

ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 2
CODED CHARACTER SETS
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REPLACES

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PERIOD COVERED: January 1999 – September 1999

SUBMITTED BY: Kohji SHIBANO , Chair of JTC 1/SC 2

1.0 MANAGEMENT SUMMARY:

1a CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

SC 2 plenary meeting was held on March 15th through 17th. We focused on the review of 10646 development roadmap and SC 2 procedures.

1.1 JTC 1/ SC 2 STATEMENT OF SCOPE

Title: Coded Character Set

Scope: Standardization of graphic character sets and their characteristics, associated control functions, their coded representation for information interchange and code extension techniques.
Excluded: audio and picture coding.

1.2 PROJECT REPORT

Total Number of Projects: 76 including all subprojects.

Total Number of P members: 38 P Members (2 new since last JTC 1 Plenary)

New Projects: None.

New Revision Work: 1

- JTC 1.02.04:
Procedure for registration of escape sequences, Fourth Edition (Revision of ISO 2375: 1986)
Target: FCD 99-09, FDIS 99-12, IS 2000-02

New Subproject: 1

- JTC 1.02.20.16
ISO/IEC 8859-16: 8-bit single-byte coded graphic character sets -- Part 16: Latin Alphabet
No.10

Withdrawn project: 1

- JTC 1.02.15907:
TR Type 2 - Alphanumeric character sets for optical recognition -- Part 2: Character set OCR-B
-- Shapes and dimensions of the printed image

1.3 COOPERATION AND COMPETITION

SC 2 is playing the key role in the area of coded character set standardization.

Memorandum of understanding on the transfer of ISO/TC 46 coded character sets based on TC 46 plenary resolution is now processing within SC 2.

SC 2 has been very successful in cooperation with SC 18, SC 22, SC 31, and SC 32.

SC 2 has also been successful in cooperation with external standard organizations, such as ITU-T, CEN/TC 304, and with industry consortia, such as Unicode Inc. and GSE (Guide Share Europe).

For SC 2/WG 2/IRG (Ideographic Rapporteur Group) work, TCA (Taiwan) and HKITF (Hong Kong) provided important contributions. For Mongolian script extension of ISO/IEC 10646-1, UNU (United Nations University) provided an important contribution.

2.0 PERIOD REVIEW

2.1 MARKET REQUIREMENTS

As stated in the previous business plan, requirements for the development of Coded Character Sets are still strong.

Rapid development utilizing JTC 1 procedures are mandatory for SC 2 work.

Widespread use of the Internet technologies, such as WWW, even an ordinal person now faces with and has to use ISO standard such as 8859 series of standards and 10646.

Therefore, easy access to SC 2 standards is crucial to avoid confusions between users and implementators.

2.2 ACHIEVEMENTS

Published projects: 6

- JTC 1.02.18.01.23
ISO/IEC 10646-1/Amd. 23: Bopomofo Extended and other Characters
(1999-05-01)
- JTC 1.02.18.01.21
ISO/IEC 10646-1/Amd. 21: Sinhala (1999-06-01)
- JTC 1.02.18.01.18
ISO/IEC 10646-1/Amd. 18: Symbol and other characters (1999-07-15)
- JTC 1.02.18.01.17
ISO/IEC 10646-1/Amd. 17: CJK Unified Ideographs Extension A (1999-07-15)
- JTC 1.02.20.15
ISO/IEC 8859-15: 8-bit single-byte coded graphic character sets -- Part 15: Latin Alphabet No.9
(1999-03-15)
- JTC 1.02.02.00.01

ISO/IEC 2022/Cor. 1: Character code structure and extension techniques -- TECHNICAL CORRIGENDUM 1 (1999-04-15)

Project progressed to IS: 5

- 02.18.01.14:
ISO/IEC 10646-1/Amd 14: Yi syllables and Yi radicals
- JTC 1.02.18.01.22:
ISO/IEC 10646-1/Amd 22: Keyboard Symbols
- JTC 1.02.18.01.25:
ISO/IEC 10646-1/Amd 25: Khmer
- JTC 1.02.18.01.26:
ISO/IEC 10646-1/Amd 26: Myanmar
- JTC 1.02.18.01.27:
ISO/IEC 10646-1/Amd 27: Syriac

