

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

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Proposed Conclusion / Requested Action: None

Arguments / Text of Contribution: See attachments.

Japan Activity Report (Nov. 2007)

1 Japan National Body Activities

1.1 Overview

JNB for SC2 (JSC2) is set at the IPSJ/ITSCJ (Information Processing Society of Japan, Information Technology Standards Commissions of Japan) and the committee monthly meets face-to-face. This committee is responsible to the all JTC1/SC2 activities. It has 21 members and 7 observers, who are experts of coded character sets and/or ideographic characters.

1.2 Recent Activities related IRG

After the last IRG meeting, JSC2 has been working on reviewing CJK Extension-C (PDAM 5) and Extension-D. JSC2 also reviewed and commented to the Annex S draft. In addition JSC2 keeps studying about necessity of un-encoded ideographs. JSC2 submitted left six ideographs for data broadcasting to the last WG2, and provide a proposal of 120 governmental characters to this meeting.

1.3 Attending to the International Meetings

4 delegates attended the IRG Xi'an meeting in June 2007, and 1 delegate attended the last WG2 Hangzhou meeting in September this year.

1.4 Contributing to the old hanzi group

JSC2 recently invited Prof. SUZUKI, Atsushi, one of the most active Jaguwen experts in Japan. He is interested in the IRG's old hanzi project, and willing to make a contribution to the group.

2. Studies on the ideographs for Japanese e-government system

METI (Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry) continues studying on the real usage of Kanji glyphs for Japanese e-government. This project is known as "Promotion of the standardization of character encoding and the operation of a database (汎用電子情報交換環境整備プログラム)" which is based on IT Policy Package - 2005 adopted by the IT Strategic Headquarters of Japanese government.

Based on the outcome of the project, JSC2 picked 120 very stable characters as the urgent repertoire and submitted as the Japan's proposal (IRG N1367).

3. Study on the proposal to Code Proper Names in a Separate Area (IRG N1327)

According to the resolution M28.9, Japan reviewed the proposal to Code Proper Names in a separate area.

Japan recognizes the need of characters for proper names and issues of dealing with them as CJK unified ideographs. However, considering the fact that there're already number of those characters used solely for personal names including so called 'taboo characters', or those for place names encoded as part of CJK Unified Ideographs, Japan is very concerned about the cost of making another special block with the different encoding model and the confusion among users searching and identifying the one out of very similar characters encoded in both blocks, which might cause number of other serious problems.

So this time, Japan concluded the necessity of further study about the impact of introducing such block and/or the possibility of the better solution.

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