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Ideographic Rapporteur Group

(IRG)

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Activity Report of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

Adoption of ISO 10646

Since the 29th IRG meeting held in November 2007, matters relating to the adoption of the ISO 10646 standard in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) are as follows:

1. Nine (9) characters have been preliminarily accepted for inclusion into the Hong Kong Supplementary Character Set (HKSCS)[1]. On the other hand, fifty nine (59) characters have been formally approved for inclusion in the HKSCS. The list of approved HKSCS characters since the publication of HKSCS-2004 is available at the following URL:
    http://www.ogcio.gov.hk/ccli/eng/hkscs/download/newchar.pdf

    Six (6) of these sixty eight (68) additional characters are not yet included in the ISO 10646 standard and HKSAR have already submitted them for inclusion in the standard.

2. The HKSAR team has completed the checking on the CJK Extension D v.3.0 document for the development of the ISO 10646 standard through sharing of responsibilities and collaborating with delegates of other IRG member bodies. Comments on the Annex S review have also been submitted to the ad hoc review group for consideration.

3. The HKSAR Government has issued press release to promulgate the "Revised Principles for the Inclusion of Characters in the Hong Kong Supplementary Character Set (HKSCS)" on 31 March 2008. The strategic initiative aims at promoting the wider adoption of the ISO 10646 standard in the community and facilitating the conduct

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[1]   The Hong Kong Supplementary Character Set (HKSCS) contains special Chinese characters used in the HKSAR. The latest version is the HKSCS-2004 available on the web site: http://www.ogcio.gov.hk/ccli/eng/hkscs/hkscs_2004_summary.html.

of electronic communication in Chinese.
http://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/200804/02/P200804020147.htm

4.   To foster the broader availability of handsets that support IICORE and its adoption by websites to be accessed by handsets, high market share handset manufacturers were invited to publish information about their handsets that support IICORE. We have also inform them about the tasks to promote the adoption of Common Chinese Language Interface (CCLI), such as the provision of IICORE comparison utility and reference font and input software on the CCLI website at the following URL:
http://www.ogcio.gov.hk/ccli/eng/structure/iicorecompare.html
http://www.ogcio.gov.hk/ccli/eng/hkscs/iicoreim.html

5.   A document in respect of handling the compatibility between Unicode 5.0 enabled platforms and existing Unicode 3.0 and HKSCS-2001 enabled application software has been posted on the CCLI Thematic website. Unicode Consortium had incorporated at their website the corresponding link to access the document.
http://www.ccli.gov.hk/tc_chi/faq/files/handleDiffStandards_2007-12-10.pdf

6.   The Department of Computing of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University has launched a Web-based publishing platform for Ancient Chinese Books. The system uses ISO 10646 international standard to publish the Chinese characters. The uniqueness of this project lies not only in its ability to reproduce the oldest editions of the ancient Chinese classics, but also in its many value added functions that help users to carry out research work on them electronically.

Through electronic publication of Chinese classic books on the new software based platform, the need to access original printed copies can be relieved. Chinese classic books published on the platform can be supplied to libraries, schools and individuals through the web for reading anytime anywhere. This help preserves the precious Cultural Heritage of Chinese classic books while

provides a convenient way to enable members of the public to access the contents.

7. The Digital Terrestrial Television ("DTT") service has been launched in the HKSAR on 31st December 2007. The Office of the Telecommunications Authority has announced the "Technical Standard of DTT Baseline Receiver Requirements in Hong Kong" which specifies that the DTT Baseline Receiver device shall support the character set of ISO 10646 and HKSCS. The announcement helps promote the adoption of ISO 10646 standard in the HKSAR.

8. Multi-media CD-ROM and information leaflets on the CCLI were distributed to members of the public at the International ICT Expo 2008 held in the HKSAR in April 2008. These promotion items were also distributed to IT professionals and SMEs through professional institutions and the Hong Kong Productivity Council respectively.

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