ISO/IEC JTC1/SC2/WG2/IRG

Ideographic Rapporteur Group

(IRG)

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                                     Region, China

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Activity Report of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

Adoption of ISO 10646

Since the 21st IRG meeting held in November 2003, matters relating to the adoption of the ISO 10646 standard in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) are as follows:

1. Sixteen (16) new characters have been accepted from government departments for inclusion into the Hong Kong Supplementary Character Set (HKSCS)[1]. These 16 new characters will be included in the future releases of the HKSCS.

    Fifteen (15) of the 16 new characters already exist in the ISO 10646 standard. Therefore, only 1 character is submitted for inclusion in the ISO 10646 standard at this 22nd IRG meeting. The submission is in IRG document number N1023.

2. To encourage the wider adoption of the ISO 10646 standard and the HKSCS for Chinese computing in the HKSAR, the HKSAR Government had develop a sample font and data input software that supports the Extension B of the ISO 10646 standard and the HKSCS-2001 on the Windows XP platform. The purpose of developing the software is to demonstrate the feasibility of adopting ISO 10646 and HKSCS under different IT applications. The sample font and data input software would be made available on Government's web site for public downloading and use free of charge.

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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.

3.   The Hong Kong Productivity Council[2] (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 a comprehensive range of IT products that support the ISO 10646 standard and the HKSCS.   Currently there are more than 100 ISO 10646 compliant IT products received from developers/distributors for posting on the web site for viewing by the public.

4.   For the purpose of the creation of the International Ideographs Core (IICore) 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 had been submitted to the IRG for consideration for inclusion in the IICore.

        We have also disseminated the latest development status of the IICore to local Chinese computing software developers/distributors. The developers/distributors had expressed positive feedback towards the IICore concept.

5.   The Innovation and Technology Fund[3] had funded a project "Standardization on Cantonese Romanization and the Building Blocks for Phonetic based Applications".   The aim of this project is to provide Cantonese pronunciation data for all ideograph characters in the BMP of ISO 10646, thereby further promote the adoption of the ISO10646 standard in the Cantonese-speaking Hong Kong community.   The target completion date of this project is end of June 2004.

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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.

[3]   The Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF) of HKSAR Government aims to increase the added value, productivity and competitiveness of our economic activities. It is hoped that, through the ITF, Hong Kong companies could be encouraged and assisted to upgrade their technological level and introduce innovative ideas to their businesses.   Further information of the ITF can be found at web site: http://www.itf.gov.hk.

6. To raise the awareness and adoption of the ISO10646 standard in the HKSAR, we continue to distribute multi-media CD-ROMs and leaflets, e.g. in the International ICT Expo 【國際資訊科技博覽】 held in HKSAR during 14 – 17 April 2004, and to educate the public about the functions and benefits of the ISO 10646 standard as part of our common electronic Chinese language interface.

7. The HKSAR team, sharing the responsibilities and collaborating with delegates of other IRG member economies, had completed checking and provided comments on new characters submitted by IRG members for inclusion into the ISO 10646 standard.

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The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
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