To: UTC   L2/14-269
From: Deborah Anderson, IR and Head of Delegation
Re: Brief report from WG2 Meeting #63, Colombo, Sri Lanka
Date: 26 October 2014

WG2 meeting #63 took place in Colombo, Sri Lanka, from September 29 until October 3, 2014. Forty-four experts participated, representing 8 national bodies and 4 liaison organizations. (The meeting was co-located with SC2 #19.)

New JTC1 rules
This WG2 meeting was the first to be held under the new JTC1 rules (L2/14-206), with the following notable changes:

- WG attendees are *individual experts*, not national body representatives
- WG documents (from *experts*, not national bodies) must make use of LiveLink WG folders (and not external document management systems)
- WG works towards consensus on working drafts and can resolve comments on a CD or PDAM, but resolutions formally take place at the SC level.

The new rules required some re-adjustment during the meeting: for example, the WG2 decisions are now "recommendations" to SC2 (and not "resolutions"). In order to process ballots and resolve comments effectively under the new rules, the next WG2 meeting will again be co-located with SC2, tentatively to be held in October 2015. (Regarding the discussion on the WG2 document registry, see the UTC Liaison report.).

The status of OWG-SORT and IRG was also raised, with the outcome being that OWG-SORT will become an Ad Hoc to SC2 (with Alain LaBonté continuing to be Project Editor), but IRG will remain under WG2, though IRG's relationship may be revisited in the future.

ISO/IEC 10646
The highlights of the meeting included progression of DAM1 of ISO/IEC 10646:2014 directly to publication, since it was approved unanimously with only editorial comments. PDAM2 will be re-issued as a second PDAM (PDAM2.2), with a total number of 11630 characters, of which 4743 were explicitly approved at the WG2 meeting. WG2 also recommended the Editor create a new project subdivision for the 5th edition of ISO/IEC 10646, which will incorporate the 4th edition and Amendments 1 and 2. (For synchronization of ISO/IEC 10646 and its amendments to Unicode, see the UTC Liaison's report, L2/14-XXX.)

USNB ballot comments were largely accommodated, except for the request to remove Nushu, which remains in the PDAM. Because the next WG2 meeting will be held in Japan, it is hoped the experts will be able to meet face-to-face to resolve the outstanding issues.

Two other items of note:

- OLD ITALIC LETTER TTE, which is in the PDAM, remains an issue for Ireland, although a meeting is planned in July with experts to discuss whether "North Italic" ("Alpine") should be unified with Old Italic or not, which should help to resolve how to deal with this character.
- The Chinese characters used for transcribing Slavonic are still not favored by the UK, despite a response from D. Anderson, SEI (L2/14-238=WG2 N4627). Various options may need to be explored on how to progress this set of CJK characters.

The US requests for new additions (WG2 N4612) were all agreed to in WG2, except for the 5 new emoji modifiers (L2/14-213= WG2 N4599), which WG2 did not specifically recommend for inclusion in a ballot, but which were added to PDAM 2.2, as is the Editor's prerogative. The discussion at WG2 on the emoji modifiers provided useful insights into issues and their potential reception in other parts of the world.

Several ad hocs were held that discussed proposals deemed problematic or where there were ballot comments that needed to be resolved, including (with links to the Ad Hoc reports):

- Tangut and Tangut Radicals (L2/14-246=WG2 N4642)
- Khitan Large Script (L2/14-246=WG2 N4642)
- Nushu (L2/14-247=WG2 N4647).

Other script proposals discussed included:

- Naxi Dongba (L2/14-241)
- Small Seal script (L2/14-242)
- Shuishu (L2/14-243)

The next WG2 meeting, #64, will take place in Matsue, Japan (tentative location), scheduled for 19-23 October 2015. It will be co-located with the next SC2 meeting.

OWG-SORT
At the OWG-SORT meeting, DAM2 to ISO/IEC 14651: 2011 progressed directly to publication. (Amendment 2 to ISO/IEC 14651:2011 is equivalent to UCA 7.0.0.)

OWG-SORT also recommended SC2 authorize a subproject for the new edition of ISO/IEC 14651 (4th edition), with the goal that that the CD with the CTT equivalent to Unicode 8.0 will be sent out before the end of 2014. The new edition of ISO/IEC 14651 will include the repertoire additions associated with the 4th edition of ISO/IEC 10646 and Amendment 1, and changes resulting from the removal of the Cyrillic contractions.

As noted above, OWG-SORT was formally discontinued at the end of the Colombo meeting, but ISO/IEC 14651 will continue as an Ad Hoc under SC2, with Alain LaBonté as Project Editor.