ISO/IEC JTC1/SC2/WG2/IRG

Ideographic Rapporteur Group

(IRG)

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Activity Report of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

Adoption of ISO 10646

Since the 19th IRG meeting held in May 2002, matters relating to the adoption of the ISO 10646 standard in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) are as follow :

1. Fourteen (14) new characters have been accepted from government departments for inclusion into the Hong Kong Supplementary Character Set (HKSCS)[1]. These 14 new characters will be included in the future release of the HKSCS.

    The 14 characters already exist in the ISO 10646 standard. Therefore, there is no submission of new characters from HKSAR for inclusion in the ISO 10646 CJK subsets at the 20th IRG meeting.

2. In accordance with the relevant resolution made at the 18th IRG Meeting, the HKSAR Government has submitted 6 symbols, which were considered outside the scope of the IRG by the 18th IRG meeting, to WG2 for consideration and inclusion into future releases of the ISO 10646 standard.

3. To raise awareness and adoption of the ISO10646 standard in the HKSAR, we continue to produce and distribute multi-media CD-ROMs and leaflets to educate the public about the functions and benefits of the ISO 10646 standard as part of our common electronic Chinese language interface.

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[1] The Hong Kong Supplementary Character Set (HKSCS) contains special Chinese characters used in the HKSAR that are not contained in the Big-5 character set. The latest version is the HKSCS-2001 published in December 2001. Details of the HKSCS-2001 are available on the web site: http://www.digital21.gov.hk/eng/hkscs/index.html.

4. To encourage the wider adoption of the ISO 10646 standard within the HKSAR, the Hong Kong Productivity Council[2] (HKPC) is developing an "ISO 10646 Information Center" web site (http://itdnt2.hkpc.org/iso10646) to serve as a focal channel to disseminate information of IT products that support the ISO 10646 standard and the HKSCS.

    Product developers and vendors are encouraged to submit information about their products that support the ISO 10646 standard and the HKSCS to HKPC for posting on the web site. The web site aims at providing the public with a comprehensive range of relevant products information.

Others

5. The HKSAR team, in sharing the responsibilities and collaborating with delegates of other IRG member economies, completed two rounds of checking of new characters submitted at the 19th IRG meeting for inclusion into the ISO 10646 standard.

6. With regard to Resolution IRG M19.2 made at the 19th IRG meeting, we have consulted the industry of the HKSAR through our Chinese Language Interface Advisory Committee (CLIAC). Some Members of the CLIAC have expressed reservation on the proposal to define a basic subset of CJK Unified Ideographs under the ISO 10646 standard. They consider that small electronic devices might soon be able to hold the entire ISO 10646 character set with the ever increase in processing and storage capacities. The rapid advent of technological development might render discussion of the proposal unnecessary in a not-too-distant future. On the other hand, some other members of the CLIAC are in support of the proposal.

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[2] The Hong Kong Productivity Council (HKPC) is a multi-disciplinary organization established by statute in 1967 to promote increased productivity and use of more efficient methods by business sectors in HKSAR. Further information of the HKPC can be found at web site: http://www.hkpc.org.

7. Furthermore, because the basic subset of CJK Unified Ideographs will cover only a limited number of ideographs, it is important that the criteria of selecting characters into the basic subset should allow each IRG member enough choice to include those ideographs that are required to meet the specific local environment.

8. We propose the IRG to consider the views expressed by HKSAR as set out above.   Should the IRG decide to proceed with the creation of a basic subset of CJK Unified Ideographs after considering our views, we are prepared to accept IRG's decision and will take part in the work of creating the basic subset.

    Details of the CLIAC are available on our "Digital 21" IT Strategy website (www.info.gov.hk/digital21/eng/structure/cliac_main_flash.html).

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