

To: UTC
From: Debbie Anderson, Head of Delegation
Re: Brief report from WG2 Meeting #56, San Jose
Date: 28 April 2010

The WG2 meeting concluded successfully last week, with the approval of Amendment 8 and its progression to an FDAM ballot, disposition of comments on the FCD of the Second Edition, and the beginning of a new edition, the third edition, of ISO/IEC 10646. (For the details, see the Consent Docket L2/10-149.)

One primary goal of the meeting was to come to consensus on the names, glyphs, and mappings for the Emoji symbols in Amendment 8, and this was accomplished. (See the Resolutions of WG2 meeting #56 L2/10-148, the Summary of repertoire for FDAM8 L2/10-145, Emoji ad hoc report L2/10-138, and a new Emoji source file with the updated mappings).

For the FCD of the Second Edition, which incorporates amendments 1-8, WG2 decided to revert to the single-column format for Extension B, because it was felt that there was not enough time to do a proper review of multi-column charts. A second change concerned a font change for Latin, Malayalam, Lao, and Coptic. As noted in the Consent Docket, only the font changes for Lao and Coptic were accepted.

The Third Edition of ISO/IEC 10646 will incorporate multicolumn charts for CJK compatibility ideographs and Extension B, as well as a few new scripts (Miao and Takri) and other additions. The decision to start a new edition, instead of an "Amendment 1" of the second edition, was due in large part to the change-over to multi-column charts for the compatibility ideographs and Extension B.

A Tangut ad hoc was held (see L2/10-141) and it is hoped the various NBs can work collaboratively to produce a single proposal that is agreeable to all the parties by the next meeting. The proposal will incorporate characters from various sources, and provide data for a UniTangut database.

In order to prevent disputes over the preferred English spelling of character names, such as recently arose with *sulfur* vs. *sulphur*, WG2 adopted wording for its "Principles and Procedures" document identifying the *Oxford English Dictionary* as the primary reference for spelling character names "unless a proposal document provides credible evidence to use alternative spellings." (Note: The spelling *sulfur* was accepted for the three "sulfur" character names in the Alchemical Symbols block at this meeting.)

The change of rules by JTC1 won't affect the meeting schedule for the WG2 meetings in Korea (#57, scheduled for October 2010) or Finland (#58, now scheduled for June 2011), but will impact the date of meeting #59, which is now tentatively scheduled for the first quarter of 2012 in Mountain View.

Grateful thanks are due to Adobe for providing meeting facilities (and to Eric Muller in particular as an attentive host), and to the Unicode Consortium for providing the Wednesday evening dinner.