

IRG #52 Liaison Report

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19 July 2019

Ideograph Research Group meeting #52 was held at Hong Kong Polytechnic University from 14 to 17 May 2019. Representatives from China, Taiwan, Hong Kong SAR, Macao SAR, Korea, SAT, and US/Unicode were present. Japan was notable for its absence; its activity report indicates that its participation in future IRG work will be sharply curtailed. Michel Suignard was in attendance for WG2, and Liang Hai and I were there for the UTC.

The recommendations and action items report is available at <http://appsrv.cse.cuhk.edu.hk/~irg/irg/irg52/IRGN2360IRG52Recommendations.pdf>.

A couple of notes on the meeting regarding US proposals:

The IRG approved changing its name from “Ideographic Rapporteur Group” to “Ideographic Research Group,” keeping its initials but also accommodating the title change of its chief officer from “Rapporteur” to “Convenor.”

After some discussion, the IRG approved changing the representative glyph for U+2F2A KANGXI RADICAL LAME. This was followed up at WG2 #68 in June by agreeing to change the representative glyphs for all of the characters in the CJK Radicals Supplement and Kangxi Radicals blocks. See L2/19-212R (aka WG2 N5069R).

Perhaps the most important result was the result of an informal discussion which currently has no official standing but indicates future directions for IRG work, particularly given the increasingly rare nature of the characters being discussed.

There are a set of eight criteria that can be applied.

The four primary criteria are (group 1):

- A) Han script
- B) Kai style
- C) Textual usage
- D) Clear semantics in context

There are also four secondary criteria (group 2):

- A) Authoritative texts
- B) Multiple independent texts

- C) Well-understood structure (e.g., phono-semantic)
- D) Government needs

In order to be considered for unification, a character must meet all of the criteria in group 1 and at least one of the criteria in group 2. Any character not doing so will be *ipso facto* rejected.

Recommendation IRG M52.5 implicitly require this schema to be incorporated into the IRG PnP. Doing so will significantly improve the quality of unification work by improving the quality of the submissions.