Title: Request to Rename 'Sindhi' to 'Khudawadi'
Source: Script Encoding Initiative (SEI)
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1 Introduction

The 'Sindhi' script was proposed for encoding in the Universal Character Set (ISO/IEC 10646) by the present author in the document N3871R L2/10-271R. The characters were accepted for inclusion in a future version of the standard by the Unicode Technical Committee in August 2010 (meeting 124) and by ISO/IEC JTC1/SC2/WG2 in October 2010 (meeting 57).

The name 'Sindhi' that is currently assigned to the script block and names of characters should be changed to 'Khudawadi', which is the proper name of the script.

2 Issue

The proposed script was initially assigned the name 'Sindhi' because its character repertoire is based upon the 'Standard Sindhi' script. Standard Sindhi is based upon the Khudawadi script, which was the most well-known and complete of the Landa-based scripts used in Sindh. The intent of the proposal was to develop a standard that might also be used for representing the minor Landa scripts of Sindh, some of which are unsuitable for independent encoding. This rationale is still valid, but the choice of the name 'Sindhi' is not.

Feedback from the user community, particularly from specialists such as Michel Boivin (L'École des hautes études en sciences sociales, Paris) and Irfan Gowani (Microsoft), has emphasized that the name 'Sindhi' is ambiguous and may cause confusion among users and implementers. In light of such concerns, the name of the script should be changed so that it may be correctly identified in the standard.

The generic name 'Sindhi' is problematic for several reasons. It is generally used for referring to the class of Landa-based scripts of Sindh, ie. the 'Sindhi scripts'. It is not the proper name of any writing system that belongs to this script family. In fact, several other scripts, such as Khojki and Shikarpuri, are also known as 'Sindhi'. Even 'Standard Sindhi' was not known by the generic name 'Sindhi', but as 'Hindi Sindhi', etc. In modern India and Pakistan, the 'Sindhi script' is commonly understood to be the Arabic-based script used for writing the Sindhi language.

The name 'Khudawadi' is the most appropriate name for the script. It is the proper name of the script and is well attested in primary and secondary literature, such as the *Linguistic Survey of India*. The name is also applied to 'Standard Sindhi', which is a reformed variant of Khudawadi and is referred to as such, ie. 'improved Khudawadi', in various sources.

The change of name from 'Sindhi' to 'Khudawadi' will provide greater semantic and taxonomic clarity in identifying the various scripts used for writing Sindhi and the scripts used in Sindh. For example, it is

more appropriate to refer to "the Sindhi scripts 'Khudawadi' and 'Khojki'", rather than to "the Sindhi scripts 'Sindhi' and 'Khojki'". Moreover, the use of the name 'Khudawadi' will enable users to distinguish between the Landa-based and Arabic-based scripts.

However, there is a potential problem with renaming 'Sindhi' to 'Khudawadi'. Before WG2's October 2010 meeting, the proposal author contacted UTC and the Script Encoding Initiative to request a change of name. The author was informed that a name change is not possible because a script code for 'Sindhi' had already been assigned in ISO 15924. The code was added by the registration authority in July 2010, several months before the final proposal was reviewed and accepted by UTC and WG2 in October 2010. This action was premature and there was no notification of an opportunity to comment. Apparently, the code was registered in ISO 15924 using the script name given in the Roadmap to the SMP; in which script names are generally tentative. The mere existence of a script code in ISO 15924 should not override the importance of renaming the script. The presence of an unused script code in ISO 15924 will not cause as significant an impact on users and implementers as will nearly 70 misnamed characters in ISO/IEC 10646. A new code may be assigned for Khudawadi and the existing code for Sindhi may be used for referring to the Arabic-based script used for writing Sindhi, or for the macro-family of Landa scripts used in Sindh; in fact, distinct script codes for both 'Khudawadi' and 'Sindhi' were proposed in a preliminary version of ISO 15924 from 1997 (see Figure 1).

3   Recommendation

The following actions are recommended:

1. Change the name of the script block from 'Sindhi' to 'Khudawadi'.

2. Change the names of proposed characters accordingly.

3. Register a new script code for Khudawadi in ISO 15924.

These changes will facilitate identification of the script in the standard and will promote usage and support of the standard for Khudawadi.

Ku	Kuoyu	Kuoyu
Kw	Kawi	kawi
Kx	Georgian (Xucuri)	g◆orgien (xucuri)
Ky	Kinya	kinya
La	Latin	latin
Lb	Kirat (Limbu)	kirat (limbu)
Lc	Lycian	lycien
Ld	Lydian	lydien
Lf	Latin (Fraktur variant)	latin (variant bris◆)
Lg	Latin (Gaelic variant)	latin (variant Ga◆lique)
Lk	Lahnda (Khudawadi)	lahnda (khudawadi)
Ll	Lolo	lolo
Lm	Lampong	lampong
Ln	Lahnda (Sindhi)	lahnda (sindhi)
Lo	Lao	laotien
Lp	Lepcha (R◆ng)	leptcha (R◆ng)
Ls	Lisu	lissou
Ma	Mangyan	manguien
Mc	Manchu	mandchou
Md	Mandaean	mand◆en
Me	Meroitic	m◆ro◆tique

Figure 1: A preliminary draft of ISO 15924 from 1997 showing tentative two-letter codes for the 'Khudawadi' and 'Sindhi' scripts. A complete version of the document is available at `http://www.evertype.com/standards/iso15924/document/N442.html` (accessed October 25, 2010). It should be noted that the use of 'Lahnda' as a script name is incorrect; presumably 'Landa' was intended.