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**Subject: Naming of Characters in Extended Tamil Block in SMP ( L2/10-256R)**

To

Dated: September 30, 2010

Dr. Lisa Moore

Chair, Unicode Tech Committee,

Unicode Consortium,

U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Lisa Moore

International Forum for Information Technology in Tamil (INFITT - <http://www.infitt.org>) has learned that the Unicode Technical Committee (UTC) is considering a Proposal to encode Characters for Extended Tamil (L2/10-256R) authored by Mr. Shriramana Sharma that proposes to add some new characters to an "Extended Tamil Block" in SMP. This proposal is being reviewed by INFITT Working Group (WG-02) on Tamil Unicode. While the working group deliberations are underway, the group and the leaders of INFITT feel that we need to communicate our serious reservations about the proposal to the UTC.

In the view of the INFITT experts, several of the proposed characters don't belong in a Tamil Script block but are actually linearized Grantha characters used to write Sanskrit. INFITT is also evaluating a proposal to submit a separate Tamil symbol block in SMP. INFITT will submit a formal document with detailed comments on the proposal L2/10-256R quickly and the working group deliberations are in progress.

In the meanwhile, INFITT has the following preliminary observations about the proposal L2/10-256R:

1. The proposed characters are linearized rendering of grantha character set.
2. The proposed characters are not Tamil characters and should not be called as "Tamil" or encoded in Tamil block or the names be recommended with Tamil in the character names.
3. If these characters are going to be accepted, we recommend that they be placed in a separate block to be called Extended Grantha block and be named to represent their true nature (i.e.) the character names may in the following format:

(1) LINEAR GRANTHA LETTER VOCALIC R

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U.S.A.  
Chairman (Officiating)

S.Maniam  
Singapore  
Executive Director

Dr. Naga.Ganesan  
Chairman, Working Group  
WG02- Unicode WorkingGroup

International Forum for Information Technology in Tamil -Registered as a Non-Profit Organisation in U.S.A

[www.infitt.org](http://www.infitt.org)

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- (2) LINEAR GRANTHA LETTER VOCALIC RR
- (3) LINEAR GRANTHA LETTER VOCALIC L
- (4) LINEAR GRANTHA LETTER VOCALIC LL
- (5) LINEAR GRANTHA VOWEL SIGN VOCALIC R
- (6) LINEAR GRANTHA VOWEL SIGN VOCALIC RR
- (7) LINEAR GRANTHA VOWEL SIGN VOCALIC L
- (8) LINEAR GRANTHA VOWEL SIGN VOCALIC LL
- (9) LINEAR GRANTHA LETTER KHA
- (10) LINEAR GRANTHA LETTER GA
- (11) LINEAR GRANTHA LETTER GHA , etc.

To avoid mixing Tamil script with such linearized grantha character set thus potentially causing confusion with technical implications, it is best if the linearized grantha block be an independent block with no connection to any Tamil characters.

We also want to bring to your kind attention our long term relationship with the consortium and improvements INFITT has made to Tamil Unicode block since its inception from 2000.

Should you need more clarifications feel free to reach me in my cell or my email. Thanking you in anticipation.

Best Regards,

Kaviarasan Va.Mu.Se.

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