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Activity Report of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

Establishment of the Chinese Language Interface Advisory Committee

To help establish and promote ISO 10646 as a common interface for Chinese information processing and exchange in Hong Kong, the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) set up the Chinese Language Interface Advisory Committee (CLIAC) in May 1999. The committee comprises members from the public in the fields of the academia (in both IT and in Chinese language areas), IT industry, publishing industry and users of Chinese language computing, etc, to reflect the views of different disciplines. It advises the Government on the submission of local characters for Chinese computer systems to the International Organization for Standardization; on the promotion of the adoption of ISO 10646; and on the co-ordination in connection with the need for local characters for Chinese computer systems of different sectors in Hong Kong.

The CLIAC has also formed two working groups, namely, the Working Group on Characters for Chinese Computer Systems and the Working Group on Chinese Information Processing. The Working Group on Characters for Chinese Computer Systems focuses on the Hong Kong unique Chinese characters to be recommended for inclusion in the ISO 10646 standard while the Working Group on Chinese Information Processing advises on the technical implementation issues arising from the adoption of ISO 10646 in Hong Kong.

Announcement of the Hong Kong Supplementary Character Set

The release of the Government Common Character Set (GCCS) in 1995 marked the first major step in coordinating the use of user-defined Chinese characters within the Government and the character set was well received by the public as a supplement to the standard character set of Big-5. This supplementary character set has been reviewed and enhanced by the Government in collaboration with the CLIAC. The

enhanced character set includes Chinese characters and symbols collected from various sectors in Hong Kong. It represents a common set for the community and is thus named the Hong Kong Supplementary Character Set (HKSCS). There are two code allocation schemes for the HKSCS, one for Big-5 and the other for ISO 10646. The HKSCS, as a supplementary character set of the Big-5 and ISO 10646 coding schemes, contains Chinese characters needed in Chinese computing in Hong Kong but are not contained in either the Big-5 or ISO 10646 standard character set. The HKSCS for Big-5 is in effect the updated version of the GCCS. The character set was formally announced to the public in September this year.

Participation in the Ideographic Rapporteur Group

With the recommendation by the CLIAC, further requirement of local Chinese characters in Hong Kong had been examined and additional characters were submitted to the Ideographic Rapporteur Group (IRG) technical editor in June this year according to the schedule as agreed in the 13th IRG Meeting.

Representatives from the HKSAR joint the Editorial Ad-hoc Meeting of the IRG in Beijing in August this year to review the SuperCJK 8.0 and Extension B Working Draft 5.0 with the other members.

The HKSAR representatives will also participate in the 14th IRG Meeting held in Singapore in December this year.