

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 22nd IRG meeting held in May 2004, matters relating to the adoption of the ISO 10646 standard in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) are as follows:

1. Eighteen (18) new characters have been accepted from Government departments for inclusion into the Hong Kong Supplementary Character Set (HKSCS)¹. These 18 new characters will be included in the future releases of the HKSCS.

All the 18 new characters already exist in the ISO 10646 standard. Therefore, these characters will not be submitted for inclusion in the ISO 10646 standard at this 23rd IRG meeting.

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 to support the Extension B of the ISO 10646 standard and the HKSCS-2001 on the Windows XP platform. The software is developed to demonstrate the feasibility of adopting ISO 10646 and HKSCS in different IT OS platforms and applications. The sample font and data input software had been made available since July 2004 on Government's web site for public downloading and use free of charge at the following URL (<http://www.info.gov.hk/digital21/eng/hkscs/download.html>).

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 "ISO 10646 Information Center" web site (URL at <http://itdnt2.hkpc.org/iso10646>) launched by the Hong Kong Productivity Council² aims to serve as a focal channel in HKSAR to disseminate information of a comprehensive range of IT products that support the ISO 10646 standard and the HKSCS. We encourage product developers/distributors in HKSAR to utilize the chance to post their ISO 10646 compliant IT products information 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 5,224 commonly used characters in the HKSAR had been accepted for inclusion in the IICore.

We have been disseminating the latest development status of the IICore via available channels to the local Chinese computing software developers/distributors in the HKSAR. The developers/distributors had expressed positive feedback towards the IICore.

To encourage the wider adoption of the ISO 10646 standard including the IICore for Chinese computing in the HKSAR, the HKSAR Government has a plan to develop a sample font software which supports IICore on feasible IT platform of resources-limited devices (some mobile phones, PDAs, etc), after the IICore is formally released by the ISO. We are performing an evaluation and selection of suitable IT platform on which the software would be developed. The sample font and data input software would 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

5. The Innovation and Technology Fund³ had funded a project namely “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 project had been completed and the deliverable - “Cantonese Pronunciation List of the Characters for Computers” had been made available at the Government web site to public for reference at the following URL: <http://www.info.gov.hk/digital21/eng/structure/jyutping.html>.
6. To further raise the awareness and adoption of the ISO10646 standard in the HKSAR, we had produced a promotion leaflet on ISO 10646 Extension B in June 2004. We continue to distribute multi-media CD-ROMs and leaflets, e.g. in the IT RoadShow 【家居 IT 樂繽紛】 being held in HKSAR during July - Dec 2004. The aim is to educate the public about the functions and benefits of adopting the ISO 10646 standard and the HKSCS as part of our common 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 the CJK Extension C1 document for the ISO 10646 standard.

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>.

Office of the Government Chief Information Officer
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
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