

# Universal Coded Character Set UCS

**Title:** Request for Japan to return as an active member body of the IRG

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This document requests that Japan reconsider its decision to not participate in the IRG. Over five years have passed since Japan decided to become an inactive member body of the IRG, and there is sufficient justification to warrant a reassessment of that decision.

## Background

Per Section 3 of Japan's activity report for the IRG #52 meeting, document [IRG N2367](#) dated 2019-05-09, Japan chose to become an inactive member body of the IRG:

*Because Japan NB does not have the enough human resource, we will not join future review work of IRG Working Set. We apologize that we can not contribute to improve the quality of IRG Working set. Japan will continue to review the proposal of CJK Unified Ideograph extension at balloting phase of ISO/IEC SC2 standardization process.*

Japan should consider the following as justification for returning to the IRG as an active member body:

- Japan submitted ballot comments against the [CJK Unified Ideographs Extension G](#) (aka [IRG Working Set 2015](#)) and [CJK Unified Ideographs Extension H](#) (aka [IRG Working Set 2017](#)) blocks. We are therefore predicting that Japan will submit similar ballot comments against the CJK Unified Ideographs Extension J block (aka [IRG Working Set 2021](#)). However, given the maturity of those IRG working sets at the balloting phase and their lengthy standardization process, receiving ballot comments from a member body, which obviously has enough human resources to review extension blocks during the balloting phase, is disruptive to the IRG's work.
- Although Hong Kong SAR and Macao SAR did not submit any characters for the last four IRG working sets—[2015](#), [2017](#), [2021](#), and [2024](#)—they continue to be active IRG member bodies, and participate in the review of IRG working sets and other documents.
- Japan submitted to WG 2 on 2023-04-24 a horizontal extension for over 36,000 Han ideographs as document [WG 2 N5221](#), which should have been submitted to the IRG. The IRG meets more frequently than WG 2, and its experts are better suited to review such horizontal extensions.
- The IRG recognizes Japan's deep expertise when it comes to the standardization of Han ideographs, and given the ongoing and important nature of the IRG's work and Japan's past participation, there would be great value in Japan returning to the IRG as an active member body.
- The IRG understands that past IRG meetings were in-person and therefore required a travel budget to attend. After COVID-19, the Spring meeting is virtual (Zoom), and the Fall meeting is hybrid. This new meeting arrangement has allowed individual experts, along with member bodies without sufficient travel budget, to more easily attend and participate in IRG meetings.

## Request

Based on the background as presented in this document, I request that Japan reconsider its decision to not participate in the IRG, and strongly encourage them return to the IRG as an active member body at their earliest convenience, which means actively participating in the review of IRG working sets, disunification proposals, horizontal extension proposals, and other IRG-related proposals.

That is all.