To: UTC   L2/11-255
From: Deborah Anderson, IR and Head of Delegation
Re: Brief report from WG2 Meeting #57, Helsinki, Finland
Date: 14 June 2011

WG2 meeting #58, which took place in Helsinki, Finland, concluded last week. Thirty attendees participated, representing 10 national bodies and 4 liaison organizations. The highlights of the meeting included progression of the third edition of ISO/IEC 10646 to an FDIS, with a start date of November 2011. The November start-date, which will come after the IRG meeting #37 (7-11 November in Mountain View, CA), will allow more time for the review of Extension B. Amendment 1 will be re-issued as a PDAM, and now includes an additional 1565 characters which were approved at this meeting.

The agenda for the meeting was extremely long, with over 150 contributions, mostly script proposals. In order to make progress on the ballots, many of the script proposals were carried forward to the next meeting.

Most of the USNB requests for new character additions (L2/11-077 and L2/11-195) were accommodated, with two exceptions:

- Based on Ireland's response during the meeting, OLD ITALIC LETTER TTE was not approved, as Ireland wishes to perform a follow-up study to verify whether it is appropriate to unify the "Alpine" script with Old Italic;
- Japan requested further evidence be provided for two Kana characters.

Also notable was the approval of two scripts that were finally approved for balloting: Duployan and Old Hungarian. (For full details, see WG2 Consent Docket, L2/11-253.)

The meeting was marked by several ad hocs that discussed proposals deemed problematic or controversial. The following lists the ad hocs held and a short summary of the outcome, with a reference to the ad hoc reports:

- Teuthonista – encode only a certain set of the proposed characters, which were agreed to by 3 experts from Germany/Austria who attended the meeting (see L2/11-240=N4106);
- Lithuanian dialectology – encode only certain proposed characters (see L2/11-248=N4116)
- Uighur characters (and 1 character for the Chaghatay language) – handle via named sequences, (see L2/11-245=N4113);
- Naxi Dongba – provide in-line examples of the script in modern use and re-submit proposal with further details on the script – such as ordering – and its use (see L2/11-244=N4112);
- Hungarian Runic/Szekely-Hungarian Rovas – accept the common characters, change script name to Old Hungarian, and encode certain other characters (see L2/11-242=N4110);
- Webdings and Wingdings – accept a large portion of the proposed Wingding characters but handle many of the Webdings via ballot comments, for revised proposal (see L2/11-247=N4115).

Tangut was discussed outside of the meeting proper, as the proposal by the UK was late in being submitted and there was not enough time for a thorough review. A goal for the next meeting is to have a vetted Tangut proposal submitted to WG2 which has the support from experts and NBs.

Other topics from the meeting worthy of mention:

- The request from SC35 for keyboard symbols from ISO/IEC 9995-7:2009 and AMD 1 (L2/10-351) was returned to the authors, with a request to provide more information on the characters in plain text;
- Japan NB may be interested in encoding hentaigana characters, as Japanese citizens above the age of 60 may have a name containing hentaigana, and some government agencies may require support for such names as part of the Japanese e-Government project (see L2/11-229);
- A request for feedback on a font for oracle bones (L2/11-194) spurred a suggestion from K. Whistler, who recommended that those working on oracle bones review the guidelines that were established for cuneiform, another large historic script with similar types of issues.

The USNB's request to update the syntax for Unicode/UCS Sequence Identifiers (L2/11-188) generated discussion from Japan, and in the end the format of NUSI.txt was changed to match that used in Unicode. The USNB worked with Japan to arrive at a change of wording to the description in Clause 25 of ISO/IEC 10646 (L2/11-246) (but no change was made to Clause 6.6, which describes the formal syntax for USIs).

The USNB's document on "agile working methods" (L2/11-192) was discussed in the meeting. (For further details, see the UTC Liaison Report, L2/11-254.) It is possible that L2 may need to respond to PDAM ballots that are issued and close between UTC meetings.

Of note was the attendance by a member of the Bureau of Indian Standards, Laxman Swarup, who expressed an interest in reviewing proposals for the scripts of India.

The next WG2 meeting, #59, will take place in Mountain View, CA, February 13-17, 2012. (Note: Because of the new date, changing the date of the UTC scheduled for Jan. 30-Feb. 3, 2012 to Feb. 6-10 would facilitate travel for those who want to attend both meetings.) The WG2 date was moved up from March 2012, as the PDAM will be discussed at the meeting and its processing is fairly quick. However, the Editor required a longer time for the following ballot, the DAM, due to uncertainties of how long it will take ITTF to handle processing. Chiang Mai, Thailand is the tentative location for meeting #60, and is scheduled for 22-26 October 2012.

At the OWG-SORT meeting, an FDIS ballot was announced for the third edition of ISO/IEC 14651, starting 22 May 2011. OWG-SORT also recommended SC2 authorize a subproject for Amendment 1 to the new edition of ISO/IEC 14651, with a target starting date of 31 August 2011.

An SC2 meeting, under the new SC2 Chair Yoshiki Mikami, was held after WG2 concluded. The secretariat reported two new P-members were added since the last SC2 meeting (Sri Lanka and Lithuania) and two new O-members (Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Ghana). Appointment and re-

appointment of officers was held, with one change: Ken Whistler will replace Joan Aliprand as RA-JAC to ISO/IEC 2375.

There was discussion on the new JTC 1 requirement that only two "documents in the form of technical corrigenda or amendments" to a current International Standard are allowed; if a third document is "developed," then a new edition of the International Standard should be published. As the Editor found this rule constraining and the new rules can prevent quick response to a NB's needs (such as the inclusion of a new currency sign), the SC2 members requested the secretariat bring up the issue with ITTF.

The next SC2 meeting will take place in Chiang Mai, Thailand, slated for 22-26 October 2012. (For the SC2 resolutions, see L2/11-252.)