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 23rd IRG meeting held in November 2004, matters relating to the adoption of the ISO 10646 standard in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) are as follows:

1. Sixty-one (61) new characters had been accepted from Government departments for inclusion into the Hong Kong Supplementary Character Set (HKSCS)[1]. These 61 new characters will be included in the future releases of the HKSCS.

    All the 61 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 IRG meeting.

2. To align with the ISO/IEC 10646:2003 and Amendment 1 to be published by the ISO and to include all the newly included characters into the HKSCS, the HKSAR Government will promulgate a new version of the Hong Kong Supplementary Character Set - 2004 (HKSCS-2004) to supersede the HKSCS-2001 after consultation with the Chinese Language Interface Advisory Committee (CLIAC)[2]. The HKSCS-2004 contains a total of 4,941 characters and all the characters in the HKSCS-2004 are included in ISO/IEC 10646:2003 and Amendment 1. Softcopy of the HKSCS-2004 document will be

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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.

[2] The CLIAC was set up in May 1999 with members from various sectors including the academia, language and linguistics associations, the publishing industry and the information technology industry. The CLIAC provides professional advice to the Government on the establishment and promotion of the common Chinese language interface in Hong Kong.

posted on the Government website at www.info.gov.hk/digital21/eng/structure/cli_tools.html.

3.   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.

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.

Others

4.   To further raise the awareness and adoption of the ISO 10646 standard in the HKSAR, we had produced a promotion leaflet on ISO 10646 Extension B for distributing to delegates who joined the 4th "China-Japan Joint Conference to Promote Cooperation in Natural Language Processing" held in the HKSAR in November 2004. The leaflets were also distributed to visitors of the Asia Pacific IT Solution Expo (8 – 11 December 2004) and the International ICT Expo (14-17 April 2005) both held in the HKSAR. 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.

5.   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.

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