563-250665.
- Shri Nagendra Chandra Boy, Rtd. Headmaster, Dalanathpur High School, Pachaghar, Post Office – Mathabanga, District Cooch Behar. Mobile: +91-9474521416.
- Shri Jogesh Chandra Roy, Rtd. Teacher, Tapshikata High School, Dabibari, District Cooch Behar. Mobile: +91-9434058826.
- Shri Parbananda Das, Rtd. Headmaster, Natabari High School. Post Office – Natabir, District Cooch Behar. Mobile +91-9733313025.
- Dr Dhirendra Nath Das, Teacher, Dinhata High School. Babupara west, Ward No. 1., Post Office Baronachina, Police Station – Dinhata; District – Cooch Behar. PIN code – 736174. Phone no. +91-3581-257443. Mobile: +91-9474429110.
- Shri Sujen Chandra Barman (alias, Sujan Barman), Headmaster, Marakhata High School. Village & Post Office – Bhatibari, District Jalpaiguri. Phone: +91-3564-222346. Mobile: +91-99321-72986.
- Shri Khitendra Mohan Sarkar, Teacher, N.N.M. High School. Post Office Tufanganj, District – Cooch Behar. Phone: +91-3582-244772. Mobile: +91-94744520268.
- Dr Ratan Adhikari, Headmaster, Dinhata High School. Thanapara; ward No.- 3, Post Office – Dinhata; District – Cooch Behar. PIN code 736135. Phone no. +91-3581-256267. Mobile: +91-9475087040.
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- See attached letter from Kamatapuri Bhasha Unnayan Parishad.