Projects progressed from FCD to FDIS: 6

- JTC 1.02.18.01.15:
ISO/IEC 10646-1/Amd 15: Kang Xi radicals and CJK radicals supplement
- JTC 1.02.18.01.24:
ISO/IEC 10646-1/Amd 24: Thaana
- JTC 1.02.18.01.28:
ISO/IEC 10646-1/Amd 28: Ideographic description characters
- JTC 1.02.18.01.29:
ISO/IEC 10646-1/Amd 29: Mongolian
- JTC 1.02.18.01.30:
ISO/IEC 10646-1/Amd 30: Additional Latin and other characters
- JTC 1.02.18.01.31: ISO/IEC 10646-1/Amd 31: Tibetan Extension

Projects progressed to FCD: 2

- 02.6937:
Coded graphic character set for text communication -- Latin alphabet (Third Edition)
- 20.11 (8859-11)
8-bit single-byte coded graphic character sets -- Part 11: Latin/Thai character set
Target: FDAM: 1999-10, IS: 2000-02

Projects submitted for a combined CD registration and consideration ballot: 1

- 02.20.07:
8-bit single-byte coded graphic character sets -- Part 7: Latin/Greek alphabet (Second Edition)

2.3 RESOURCES

SC 2 should be considered as one of the largest SCs in JTC 1 in terms of membership. The number of current P-member National Bodies is 38 and O-member National Bodies is eight. All WGs and all developing projects have assigned officials. In this sense, SC 2 has sufficient resources.

3.0 FOCUS NEXT WORK PERIOD

3.1 DELIVERABLES:

The following projects are expected to be published during the next reporting period.

IS Publication: 5

- JTC 1.02.18.01.14:
ISO/IEC 10646-1/Amd 14: Yi syllables and Yi radicals
- JTC 1.02.18.01.22:
ISO/IEC 10646-1/Amd 22: Keyboard Symbols
- JTC 1.02.18.01.25:
ISO/IEC 10646-1/Amd 25: Khmer
- JTC 1.02.18.01.26:
ISO/IEC 10646-1/Amd 26: Myanmar
- JTC 1.02.18.01.27:
ISO/IEC 10646-1/Amd 27: Syriac

3.2 STRATEGIES:

SC 2 should focus on the following four areas;

- (1) Provide easy access to SC 2 standards,
- (2) Support for new character coding requirements from developing countries,
- (3) Enhance visibility of SC 2 activities.
- (4) Clarification of character coding schemes.

3.2.1 RISKS

Most of the information concerning SC 2's standards can be obtained through the Internet but official standard itself can not be obtained through the Internet. Without availability of definitive information, that is SC 2 standards, through the Internet, it may cause a confusion of user communities and implementors.

Delay of SC 2 standard development may cause to cease new entries from developing countries to global information arena.

On the other hand, SC 2 development work covers wide range of scripts and SC 2 has published man amendment to ISO/IEC 10646-1. Users and implementors of the standards may not have a clear view of SC 2 works. Therefore, consolidation of amendments, i.e., publication of the second edition of ISO/IEC 10646-1 is very important. And a publication of roadmap of SC 2 is also important.

3.2.2 OPPORTUNITIES

SC 2 standards are and have been really effective for information interchange. However, as for

internal processing codes, implementators' private coded character sets have been widely used.

Growing interests and requirements for real global information processing, there is an opportunities for SC 2 standards not only for information interchange but also for information processing including internationalized software portability.

3.3 WORK PROGRAM PRIORITIES

Enhancement of ISO/IEC 10646-1 is still the highest priority. Revision and enhancement of 8859 series of standards are also important.

Revision of ISO/IEC 10646-1 and 10646-2 will still be important.