

To: US-TAG to JTC1
From: INCITS/L2 as TAG to SC2 and SC22/WG20
Date: August 2, 2002

Subject: Comments on JTC1 N6791 - SC35 Support on CLAUI TD coordination principle

A bit of history:

After preparatory meetings in Malvern and in Ottawa, JTC1 created CLAUI 1998 in Sendai, Japan as a TD between

- SC2 (Character Sets),
- SC22/WG20 (Internationalization) and
- JTC1/WG5, which is now SC35 (User Interfaces)

In December of 1998, a meeting was held in Paris to define the mode of operation (C+) and to work out recommendations for the TD. JTC1 N5629 is the report of this meeting, 16 people participated.

JTC1 N6336 is the report from the CLAUI meeting in Paris, October 18-19, 2000. Five participants were present (Neuville, LaBonté, Simonsen, Melton, Melagrakis). WG20 N796 are the US comments regarding the recommendations, WG20 N798 are WG20's comments. The CLAUI meeting encouraged SC35 to prepare new project proposals for standards on testing and assessment of I18N – most of them failed.

The next CLAUI meeting was to be co-located with WG20 in Tübingen, due to lack of contributions it was postponed to the next WG20 meeting in Malvern, USA , October 2001.

For the CLAUI meeting in Malvern, the convenor of WG20 asked for contributions and agenda items as early as June 8, 2001. SC22/WG20 N847, the notice of the CLAUI meeting reads: WG20 is asking the involved organizations to submit papers and agenda items for the CLAUI meeting by August 9, 2001.

WG20 reserves the right to cancel the meeting, if not enough papers are submitted to justify the meeting. This decision will be made on August 10, 2001.

Needless to say that not a single contribution was submitted, nor any agenda item ! On August 16, one week after the submission deadline, the meeting was canceled.

Irate members of the TD accused the convenor of "sabotage" – let us have a closer look at that:

- The invitation was sent June 8, 2001 requesting contributions or agenda items.
- No contributions were submitted.
- No agenda items were submitted.
- Thus, the meeting was canceled.

This hardly sounds like sabotage. Also, the economic situation had changed significantly with the bursting of the internet-bubble in spring of 2001. Very few companies were (and still are) prepared to send representatives half around the world to participate in a 1-2 day "coordination meeting" with **no papers** to discuss and **no agenda items** to talk about. As a member of the information technology industry, the convenor had the obligation to cancel the meeting.

The CLAUI hard core (4 participants: Neuville, LaBonté, Simonsen, Parquier) met in Paris on December 11 – 12, 2001. The meeting report is in JTC1 N6744. The small group developed “CLAUI TD permanent coordination meeting organization rules“, such as a default agenda in case no agenda items are submitted, mandating one meeting per year, and defining the statutorily invited audience - convenors, chairs, editors, rapporteurs, and official liaisons. Guests can be invited or admitted by the chairmen.

L2 finds it hard to understand that in our modern world a “rule” can be proposed that does not recognize participation in meetings by telephone.

From the proposed CLAUI SD-1:

Rule 3. Those who will reach the meeting by teleconferencing will not be officially considered as present at the meeting.

Facts:

Fact is, that the chair of SC2 attended only the very first meeting, and the convenor of WG20 never was able to attend a CLAUI meeting and possibly never will have the funds to do so.

Fact is that CLAUI meetings so far mainly produced projects for assessment and certification of internationalization, and unreasonable organizational papers for an unattainable process.

Fact is that the last meeting had 4 participants, down from 16 at the first meeting.

Fact is also, that SC2/WG2 in its resolution M42.27 from Dublin recommends:

We are of the opinion that JTC1 should review the role and scope of CLAUI TD. We support the goal of ensuring support for Cultural and Linguistic Adaptability and User Interface (CLAUI) related considerations in all JTC 1 standards. However, we disagree with the recommendations from the CLAUI - TD meeting contained in document SC2 N3606 (JTC 1/N 6744). Coordination of CLAUI objective-related activities should be handled by appropriate liaison relationships between JTC1 sub committees as needed. We see no need for a standing committee with a standing agenda and annual meetings recommended in SD-1 and SD-2 in document SC2 N3606 (JTC 1/N 6744). Any coordination issues that are brought to the attention of JTC1 on CLAUI topics should be dealt with by a JTC1 ad hoc group during its plenary meetings. A special face-to-face or teleconference meeting should be authorized only when there is a well identified coordination problem that cannot be dealt with by the regular liaison relationships or by a JTC1 ad hoc group. In particular the next CLAUI face-to-face meeting for October 2002 should be cancelled pending consideration of the CLAUI meeting recommendations by the JTC1 plenary in October 2002.

Conclusion:

The US TAG to JTC1 needs to take a close and hard look at the implications of JTC1 N6791:

Do we want to perpetuate a TD that has no understanding of the world’s economic situation and requests yearly face to face meetings for “coordination”, a task that can be done by electronic means and teleconferences cheaper, faster, and much more efficiently?

Do we want to play the “blame-game” for canceling meetings without agenda or documents ?

Do we really want CLAUI ?

<sarcasm>

If SC35 would really care for internationalization, the supposedly Cyrillic text on contribution JTC1 N6791 would show up correctly, not as empty boxes.

</sarcasm>

L2 requests to the US TAG to JTC1:

- L2 requests the US-TAG to JTC1 to consider its position regarding the JTC1 Technical Direction “Cultural and Linguistic Adaptability and User Interfaces” (CLAUI) and make a decision about the level of support, the USA is prepared to offer. Preferably, the decision should be in line with the SC2/WG2 resolution M42.27 quoted above.
- L2 also requests that the TAG formulate and submit to JTC1 a response to document N6791 which takes into account the facts outlined above.