Universal Multiple-Octet Coded Character Set
International Organization for Standardization

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Title: IRG #43 Liaison Report

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IRG #43 took place in San José, California, USA from November 17th through 21st of 2014, was hosted by Adobe Systems Incorporated and The Unicode Consortium, and was held in Adobe's largest conference room, E01-Park. The two main topics were 1) to discuss Extension F1 (aka Extension F) issues; and 2) to make progress on Extension F2 (aka Extension G). The IRG #43 Recommendations are now available.

In addition to Jaemin Chung, Richard Cook, Michel Suignard, and myself from US/Unicode, in attendance were representatives and experts from China (4), Hong Kong SAR (1), TCA (3), ROK (4), Japan (4), Vietnam (1), and SAT (1). Deborah Anderson, Lisa Moore, and Craig Cummings joined the Wednesday evening dinner that was held at *Il Fornaio* restaurant.

As stated in Recommendation IRG M43.1, the following is the future IRG meeting schedule:

> IRG #44: Seoul, ROK, 2015-06-15 through 2015-06-19
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> IRG #45: HK Polytechnic University, Hong Kong SAR, 2015-11-16 through 2015-11-20
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> IRG #46: Beijing, China, 2016-05-23 through 2016-05-27 (tentative)
>
> IRG #47: Seeking host, 2016-10-17 through 2016-10-21 or 2016-10-24 through 2016-10-28

Extension F Issues

In addition to the 50 characters that SAT requested be withdrawn from Extension F (see IRG N2041), a small number of additional characters were deemed unifiable or were withdrawn by their submitters. IRG N2042 details these, along with a small number of Extension C issues.

Michel noted that although Extension F is currently in ballot, its content won't freeze until Fall of 2015, and that minor changes are still possible.

Additional Extension F issues are likely to be discovered between now and when its content freezes. Andrew West has already found some errors that are likely to ripple into further adjustments.

Extension G Progress

The majority of the meeting was spent performing Extension G editorial work, which mainly involved staring at additional evidence submitted by ROK, much of which was still unclear or vague. In some cases, the evidence suggested a non-unifiable glyph change that resulted in the character being withdrawn (possibly to be submitted for the next extension, which would be Extension H).

Miscellaneous

ROK's latest horizontal extensions (IRG N2034), 152 in total, were briefly discussed. I didn't find any issues with them. Michel also suggested that Hong Kong SAR consider horizontal extensions for handling ideographs that have been deemed useful for Hong Kong SAR but are outside the Hong Kong SCS standard proper (Recommendation IRG M43.2).

Recommendation IRG M43.8 is intended to make the hosting of ad-hoc meetings during the week of IRG meetings an easier process. What was done after IRG #41 (Tokyo, Japan) ended, which was instrumental in addressing issues related to the encoding of Siddham variants, served as a model. For this meeting, ad-hoc discussions about Nüshu, Small Seal, and other East Asian scripts were discussed by Toshiya SUZUKI, Kiyonori NAGASAKI, Deborah Anderson, and a small number of other IRG attendees after the meeting proper ended (at noon on Thursday) through Friday afternoon.

Dr. Lu and I delivered our IUC38 presentations given that the topics were related to IRG work and interest.

Jaemin Chung, a college student who lives in the Los Angeles area and who has made contributions in the form of reporting CJK Unified Ideograph issues, was able to attend an IRG meeting for the first time. Although he is relatively young, he very much impressed his older peers. We should expect to continue seeing excellent contributions from Jaemin.

What's On Tap For 2015?

Hong Kong SAR is expecting to submit their first IVD collection registration sometime during the first half of 2015, which is intended to handle variation in the Big Five subset of Hong Kong SCS. They are using the printed Big Five standard as the basis for this, and I have some reservations about its usefulness due to its known errors and inconsistencies, and conveyed the suggestion to use Big Five only for code point coverage, and to instead use the Taiwan MOE glyph standard or CNS 11643 Planes 1 & 2 as the basis for glyph variation with Hong Kong SAR.

Japan is preparing a proposal for hentaigana (変体仮名) that is likely to reach WG2 sometime in Spring of 2015. The proposal is expected to involve the use of variation selectors.

That is all.