ISO/IEC JTC1

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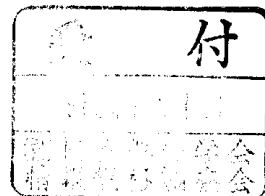
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JTC1/SC2
Coded Character Sets:

Secretariat: SNV

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ISO/IEC JTC1/SC2 N 2468

November 1993

TITLE:	Short Report on 4th JTC1/SC2 Plenary Meeting held in Athens on 27th-28th May 1993
SOURCE:	SC2 Secretariat
PROJECT:	---
STATUS:	Report
REQUESTED ACTION:	For information
DISTRIBUTION:	P, O and L Members JTC1 Secretariat ITTF

Report of the 4th JTC1/SC2 Plenary Meeting
held in Athens on 27th-28th May 1993

Relevant documents: SC2 N 2428 Agenda

                           SC2 N 2466 Resolutions

This report only highlights those items where additional information on a resolution can be given or where no resolution has been taken.

1   Attendance

There were 35 attendants from 19 countries (16 on the 3rd Plenary)

2   ISO/IEC 10646-1 and related items

The standard has been published on 1 May 1993. Concerning the voting results on the 2nd DIS:

- UK has changed their vote to YES.
- Denmark and Greece have declared their intention to change their vote to YES.
- Turkey has retained their negative vote.

Some concern is expressed on the preparation of the final text and the limited possibilities for National Bodies to provide corrections to the final text. The problem to be resolved is to balance between time available for editorial corrections and time for publication. Some NBs may make a contribution to JTC1 on this matter, in general terms, not focused on 10646.

Turkey has a concern on the too small size of subsets as allowed by normative annex A. Denmark, Norway and The Netherlands have concerns about the names for a small (< 10) number of characters. Uniqueness and stability are very important for 10646, but a change in a few names is feasible. One should also take in mind that the usage of a character is not determined by its name. The name is an arbitrary identifier for a character. Errors in names can be corrected but changes of names on the basis of preferences are discouraged. The meeting decided to give responsibility for names to WG2 (Resolution 4). Defect reports on naming will be distributed to all NBs. Proposals for names and naming will be distributed on SC2 level, and not only on WG2 level.

3   Registration matters

3.1   Subrepertoires of ISO 10646 (Resolution 15)

Different views of the purpose of registration were expressed:

- give guidance to designers of new products.
- recognize existing products; one argument for this is that only repertoires which are implemented should be registered.
- do not cut 10646 in many, incompatible pieces.
- register proprietary codes, and not only sets based on publicly available documents, like standards; an example is: PC code pages.
- provide identifiers for reference in technical or commercial documents.
- provide identifiers for use in data interchange protocols (object identifiers for usage in ASN.1, or registration numbers, or usage sequences) or programming languages.
- register under existing procedures, for example under ISO 7350, or ISO 2375; do not issue an NP for the development of new procedures.

The conclusion was to have requirements views and an estimate of the possible number of subrepertoires for registration collected by the Swedish NB (SIS-ITS). Input might come from NBs, SC22, SC18/WG5 and CEN/TC 304.

Mr. Lindberg will coordinate the responses and prepare a contribution for comments by SC2.

3.2 Responsibility for coding

ISO 2375 must be updated to include new rules for naming. Names should be written with capital letters.

New standards shall not be published until the final byte has been assigned if a repertoire in the standard has to be registered.

Character names and coding different from 10646 shall be discouraged.

Some drafts from ISO/TC 46 were identified with numerous deviations of the types mentioned above. However, their repertoires have not been offered for registration, their DISs have not been sent to SC2 for comments, and transliteration has not been covered very well.

The broad, principal question is: Who is responsible for coding in ISO? JTC1 will be invited to seek confirmation that the single body responsible for coding in ISO and IEC, is JTC1/SC2 (Resolution 12). The SC2 Secretariat will send a letter to the TC46 Chair (Resolution 11).

SC2 did not provide resources to review ISO 2375.

4 Liaisons

4.1 ITU-T

ITU-T Study Group 8 has a close relation with SC2. A recent result has been the harmonization of ISO/IEC 6429 and CCITT T.53.

SG8 has shown an interest in ISO/IEC 10646-1 and will perhaps develop subrepertoire(s). A difficult problem is the conversion from the 7-bit and 8-bit world to UCS because of the large investments in the field.

There are at least 3 bodies active in this conversion: ITU-T SG8, JTC1/SC2 and CEN/TC 304. A concerted action would favour all parties.

4.2 User organizations

SHARE Europe is a typical example of a - knowledgeable - user organization. The discussion on how to deal with user organizations, in general, did not reach a conclusion, but SC2 is aware of their existence and interest in the SC2 work.

5 Any other business

5.1 ISO 2022

The revised ECMA-35 will be submitted for adoption under the fast-track procedure to replace the current edition of ISO 2022. See also Resolution 13. SC2 has no resources to do this work. The Greek NB is working on a formal verification of ECMA-35 against the existing ISO 2022.

5.2 JTC1 N 2530 (SC2 N 2447)

Resolution 14 was developed to respond to a request from JTC1 for information on the publication of 10646. The disposition of comments on DIS 10646-1.2 has been distributed as SC2 N 2419.

5.3 User's guide to SC2 Standards

National Bodies are invited to submit proposal(s).

5.4   Editors

SC2 suffers from lack of editors. No editor was appointed for ISO 4879, ISO/IEC 6429 and ISO/IEC 6937. For ISO 2022, ISO/IEC 8859, ISO/IEC 10367 and ISO/IEC 10538 only placeholders could be appointed. NBs are invited to improve the situation (Resolution 16).