

JTC1/SC2/WG2/IRG
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Ideographic Rapporteur Group
(IRG)

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Activity Report of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

Adoption of ISO 10646

Since the 20th IRG meeting held in November 2002, matters relating to the adoption of the ISO 10646 standard in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) are as follows:

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 releases of the HKSCS.

Twelve (12) of the 14 new characters already exist in the ISO 10646 standard. Therefore, only 2 characters are submitted for inclusion in the ISO 10646 standard at this 21st IRG meeting. The submission is in IRG document number N963.

2. In accordance with the relevant resolution made at the 18th IRG meeting, 6 characters previously submitted by HKSAR were considered as symbols thus outside the scope of work of the IRG in accepting ideographic characters in the ISO 10646 standard. As such, we submitted the 6 characters to WG2 direct for consideration for inclusion into the ISO 10646 standard. At its meeting held in December 2002, the WG2 resolved that 4 of the 6 characters were pinyin symbols and could be represented by combining sequences in the ISO 10646 standard. We are actively liaising with font software developers to explore ways for the implementation of the 4 pinyin symbols according to the suggestion of WG2. With regard to the other 2 characters, WG2 has requested further supporting information for justification for inclusion in the ISO 10646 standard. We are collecting the required information on these 2 other characters for consideration

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>.

by the WG2.

3. To encourage the wider adoption of the ISO 10646 standard and the HKSCS for Chinese computing in the HKSAR, the HKSAR Government has developed a font and data input software that supports the ISO 10646-1:2000 standard and the HKSCS-2001 on the Linux platform for use by the public. The font and data input software had been placed on the Government's web site for public downloading and use free of charge. The URL of the web site is <http://www.info.gov.hk/digital21/eng/hkscs/download.html>.
4. The Hong Kong Productivity Council² (HKPC) has launched the "ISO 10646 Information Center" web site (<http://itdnt2.hkpc.org/iso10646>) in March 2003. The objective of the web site is to serve as a focal channel to disseminate information of comprehensive range 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 for viewing by the public.

5. To encourage the wider adoption of the ISO 10646 standard and the HKSCS for Chinese computing in the HKSAR, the HKSAR Government is now planning to develop a sample font and data input software that supports the Extension B of the ISO 10646 standard and the HKSCS-2001. We have completed an evaluation and chosen a suitable IT platform on which the software would be developed. The sample font and data input software will be made available on Government's web site for public downloading and use free of charge.

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>.

Others

6. For the purpose of the creation of the Basic International Ideographs Subset (BIIS) of the ISO 10646 standard, the HKSAR has compiled a list of commonly used characters in the local community. The list of commonly used characters in HKSAR has been submitted to the IRG for consideration for inclusion in the BIIS. The list has been contained in three Annexes. There are 400 commonly used characters in Annex 1 submitted for consideration by IRG for inclusion in the BIIS. Based on discussions at the 20th IRG meeting, it is expected that the level 1 character set of Big-5 will become part of the BIIS because of the popular use of such characters. The commonly used characters in the Annex 2 and Annex 3 submitted to IRG are for reference only because they are level 1 character set of Big-5. However, if IRG decides that any parts of the level 1 character set of Big-5 are not to be included in the BIIS, HKSAR reserves the right to submit the characters in Annex 3 to IRG for consideration for inclusion in the BIIS.
7. The HKSAR team, sharing the responsibilities and collaborating with delegates of other IRG member economies, completed checking and provided comments on new characters submitted for inclusion into the ISO 10646 standard.

Information Technology Services Department
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
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