To: UTC L2/12-100

From: Deborah Anderson, IR and Head of Delegation

Re: Brief report from WG2 Meeting #59, Mountain View, CA

Date: 19 February 2012

WG2 meeting #59 successfully concluded Friday, 17 February 2012. It was hosted by the Unicode Consortium at Microsoft in Mountain View, CA. Twenty-five attendees participated, representing 8 national bodies and 4 liaison organizations. This brief document summarizes topics not covered in the UTC Liaison Report, L2/12-099, or provides information that supplements that report.

In general, discussion on script proposals was short and perfunctory, with more attention devoted to IRG and CJK matters, Lithuanian, and how to process ballots more effectively.

Progression of Ballots

One of the main results of the meeting was the progression of Amendment 1 from PDAM to DAM. The DAM ballot will start March 2012. The current character count for Amendment 1 is 1768 characters.

The convener and project editor were instructed to create a subdivision proposal for the creation of Amendment 2, which will include characters and scripts approved at meeting #59, as well as those characters and scripts which had been in PDAM1, but were pulled because they were still deemed controversial. Currently 900 characters fall into this category (including Old Hungarian). The target starting date for the PDAM is March 2012. (As noted in the UTC Liaison report, the Editor will also be able to add mature scripts and characters to this amendment, pending authorization from SC2.)

USNB Requests for Additions

All of the USNB requests for new character additions (L2/11-330 and L2/12-091) were accommodated, although there was some re-ordering and changes to the Webdings and Wingdings characters as contained in PDAM 1. During the WG2 meeting, the author of the Webdings and Wingdings proposal worked with the Irish NB to discuss unifications, glyphs, and other character-related issues. As a result, 68 of the non-controversial Webdings were included in Amendment 1, and 92 characters went into Amendment 2. (The remaining 62 Webdings are proposed for unification, but may be disunified pending further study.)

CJK and IRG-related issues

As part of the IRG report to WG2, an "Errata Report" (N4173) was discussed. This report noted ca. 25 mistakes found during the review of Extension B, mostly from incorrect unifications. The upshot of the discussion was that some source-mapping changes may need to be made. The Editor will review the errors and identify any possible source-mapping changes for IRG.

Based on requests from China, Japan, and TCA, the work of the Old Hanzi group, which had been under the purview of IRG, was removed from IRG's scope of work. This change will take effect after the IRG #38 (18-22 June 2012). As with other scripts, mature proposals for Old Hanzi can be submitted to WG2

directly. The UTC can probably expect to see a proposal (or two) for Old Hanzi in the future; from the discussion it was clear that experts have different views on how to approach the encoding of Old Hanzi.

(For discussion on the outcome of USNB/Unicode documents, including the requested change in IDS Syntax in Annex I [L2/12-087=N4234], the request to stabilize CJK compatibility ideographs through IVD [L2/11-361=N4165], and the request to establish an "Urgently Needed Characters" process [L2/11-442=N4230], see the UTC Liaison report, L2/12-099.)

Other topics

China expressed concern that the Named Sequences for Uyghur and Chaghatay (N4231), which were approved at this meeting, would not contain enough information for users. The authors of the named sequence proposal from China will work with members of the Unicode Consortium (and USNB) on a Unicode Technical Note to prepare guidelines for users.

The next meeting, #60, will take place in Chiang Mai, Thailand, from 22-26 October 2012. The following meeting is slated to take place in Vilnius, Lithuania, from 10-14 June, 2013. No host has come forth for meeting #62 in the 4th quarter of 2013. The USNB may wish to consider hosting #62.