

Proposal on Chinese in IRG Technical Discussions and Meeting Facilitation

Source	China and W3C
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Expected Action	To be considered and approved by IRG; for information to WG 2

I. Background 一、背景

As CJK ideograph encoding progresses, IRG increasingly encounters rare and difficult characters for which some technical questions can no longer be resolved through encoding mechanics or glyph comparison alone. They may require close examination of historical texts, paleography, lexicography, variant forms, character structure, etymology, and other specialized questions of character scholarship. IRG therefore increasingly benefits from the participation of experts familiar with the Chinese language and script, textual sources, and history, in addition to experts in character encoding. Allowing such experts to explain complex evidence directly in Chinese can facilitate their effective participation in technical discussion.

随着 CJK 表意文字编码工作不断深入，IRG 面对的技术问题越来越多地涉及罕见、疑难的字符，一些技术判断已经难以仅依靠编码机制或者字形比较加以解决，而可能需要深入考察历史文献、古文字、辞书、异体关系、构形、词源以及其他专门的文字学问题。因此，IRG 除了需要字符编码专家，也越来越需要熟悉汉语言文字、文献和历史的专家参与。允许此类专家直接使用中文说明复杂证据，有助于其更有效地参与技术讨论。

IRG meetings are currently conducted primarily in English. This proposal introduces an additional meeting arrangement under which participants may use Chinese directly in spoken technical discussion, and routine meeting facilitation may use English, Chinese, or both. English would continue to provide the common basis for shared conclusions and IRG's formal records and outputs.

IRG 会议目前主要以英语进行。本提案拟增加一项会议语言安排：参会者在口头技术讨论中可以直接使用中文，日常会议引导可以使用英语、中文或者两者结合。共同结论以及 IRG 的正式记录和输出仍以英语作为统一依据。

II. Rationale 二、提案理由

2.1 The technical object of IRG and the language of technical reasoning

2.1 IRG 的技术对象与技术论证语言

The technical object of IRG is the Han script itself. The IRG Principles and Procedures, Version 18, expressly require encoding requests to be for characters of the Han script (Section 2.1.1), require evidence on semantics and context (Section 2.2.1), and recognize that shape analysis alone cannot establish non-cognateness or semantic differences (Section 2.5.2). IRG decisions therefore often depend on reasoning that goes beyond glyph comparison.

IRG 的技术对象本身就是汉字。现行《IRG 原则和程序》第 18 版明确要求编码申请的对象属于汉字体系（第 2.1.1 条），要求提供语义和语境方面的证据（第 2.2.1 条），并指出单纯字形分析不足以判定非同源关系或语义差异（第 2.5.2 条）。因此，IRG 的技术判断经常依赖超出字形比较之外的语言、语义和文献论证。

In practice, IRG decisions may depend on explaining a Han ideograph's meaning, textual use, structure and source evidence, as well as its historical or semantic relationships with other characters. Such explanations form part of the technical reasoning itself. Because the objects reviewed and encoded by IRG are Han ideographs, the ideographs under review and their meanings, distinctions, terminology, and related reasoning are often expressed most directly

and accurately in Chinese. In such cases, the use of Chinese facilitates the efficient transmission of technical content.

在实际讨论中，IRG 的技术判断可能需要说明汉字的字义、文献用例、构形与来源证据，以及与其他字的历史或语义关系，这些说明本身就是技术论证的一部分。由于 IRG 审查和编码的对象就是汉字，被审查的汉字及其字义、差异、术语和相关论证，往往用中文表达最为直接、准确。在此类场合使用中文，有助于技术内容的高效传递。

This is particularly evident in technical issues concerning specific Han ideographs. Whether in the character-by-character review of Han ideographs in IRG Working Set 2024 and subsequent working sets, or in discussions of representative glyph revisions for already encoded ideographs, unification or disunification, component relationships, radicals, semantics, source evidence, and other character-specific questions, the technical reasoning often turns directly on the characters themselves. In such matters, direct discussion in Chinese can convey meanings, structural relationships, actual usage, and documentary evidence more precisely and efficiently..

这一点在涉及具体汉字的技术问题上尤为明显。无论是对 IRG Working Set 2024 及后续工作集中汉字的逐字审查，还是对已编码汉字的代表字形修订、统一与分离、部件关系、部首、语义、来源证据以及其他具体字符问题的讨论，技术判断往往都直接围绕汉字本身展开。在此类事项中，直接使用中文讨论相关字义、构形关系、实际用例和文献证据，可以更加准确、高效地传递技术内容。

2.2 Precision and efficiency should be considered together

2.2 技术准确性与会议效率应当统筹考虑

IRG has to maintain both the quality and the pace of its review work. Section 2.5.1 of the IRG P&P requires discussion items and evidence to be registered in advance for “efficient and smooth work”, while Section 2.5.4 expressly monitors the number of comments reviewed per hour and adjusts the schedule according to progress. At the same time, individual cases may require careful explanation of semantics, context, historical relationships, and source evidence.

