

**ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 2  
Coded Character Sets  
Secretariat: [Japan \(JISC\)](#)**

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## BUSINESS PLAN FOR JTC 1/SC 2

PREPARED: 2004-09-24

PERIOD COVERED: September 2003 - September 2004

SUBMITTED BY: Tatsuo L. KOBAYASHI, Acting Chair of JTC 1/SC 2

### 1. 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.

SC 2 has requested JTC 1 to approve the inclusion of string ordering (JTC 1 N7490) because of transfer of ISO/IEC 14651 from SC 22. So, Scope will be changed as follows after approval from JTC 1.

Standardization of graphic character sets and their characteristics, **including string ordering**, 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

Active Projects: 3

- ISO/IEC 10646/FPDAM 1  
Universal Multiple-Octet Coded Character set (UCS) -- AMENDMENT 1:  
Glagolitic, Coptic, Georgian and other characters  
Target (completion) FPDAM:2004-11, FDAM: 2005-08
- ISO/IEC 10646/PDAM 2  
Universal Multiple-Octet Coded Character Set (UCS) --AMDNDMENT 2:  
N'Ko, Phoenician, Cuneiform, Phags-pa scripts, and other characters  
Target (completion) PDAM 2004-12, FPDAM: 2005-06, FDAM:  
2005-12
- ISO/IEC 14651/FPDAM 2  
International string ordering and comparison -- Method for comparing  
character strings and description of the common template tailorable

ordering -- AMENDMENT 2  
Target FDAM: 2005-12

Planned withdrawals: 1

### 1.3 COOPERATION AND COMPETITION

SC 2 is the key organization in the area of coded character set standardization, and has close and active cooperation with other ISO/IEC organizations such as ISO/TC 46, JTC 1/SC 22, JTC 1/SC 31, JTC 1/SC 32, and JTC 1/SC 35.

SC 2 also has successful cooperation with external standard organizations such as ITU-T, and with industry consortia such as Unicode Inc., ISOC, and W3C.

For SC 2/WG 2/IRG (Ideographic Rapporteur Group) work, TCA(Taiwan) and HKITF(Hong Kong) provided important contributions.

### 2.0 PERIOD REVIEW

#### 2.1 MARKET REQUIREMENTS

Coded character sets and their orderings are basic infrastructure for all information and communication technologies.

Lately, because of the rapid spread of information technologies, especially Internet technologies, UCS is widely used throughout the entire world. The importance of universal coded character set is acknowledged among governmental sectors, industrial sectors and open source communities.

That is one of the reasons why SC 2 disbanded WG 3 and began negotiation of transfer of language identifiers with SC 22. Also, transfer of ISO/IEC 14651 has same context.

ISO/IEC 8859 series had played a very important role in the era of 8 bit based technologies and stand alone environments. But, in the era of multiple-octet and Internet based technologies, the role of ISO/IEC 8859 series is diminishing. Many developing countries changed their IT standardization strategies from promoting international standardization of their original part of ISO/IEC 8859 to harmonization between their country standards and UCS. So, in the last couple of years, there are no new proposals to standardize new parts of ISO/IEC 8859.

On the other hand, requests and proposals for standardization of new characters and scripts on UCS, especially from developing countries are very active. Also, the number of standards which refers to UCS and actual implementations based on UCS are increasing rapidly.

SC 2 plans to concentrate on continuous and eager work to quickly and accurately standardize new characters and scripts.

## 2.2 ACHIEVEMENTS

During this period, the consolidated version of ISO/IEC 10646 was published. This consolidation made the developing work and referring of 10646 by users very easy.

## 2.3 RESOURCES

From the view point of the active work items, SC 2 has only three work items. AMD 1 of 10646, AMD 2 of 10646, and AMD 2 of 14651.

But, from the view point of the active membership, SC2 is one of the largest and very active SC in JTC 1. The number of current P-member National Bodies is 32 and O-member National Bodies is 14. There are not a few invited participants in WG meetings and plenary meetings from developing countries, which have no official membership.

All WGs and all developing projects have assigned officials. In this sense, SC 2 has sufficient resources.

## 3.0 FOCUS FOR THIS PLANNING PERIOD

### 3.1 DELIVERABLES:

The following Amendments to ISO/IEC 10646 and ISO/IEC 14651 will be published.

- ISO/IEC 10646/AMD 1  
Universal Multiple-Octet Coded Character set (UCS) -- AMENDMENT 1:  
Glagolitic, Coptic, Georgian and other characters
- ISO/IEC 10646/AMD 2  
Universal Multiple-Octet Coded Character Set (UCS) --AMENDMENT 2:  
N'Ko, Phoenician, Cuneiform, Phags-pa scripts, and other characters
- ISO/IEC 14651/AMD 2  
International string ordering and comparison -- Method for comparing  
character strings and description of the common template tailorable  
ordering -- AMENDMENT 2

### 3.2 STRATEGIES:

SC 2 should focus on the following four areas;

- 1) Quick and precise standardization of newly proposed characters and scripts, especially proposals from developing countries.
- 2) Synchronization of 14651 to 10646.
- 3) Maintaining consistency with countries' and areas' standards.
- 4) Public availability of 14641 and 10646 to promote other standards, applications, systems conformed to 10646 and 14651.

### 3.2.1 RISKS

- 1) Possibility of standardization without feedback from the real user community.
- 2) Delay of synchronization of other standards which closely refer UCS. Transfer of 14651 from SC 22 to SC 2 will reduce the risk of delay of synchronization.
- 3) Sometimes international standards and country standards refer to each other with some contradictions. To avoid such cases, close relationships between SC 2 and each national body, public availability and maintenance of mapping information are needed.

### 3.2.2 OPPORTUNITIES

- 1) Expansion of usage in vast technical areas such as XML, Java, Internet, eGovernment etc and in a very broad global business application environment that positively impacts developed as well as developing countries such as the U.S., Japan, China, Cambodia, Ethiopia, and many others.
- 2) Consolidation and harmonization of huge coded character sets.
- 3) Infrastructure for improvement of information and communication technology in developing countries and areas.

### 3.3 WORK PROGRAM PRIORITIES

- 1) 10646 AMD 1
- 2) 10646 AMD 2
- 3) 14651 AMD 2

All working programs have been developed simultaneously, and 14651 should catch up the modification and addition of 10646 as quickly as possible.