

SC2/WG2 N 2081

Date: 1999-09-05

Title: Category C Liaison between W3C and SC2/WG2

Source: W3C Internationalization Activity Lead

To: ISO/IEC JTC1 SC2/WG2

Dear Mr. Ksar,

I am writing to you with the objective to establish a liaison between W3C, in particular its Internationalization Working Group, and ISO/IEC JTC1 SC2/WG2.

The W3C was founded in 1994 to develop common protocols for the evolution of the World Wide Web. World Wide Web technology started with a bias toward English and the Latin writing system, but the W3C tries to make sure that WWW technology meets the needs of the global community. Within the W3C, the Internationalization Activity (established October 1995) and the Internationalization Working Group and Interest Group (established 1998) are coordinating and working on this effort.

To make our technology globally usable, the W3C is more and more basing its work on ISO/IEC 10646. To give some examples, in HTML 4.0, ISO/IEC 10646 is used as a single common reference for characters; in addition, XML 1.0 actually requires that all processors accept two encoding forms of ISO/IEC 10646. The use of ISO/IEC 10646 in W3C work is expected to increase further, and will continue to spread the use of ISO/IEC 10646 on many occasions.

Because of the highly interoperative and global nature of the World Wide Web, the W3C has a unique perspective, and in some cases unique requirements for the Universal Character Set.

We therefore feel that both organizations would benefit from a liaison based on fruitful exchange and active co-operation. We think it is highly beneficial that the relevant development documents be exchanged between the W3C and ISO/IEC JTC1 SC2/WG2, on the understanding that distribution will not go beyond these two groups.

Yours sincerely,

Martin Dürst
W3C I18N Activity Lead