IRG 需要同时保证审查质量和会议进度。《IRG 原则和程序》第 2.5.1 条要求为实现“高效、顺畅的工作”预先登记讨论事项和证据，第 2.5.4 条又明确以每小时审查的意见数量跟踪进度并据此调整日程。与此同时，具体字符问题又可能需要对语义、语境、历史关系和来源证据进行充分说明。

Efficiency in this setting does not mean shortening discussion at the expense of technical precision. It means reaching a sufficiently precise common understanding without unnecessary intermediate steps. If an expert could formulate the relevant technical reasoning more directly in Chinese, but is required to reconstruct the entire reasoning in English before it can enter the discussion, this adds a communication step without adding any new technical content.

在这种工作场景下，效率并不意味着要以牺牲技术准确性为代价来缩短讨论，而是要在不增加不必要中间环节的情况下尽快形成足够准确共同理解。如果专家本可以用中文更直接地组织相关技术论证，却必须先将整套论证重新组织为英语才能进入讨论，就会增加一道沟通环节，而不增加任何新的技术内容。。

The arrangement gives participants a choice of language in technical discussion while retaining English as the basis for shared understanding and consensus. When Chinese enables more accurate and natural expression of technical reasoning, it may be used directly; before the meeting proceeds on that basis, the relevant substantive reasoning shall be provided in English.

本安排和技术讨论中增加语言选择，同时仍以英语作为共同理解和形成共识的基础。当中文能够使技术论证表达得更加准确、自然时，可直接使用；在会议据此继续推进之前，相关实质性论证应以英语提供。

2.3 Procedural basis: default language, mutual understanding, and consensus

2.3 程序依据：默认语言、共同理解与共识形成

Clause 4.3 of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1 provides that meetings are conducted in English by default. The same clause assigns responsibility to the Chair and secretariat for dealing with the question of language at a meeting in a manner acceptable to the participants, following the applicable ISO/IEC rules.

《ISO/IEC 导则》第 1 部分第 4.3 条规定，会议默认以英语进行；同一条款同时明确，主席和秘书处应当依照适用的 ISO/IEC 规则，以参会者能够接受的方式处理会议语言问题。

Annex E.7 places the procedural emphasis on the purpose of technical meetings: achieving as full an agreement as possible and ensuring that delegates understand one another. It expressly recognizes that technical meetings do not necessarily require word-for-word interpretation of every statement. It also contemplates brief interpretation by a volunteer delegate and, for

working group meetings, arrangements among participants for necessary interpretation under the authority of the Convenor.

附件 E.7 将程序重点放在技术会议的目的上，即尽可能形成充分一致并确保与会代表能够相互理解。该条款明确承认，技术会议并不必然要求对每一句发言进行逐字口译；同时也设想由志愿代表提供简要解释，并允许工作组成员在召集人主持下自行安排必要的语言协助。

Together, these provisions support a proportionate approach: sentence-by-sentence interpretation is not automatically required, but sufficient English communication is needed to ensure shared understanding before the meeting relies on a technical position or confirms a conclusion.

综合上述规定，可以采取与实际需要相称的语言安排：无需自动进行逐句口译，但在会议据某一技术立场继续推进或者确认结论之前，应以英语提供足以保障共同理解的信息。

A comparable practice exists in W3C Internationalization work. Chinese discussion is permitted in the Chinese Text Layout Task Force and CLReq, while substantive reasoning is summarized in English so that participants who do not understand Chinese can understand the rationale and express their views. Although not binding on IRG, this practice may serve as a reference for distinguishing the language of expert discussion from the common language needed for wider participation.

W3C 国际化工作中也存在类似实践。中文排版任务组和 CLReq 允许使用中文开展讨论，同时要求以英语概述实质性论证，使不懂中文的参与者能够理解理由并发表意见。该实践对 IRG 不具有约束力，但可作为区分专家讨论语言与更广泛参与所需共同语言的一项参考。

2.4 Discussion, shared understanding, and formal outcome are different stages

2.4 讨论、共同理解与正式结论属于不同阶段

The arrangement distinguishes three stages: technical discussion, shared understanding, and formal conclusions; Section III below sets out the corresponding operational rules.

本安排区分技术讨论、共同理解和正式结论三个环节，下文第三部分规定相应的实施规则。

III. Operational Arrangements 三、会议实施安排

3.1 Use of Chinese in technical discussion and meeting facilitation

3.1 技术讨论和会议引导中的中文使用

A participant may use Chinese directly for a technical intervention or discussion during an IRG meeting.

参会者在 IRG 会议中进行技术发言或技术讨论时，可以直接使用中文。

Routine meeting facilitation may be conducted in English, Chinese, or both. This includes agenda transitions, identifying the character or comment under review, inviting comments, managing pending items, checking whether further discussion is required, confirming the direction of discussion, and similar procedural exchanges.

日常会议引导可以使用英语、中文或两者结合，包括议程转换、确认当前审查的字符或意见、征询发言、处理暂缓事项、确认是否需要继续讨论、确认讨论方向以及类似的程序性交流。

Procedural exchanges need not be repeated in both languages and may use either language as appropriate to the flow of the meeting.

