Information Technology

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BUSINESS PLAN FOR JTC 1/SC 2

prepared 2000.10.01

PERIOD COVERED: October 1999 -- September 2000

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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: 84 including all subprojects.

Total Number of P members: 35 P Members

New projects: None.

New subproject: 1
* JTC 1.02.18.01.01.00.02,
  ISO/IEC 10646-1: 2000/Amd 1, Universal Multiple-Octet Coded Character Set (UCS) -- Part 1: Architecture and Basic Multilingual Plane, AMENDMENT 1: Mathematical Symbols and Other Characters

Transferred projects (from TC 46/SC 4): 8
  ISO 5426:1983, ISO 5427:1984, ISO 5428: 1984, ISO 6438:1983, ISO 6862: 1996, ISO 10585:1996, ISO 10586:1996, ISO 11822:1996

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Withdrawn project: None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.

ISO/TC 46 coded character sets standards have been transferred to SC 2. For this transfer, an agreement has been made regarding the maintenance responsibility. Based on this agreement, recommendations to JTC 1 for five-year periodic review will be prepared in cooperation with ISO/TC 46/SC 4.

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

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 crucial to avoid confusions between users and implementers.

2.2   ACHIEVEMENTS

Published projects: 0

Projects progressed to IS: 7
- JTC 1.02.18.01.00.00.02
  ISO/IEC 10646-1 (2nd Ed.), Universal Multiple-Octet Coded Character Set (UCS) -- Part 1: Architecture and Basic Multilingual Plane
- JTC 1.02.18.01.15:
  ISO/IEC 10646-1/Amd 15: Kang Xi radicals and CJK radicals supplement (incorporated into the 2ed Edition text of ISO/IEC 10646-1)
- JTC 1.02.18.01.24:
  ISO/IEC 10646-1/Amd 24: Thaana (incorporated into the 2ed Edition text of ISO/IEC 10646-1)
- JTC1.02.18.01.28:
  ISO/IEC 10646-1/Amd 28: Ideographic description characters (incorporated into

the 2ed Edition text of ISO/IEC 10646-1)
- JTC 1.02.18.01.29:
ISO/IEC 10646-1/Amd 29: Mongolian (incorporated into the 2ed Edition text of ISO/IEC 10646-1)
- JTC 1.02.18.01.30:
ISO/IEC 10646-1/Amd 30: Additional Latin and other characters (incorporated into the 2ed Edition text of ISO/IEC 10646-1)
- JTC 1.02.18.01.31:
ISO/IEC 10646-1/Amd 31: Tibetan Extension (incorporated into the 2ed Edition text of ISO/IEC 10646-1)

Projects progressed to FDIS/FDAM: 5
- JTC 1.02.18.02 (10646-2)
Universal Multiple-Octet Coded Character set (UCS) -- Part 2: Secondary Multilingual Plane for scripts and symbols, Supplementary Plane for CJK Ideographs, Special Purpose Plane
- JTC 1.02.14.01/02.00.00.03 (6937)
Coded graphic character set for text communication -- Latin alphabet (3rd Ed.)
- JTC 1.02.20.07 (8859-7)
8-bit single-byte coded graphic character sets -- Part 7: Latin/Greek alphabet
- JTC 1.02.20.11 (8859-11)
8-bit single-byte coded graphic character sets -- Part 11: Latin/Thai character set
- JTC 1.02.20.16 (8859-16)
8-bit single-byte coded graphic character sets -- Part 16: Latin alphabet No. 10

Projects progressed to FCD/FPDAM: 0

Projects Progressed to CD/PDAM: 1
- JTC 1.02.04.00.00.04
CD 2375, Procedure for registration of escape sequences

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.

IS Publication: 6
- JTC 1.02.18.01.00.00.02
ISO/IEC 10646-1 (2nd Ed.), Universal Multiple-Octet Coded Character Set (UCS) -- Part 1: Architecture and Basic Multilingual Plane
- JTC 1.02.20.07:

ISO/IEC 8859-7 (2nd Ed.), 8-bit single-byte coded graphic character sets -- Part 7: Latin/Greek alphabet
- JTC 1.02.20.11:
ISO/IEC 8859-11, 8-bit single-byte coded graphic character sets -- Part 11: Latin/Thai character set
- JTC 1.02.20.16
ISO/IEC 8859-16, 8-bit single-byte coded graphic character sets -- Part 16: Latin alphabet No. 10
- JTC 1.02.18.02:
ISO/IEC 10646-2, Universal Multiple-Octet Coded Character set (UCS) -- Part 2: Secondary Multilingual Plane for scripts and symbols, Supplementary Plane for CJK Ideographs, Special Purpose Plane
- JTC 1.02.14.01/02:
ISO/IEC 6937 (3rd Ed.), Coded graphic character set for text communication

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.

On the other hand, SC 2 development work covers wide range of scripts and SC 2 has published many amendments to ISO/IEC 10646-1. Users and implementers 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.

SC 2 is extremely concerned that ISO/IEC 10646-1: 2000 has not yet been published. SC 2 requires immediate publication of the standard by ITTF for use by SC 2 experts and National Bodies in the continued development of the standards, but even more use by other JTC 1 subcommittee and other standing organizations such as W3C, IETF, ECMA and by the IT industry in response to market needs. Immediate publication is also required to help prevent proliferation of national standards that

may compete with ISO/IEC 10646-1: 2000.

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.