

ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC2/WG2/  
Ideographic Rapporteur Group

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# Japan Activity Report Nov. 2004

## 1 Japan National Body Activities

### 1.1 Overview

Japan has two committees for the SC2 related issues. They both belong to the IPSJ/ITSCJ (Information Processing Society of Japan, Information Technology Standards Commissions of Japan.) One of the committees is the higher-level committee called JSC2 that acts for the SC2 and WG2 matters. Another is called KWG (which stands for Kanji Working Group) that acts for the IRG matters. Each committee monthly meets face-to-face.

KWG currently consists of 14 members and 4 observers, who are experts of coded character sets and/or ideographic characters.

### 1.2 Recent Activities

After the last IRG meeting in Chengdu, the KWG spent its effort on Extension-C review and CJK subset issues. KWG and JSC2 have built up relationships with some experts in Japan to face recent specialized issues such as old hanzi, counting rod numerals, basic strokes and more.

### 1.3 Attending to International Meetings

Five delegates from Japan attended the last SC2 and SC2/WG2 meeting in Markham.

Four delegates from KWG attended the last IRG meeting in Chengdu.

### 1.4 Personnel Matters

Mr. Kobayashi is appointed as the SC2 Chairman at the last JTC1 plenary meeting. He will keep attending future IRG meetings to supports its activities.

## 2 Ideographs for given names

In September, MOJ (Ministry of Justice) revised its regulation on "Kanji for given names" by expanding the repertoire. Parents have now wider variety of choices at naming their new born babies. All those characters were selected from level 1 to 3 of JIS X 0213:2004 and there's no impact on the latest UCS standards. However, from implementation point of view, because level 3 characters can be handled only by UCS enabled OSes (such as Windows, MacOS, etc.) and applications. Consequently they remain useless for those legacy JIS X 0208 applications deployed widely in Japan.

METI (Ministry of Economic, Trade and Industry) and INSTAC (Information Technology Research and Standardization Center) studied on this issue to make things clear. Soon they will release a report containing recommendations for future IT products.

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