ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 2
Coded Character Sets
Secretariat: Japan (JISC)

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BUSINESS PLAN FOR JTC 1/SC 2

prepared 2001.10.01

PERIOD COVERED: October 2000 – September 2001

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

1.0 MANAGEMENT SUMMARY:

1.1   JTC 1/ SC 2 STATEMENT OF SCOPE

Title: Coded Character Sets

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: 51 including all subprojects

Total Number of P members: 35 P Members

New projects: None.

New subproject: None.

New revision work: None

Withdrawn project: None

1.3   COOPERATION AND COMPETITION
SC 2 is playing the key role in the area of coded character set standardization.

SC 2 has been very successful in cooperation with TC 46, SC 22, SC 31, SC 32, SC 35, and SC 36.

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., ISOC, W3C 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 ordinary person now is faced with and has to use ISO standard such as 8859 series of standards and 10646.

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

2.2 ACHIEVEMENTS

Published projects: 2
* ISO/IEC 8859-16
8-bit single-byte coded graphic character sets -- Part 16: Latin alphabet N. 10 (2001-07-15)
* Technical Corrigendum 1 to ISO/IEC 10367
Standardized coded graphic character sets for use in 8-bit codes -- Technical Corrigendum 1 (2001-06-01)

Projects progressed to IS: 1
* ISO/IEC 10646-2
Universal Multiple-Octet Coded Character set (UCS) -- Part 2: Supplementary Planes

Projects progressed to FDIS/FDAM: 2
* FDIS 6937 Code graphic character set for text communication
* FDIS 8859-11 8-bit single-byte coded graphic character sets -- Part 11: Latin/Thai character set

Projects progressed to FCD/FPDAM: 1
* ISO/IEC 10646-1: 2000/FPDAM 1
Amendment 1 to ISO/IEC 10646-1: 2000, Mathematical symbols and other characters

Projects to be transferred (to SC 31)
* ISO 1073-1:1976 and ISO 1073-2: 1976
  Alphanumeric character sets for optical recognition --
  Part 1: Character set OCR-A -- Shapes and dimensions of the printed image
  Part 2: Character set OCR-B -- Shapes and dimensions of the printed image

- ISO 2023: 1983 Coding of machine readable characters (MICR and OCR)

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 35 and O-member National Bodies is 11. 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.

Deliverables during the next period.
- ISO/IEC 10646-1/Amd. 1
- ISO/IEC 8859-11

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 implementers.

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

3.2.2 OPPORTUNITIES

SC 2 standards are and have been really effective for information interchange. However, as for internal processing codes, implementers' 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.

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