程序性交流无需逐项以两种语言重复，可根据会议推进需要使用其中一种语言。

Subject to the applicable ISO/IEC rules, and provided that equivalent reasoning is also given in English to ensure shared understanding, similar arrangements may in future be made for other working languages by reference to this proposal.

在符合适用的 ISO/IEC 规则、并提供同等英语论证以保障共同理解的前提下，其他工作语言日后也可参照本提案作出类似安排。

3.2 Volunteer language facilitators

3.2 志愿语言协调员

At the beginning of each meeting, the Convenor should invite one or more bilingual participants to serve as volunteer language facilitators.

每次会议开始时，召集人宜邀请一名或多名双语参会者担任志愿语言协调员。

A language facilitator may convey the substance needed to follow a technical discussion, provide a concise English summary, or assist in stating an emerging conclusion. The role may be shared or rotated according to the subject and participants available.

语言协调员可转述跟进技术讨论所需的实质内容，提供简明英语概述，或者协助表述正在形成的结论。该角色可由多人共同承担，也可根据讨论事项和现场人员情况轮换。

3.3 When an English summary is needed

3.3 需要提供英语概述的情形

An English summary shall be provided before the meeting proceeds on the basis of substantive content developed through discussion in Chinese, including where the discussion introduces new evidence, develops or materially changes a technical position, requires a response from participants who have not followed the Chinese discussion, moves toward a technical conclusion, or where a participant requests clarification in order to participate in the discussion.

在会议据中文讨论形成的实质性内容继续推进前，应提供英语概述，包括中文讨论引入新证据、形成或者实质性改变技术立场、需要未能跟进中文讨论的参会者作出回应、讨论正在进入形成技术结论阶段，或者参会者为实际参与讨论而提出澄清请求的情形。

The summary shall state the material technical position or emerging conclusion and its principal reasoning. It need not reproduce the discussion sentence by sentence; where the reasoning is extensive or highly specialized, a concise account is sufficient if it enables participants to understand and respond.

英语概述应说明具有实质意义的技术立场或者正在形成的结论及其主要理由，无需逐句复述此前讨论；相关论证较为复杂或者专业性较强时，可作简要概述，但应足以使其他参会者理解并作出回应。

The speaker should normally provide the summary, with assistance from a language facilitator or another bilingual participant where needed.

英语概述通常宜由发言者本人提供，必要时可由语言协调员或者其他双语参会者协助。

If a participant considers a summary incomplete or unclear, the Convenor shall allow the speaker, a language facilitator, or another bilingual participant to clarify the point before the meeting relies on it.

如有参会者认为概述不完整或不清楚，召集人应允许发言者、语言协调员或者其他双语参会者补充说明，再由会议以相关内容作为继续推进的依据。

3.4 Reaching a conclusion

3.4 形成结论

Before IRG closes discussion on an item for which a technical conclusion is required, the substance of the proposed conclusion shall be stated in English.

对于需要形成技术结论的事项，在 IRG 结束该项讨论之前，拟形成结论的实质内容应以英语明确表述。

Participants shall have a reasonable opportunity to seek clarification, comment on the proposed conclusion, or indicate disagreement before consensus is confirmed.

在确认共识之前，应给予参会者合理机会，对拟议结论提出澄清请求、发表意见或者表示不同意见。

Once these conditions are met, normal IRG consensus procedures apply.

满足上述条件后，继续适用 IRG 正常的共识形成程序。

3.5 Formal record

3.5 正式记录

Formal IRG decisions and outputs shall be prepared in English. This includes meeting recommendations and action items, formal conclusions entered into the IRG ORT, and reports or other documents submitted by IRG to WG 2.

IRG 的正式决定和输出应以英语形成，包括会议建议和行动项、录入 IRG ORT 的正式结论，以及 IRG 提交 WG 2 的报告或其他文件。

IV. Requested Action 四、提请事项

IRG is requested to approve the following meeting arrangements:

提请 IRG 批准以下会议语言安排：

1. Chinese may be used directly in spoken technical discussions during IRG meetings.
2. Routine meeting facilitation may be conducted in English, Chinese, or both.
3. At the beginning of each meeting, the Convenor should invite one or more bilingual participants to serve as volunteer language facilitators.
4. Before the meeting proceeds on the basis of substantive content developed through discussion in Chinese, an English summary shall be provided in accordance with Section 3.3..
5. Formal IRG decisions and outputs shall be prepared in English, including meeting recommendations, action items, formal conclusions recorded in the IRG ORT, and IRG reports or submissions to WG 2.

1. IRG 会议的口头技术讨论可直接使用中文。
2. 日常会议引导可使用英语、中文或两者结合。
3. 每次会议开始时，召集人宜邀请一名或多名双语参会者担任志愿语言协调员。
4. 在会议据中文讨论形成的实质性内容继续推进之前，应按照第 3.3 节的规定提供英语概述。
5. IRG 的正式决定和输出应以英语形成，包括会议建议、行动项、录入 IRG ORT 的正式结论，以及 IRG 提交 WG 2 的报告或其他文件。