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Ideographic Rapporteur Group

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Activity Report of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

Subsequent to the release of the Hong Kong Supplementary Character Set (HKSCS) in September 1999, the Chinese Language Interface Advisory Committee (CLIAC) established by the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) considered that there would be a need to set up a mechanism to manage the use of the private-use-area for new supplementary characters and the allocation of code points on an ongoing basis.   The CLIAC and its Working Group on Characters for Chinese Computer Systems (WG-CHAR) had met on several occasions since then to discuss details of the mechanism.   A set of proposed procedures and principles for the inclusion of additional characters into the HKSCS was prepared, and a public consultation was conducted from March to April 2000 to invite the public to submit their comments on the proposed procedures and principles.   With thorough consideration of the opinion received from the public, the CLIAC endorsed the procedures and principles and implemented them in late April.

The public can now apply to the Secretariat of the CLIAC for the inclusion of additional characters.   These characters will then be referred to the WG-CHAR, which will usually meet every three months, for validation in accordance with the established principles.   Characters validated by the WG-CHAR will be submitted to the CLIAC for endorsement.   The code points, glyphs and related information of the characters endorsed will be published on the Internet.   As it would take time for the software developers to develop software supporting the additional characters, the HKSCS would not be revised too frequently. Therefore, the additional characters are for reference only for the time being, and will become part of the HKSCS at a later stage when the WG-CHAR recommends so.

As regards the characters which have been validated but have yet to be included in ISO 10646, they will be submitted to the Ideographic Rapporteur Group when opportunities arise.