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Activity Report from Korea (December 2001 - May 2002)

1. Overview

Korean national body now has two committees for Hanja(Chinese character) matter. One is a subcommittee for Hanja in a deliberative council of Korean, which has only a function of a consultative committee under ministry of Culture and Tourism. The other is KIRG, which is officially managed by the National Academy of the Korean Language(NAKL) and formally superintended by Agency for Technology and Standards(ATS) and financially supported by ministry of Culture and Tourism. Since January of last year, according to Regulations for Industrial Standardization, KIRG had been reorganized and extended to propel more actively a standardization of digitalized Hanja in Korea. Now KIRG has 20 members and is headed by Prof. Kim Heung Kyu who is an expert of computational studies and ideographic character, working for Korea University. And KIRG also has been actively supported by Center for the Registration of non-Standard Characters, being representative of Prof. Chung Woo Bong.

2. Ext.C_C1, C2

Korea had been digitalizing Korea Tripitaka(高麗大藏經), and recently finished it at the first version. At the beginnings of last year, another project for a digitalization of Classics, called 'an Integrated System of History and Information' could be started. As a result of some recent digitalizations in Korea, we were able to get Hanjas, estimated 18,000(revised newly) from Korea Tripitaka and 573 Hanjas from the project, 'an Integrated System of History and Information' as taking the first step. Korean national body urgently submitted 4,073 Hanja to IRG for Ext.C_C1, which are found in Korean Tripitaka, only arranging them in radical's and stroke's order. They are checked more carefully, and need more information according Annex T and KangXi dictionary. So we corrected some mistakes on the shape of glyphs and added KangXi indexing code and serial number of Super CJK. The whole of work is conducted by Professor Lee KyooKap who is an expert of Chinese character, working at Yonsei Univ., and compiled under the supervision of Prof. Lee Jae Hoon. Korean IRG will propose the rest of Ext.C, as C2 at next meeting, which are found in Classics(文輯叢刊). Now Korea is proceeding the Project of digitalization of Classics. So we need more time to collect Hanja, not in Super CJK and to add accurately basic informations, Kangxi indexing code or Serial number of Super CJK for Ext.C_C2

3. Standardization of digitalized Hanja in Korea

Standardization of digitalized Hanja in Korea has two fields which is horizontal including specification of coding scheme. one is focussed on a sound of Hanja, the other is a shape of that. For two years KIRG have been proceeding some projects for standardization with respect to these levels of ISO 10646-2, Hanja 27,484, supported by ministry of Culture and Tourism.