Introduction

This is a preliminary document which is not a mature proposal. It is submitted in order to indicate a desire to move the "Kirat Rai" to a mature encoding proposal.

The Bantawa [bap](1) language of Nepal, Bhutan, and India is spoken by 195,000+ people. In Nepal the language is primarily written in the Devanagari script. However, in Sikkim (India) there is increasing interest in the use of the Kirat Rai script.

This script was originally brought to the attention of ISO 10646 and Unicode in 2011 (L2/11-145). In addition, another script called Khambu Rai (L2/11-105) was also introduced. There was some question regarding whether the Khambu Rai and Kirat Rai script are the same or if one is a subset of the other.

The Kirat Rai script was placed on the roadmap for the SMP at U+16D40..U+16D7F.

The Khambu Rai script was placed on the roadmap for the SMP at U+11BC0..U+11BFF.

No additional actions were taken by the Unicode Technical Committee.

Alphabet charts seem to call the script "Rai alphabet".

We would like to see the Kirat Rai script advance to encoding and are willing to put in the research for doing so. However, we do not wish to presume that the author of the original proposals is no longer interested in advancing those proposals.

The terms Kirat, Khambu, and Rai are interchangeably used. The use of these terms are very complicated:

1. Kirat refers to the Limbus and Rais.
2. The Limbu language has its own script; Rai didn't until this script under investigation was invented.
3. There are about 30 different languages within Rai; and Khambu refers to an ethnic subgroup within Rai.
4. Among Rai, Bantawa is one of the largest languages.
5. The language this script is designed for is Bantawa language used in the Sikkim State of India as a lingua franca among the Rais.

Given all these facts, "Rai" appears to be the most appropriate name for this script. Second best choice would be 'Khambu Rai' and the last 'Kirat Rai'. However, the opinion of the users should be sought.

The script presented in L2/11-105 (Khambu Rai) is the script invented by a person called Kripasalyan. And we currently understand that it was further developed into the script we are looking into.

Currently we believe there may be 6 additional characters that need to be added to the proposal (one vowel, four signs, one punctuation). However, further evaluation is needed.

This document is primarily to inform of our interest in encoding the script and participating in the process.
Samples

Sample 1a. Rai Consonant Alphabet Chart [FB] Includes all consonants from Table 1a.
Sample 1b. Rai Vowel, Marks, Digits Alphabet Chart [FB] does not include "sha" from Table 1a).
Sample 2a. Rai Alphabet (Consonant) Chart, [FB] (does not include "sha" from Table 1a).
Sample 3a. Title page of a book. [FB]
Preliminary document towards advancing Kirat Rai script
प्रस्तुत पुस्तक 'सुमहुङ्ग छामारी'
विषयक लेखकको शनाङ

परिचयमा केन्द्र राहु (राई) निकासा नोडको अन्य श्रीमान एम. एस. राई महोदयको
निर्देशान्वेषण गर्ने प्रस्तुत पुस्तक 'सुमहुङ्ग छामारी' अवतर्न समयमा प्रस्तुत गरि पृष्ठमा।
पुस्तक साना नामवर्गका निम्न भा निगमाता। कुनै पत्र सिलसिलामध्ये निर्दिष्ट नै पुस्तक
वरी भएको हो। वैषयकतामा बुद्धिमान र गुण पत्र निगमाता। तस्मै, राई महाजनन, तथा विद्वानसंगत
यस्ता भएका गुण-दृष्टि आलाई विशेष गुण गति ध्यायी भनि ध्यान गर्नुहोस्को छ।

पुस्तकमा प्रत्येक विषयक तथार्थ विवरण र विवरण (Illustration) श्रीमान हेम राई महोदयको
विषयक प्रत्येक पहलु अथ अनुसार परिचित भएको हो। उनको प्रत्येक अभ्यास गल्म बढाइएकु छ।

एम. सी. राई
Sample 3d. Vowel Chart, p5. [FB] Includes all vowels from Table 1b (but not column 2).
Sample 3e. Consonant Chart, p6. [FB] Includes all consonants from Table 1a.
Sample 3c. Marks Chart, p9. [FB] Includes all marks from Table 1c.
Sample 4a. Vowels, Consonants, Numbers Charts. [FB] Consonant chart does not include "nya" nor "sha" from Table 1a.
Sample 5a. Vowel Charts. [FB]. Includes marks by themselves.
Sample 5b. Consonant Chart. [FB]. Includes all consonants in Table 1a.
Sample 6. Books in the script. [FB].
Sample 7. Girl writing in the script on a whiteboard. [FB].
Sample 8. Is this a book cover or artwork? [FB].
Sample 9. Running text [FB]. No punctuation.
Sample 10. Book cover [FB].
Sample 11. Running text [FB]. Note use of danda, double danda, quotes, commas, hyphen, word spacing.
Sample 12. Book cover [FB].
Sample 13. Book cover [SS].
Sample 14a. Rai Alphabetical Chart (Vowel) [SS].
Sample 14b. Rai Alphabetical Chart (Consonant) [SS].
Sample 15. Class 3 Textbook [SS]. Notice use of danda, question mark, exclamation mark.
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