

JTC1/SC2/WG2/IRG

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Activity Report of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

Adoption of ISO 10646

Since the 17th IRG meeting held in June 2001, matters relating to the adoption of the ISO 10646 standard in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) are as follows :

1. The HKSAR Government, with the assistance of the Chinese Language Interface Advisory Committee¹ (CLIAC), continues to examine submissions of local characters by government departments and the public for inclusion into the Hong Kong Supplementary Character Set² (HKSCS). We have so far accepted 116 new local Chinese characters since the publication of the HKSCS in September 1999. Out of these 116 new characters, 77 characters can be mapped into ISO/IEC 10646-1:2000, 29 characters have been included in the Extension B of ISO/IEC 10646-2:2001, 9 characters have been submitted to the IRG at the 17th IRG meeting for inclusion into the Extension C of the ISO 10646 standard (IRG Document N811), and 1 character is submitted to the IRG at the 18th IRG meeting (IRG Document N845).

We plan to release a new version of the HKSCS to formally include the new 116 characters and to tie in with the publication of ISO/IEC 10646-2:2001.

2. We have produced a multi-media CD-ROM for distribution to the public to promote the common Chinese language interface that the

¹ The Chinese Language Interface Advisory Committee (CLIAC) was set up by the HKSAR Government in May 1999 comprising representatives from academic institutions, language and linguistics associations, and the IT and publishing industries. The CLIAC assists the HKSAR Government in developing an open and common Chinese language interface in the HKSAR which is based on the ISO 10646 standard and the HKSCS. Further information of the CLIAC is available on the web site: <http://www.digital21.gov.hk/eng/structure/cliac.html>.

² The Hong Kong Supplementary Character Set (HKSCS) contains special Chinese characters used in the HKSAR that are not contained in the Big-5 standard character set. Further information of the HKSCS is available on the web site: <http://www.digital21.gov.hk/eng/hkscs/index.html>.

Government has established in the HKSAR. Animation and games are used therein to explain the benefits of adopting the common Chinese language interface that is based on the ISO 10646 standard and the HKSCS. Copies of the CD-ROM are available for collection by the public at public libraries and government offices. We have also sent copies of the CD-ROM to secondary schools and distributed them at public exhibitions and seminars.

3. The HKSAR Government submitted the HKSCS to the IRG in 1999. There are 25 miscellaneous symbols in the HKSCS which have not yet been included in the ISO 10646 standard. They belong to 3 categories, i.e. (a) Hanyu Pinyin symbols (4 characters), (b) engineering symbols (2 characters), and (c) basic ideographic component characters originated from the Big-5 Vendor Area (19 characters). In respect of (a) and (b), we understand that Hanyu Pinyin and engineering symbols are outside the ambit of the IRG. We wish to seek IRG's advice with regard to alternative channels for the submission of these symbols to the ISO for inclusion in the ISO 10646 standard (see IRG Document N844). In respect of (c), we wish to seek IRG's confirmation that the basic ideographic component characters will be considered by the IRG for inclusion in Extension C of the ISO 10646 standard (see IRG Document N845).

Others

The HKSAR Government together with the CLIAC has prepared a set of "Guidelines on the Kai Style Character Glyphs for Chinese Computer Systems in Hong Kong" (the Guidelines). The Guidelines are prepared with the aim of encouraging the IT industry to develop Chinese font products that adopt the styles and conventions commonly used in the HKSAR for the writing of Chinese characters. Public consultation in respect of the Guidelines was conducted between October and November for a one-month period. We are arranging for the release of the final version of the Guidelines for reference by the public.

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The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
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