Proposal for the Generation Panel for the Chinese Script Label Generation Ruleset for the Root Zone

**1. General Information**

Chinese script is the logograms used in the writing of Chinese and some other Asian languages. They are called Hanzi in Chinese, Kanji in Japanese and Hanja in Korean.

Since the Hanzi unification in the Qin dynasty (221-207 B.C.), the most important change in the Chinese Hanzi occurred in the middle of the 20th century when more than two thousand Simplified characters were introduced as official forms in Mainland China.

As a result, the Chinese language has two writing systems: Simplified Chinese (SC) and Traditional Chinese (TC). Both systems are expressed using different subsets under the Unicode definition of the same Han script. The two writing systems use SC and TC respectively while sharing a large common “unchanged” Hanzi subset that occupies around 60% in contemporary use. The common “unchanged” Hanzi subset enables a simplified Chinese user to understand texts written in traditional Chinese with little difficulty and vice versa. The Hanzi in SC and TC have the same meaning and the same pronunciation and are typical variants.

The Japanese kanji were adopted for recording the Japanese language from the 5th century AD. Chinese words borrowed into Japanese could be written with Chinese characters, while Japanese words could be written using the character for a Chinese word of similar meaning. Finally, in Japanese, all three scripts (kanji, and the hiragana and katakana syllabaries) are used as main scripts.

The Chinese script spread to Korea together with Buddhism from the 2nd century BC to the 5th century AD. In times past, until the 15th century, in Korea, Literary Chinese was the dominant form of written communication, prior to the creation of Hangul, the Korean alphabet. In the modern Hangul-based Korean writing system, Chinese characters are no longer officially used to represent native morphemes, but still sometimes used by a few Korean people in daily life.

Historically, Chinese characters were also used in Mongolia and Vietnam, but not any more. Accordingly, the Chinese Generation Panel does not take into account the usage of Chinese scripts within Mongolia and Vietnam.

**2 Countries with Significant User Communities for Chinese Script**

Chinese script is used for writing a diverse set of languages across East Asia and South East Asia. Some major countries and regions using Chinese script are depicted in this map:



|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Traditional Chinese script used exclusively or almost exclusively (Taiwan, Macau and Hong Kong) |
|  | Simplified Chinese script used formally but Traditional script still used widely (Malaysia) |
|  | Simplified Chinese script used exclusively or almost exclusively (Mainland China and Singapore) |
|  | Chinese script used in conjunction with other systems of writing in the same language, Kanji (Japan) |
|  | Chinese script no longer officially used, Hanja (Republic of Korea)  |

**3 Target Script and Scope**

**3.1 Target Script: Hani**

In ISO 15924, the script for Chinese Language is mainly defined in this specification:

 ISO 15924 code: **Hani**

 ISO 15924 no.: 500

 English Name: Han (Hanzi, Kanji, Hanja)

Given that Simplified Chinese characters and Traditional Chinese characters are treated as exchangeable variants, Hani can be regarded as consisting of two subsets:

 ISO 15924 code: **Hans**

 ISO 15924 no.: 501

 English Name: Han (Simplified variant)

 ISO 15924 code: **Hant**

 ISO 15924 no.: 502

 English Name: Han (Traditional variant)

**3.2 Principal Languages using the Script**

Considering many Chinese Characters are used in Japan and Korea, Hani is also referred to as hanzi in Mandarin Chinese, kanji in Japanese and hanja in Korean.

Han is used to write Japanese (kanji) in addition to two other scripts (hiragana and katakana), together known as Jpan (ISO 15924 code). Another application is hanja in Korean in addition to the hangul script, together known as Kore (ISO 15924 code).

 The relationship between hanzi, kanji and hanja is as shown below:

Kanji

Hanja

Hiragana + Katakana+

+Hangul

**3.3 Scope: CJK Unified Ideographs and extension A**

Because the Chinese, Japanese and Korean (CJK) scripts share the common background of the Chinese script, the common and shared characters were identified and named "CJK Unified Ideographs" in the process of ‘Han Unification’.

Since 1990, tens of thousands of Chinese hanzi, Japanese kanji and Korean hanja have been merged into CJK Unified Ideographs and their Extensions in ISO/IEC 10646 and Unicode. Unicode defines a total of 74,617 CJK Unified characters:

 *CJK Unified Ideographs: 4E00–9FFF*

 *CJK Unified Ideographs Extension A: 3400–4DBF*

 *CJK Unified Ideographs Extension B: 20000-2A6DF*

 *CJK Unified Ideographs Extension C: 2A700-2B73F*

 *CJK Unified Ideographs Extension D: 2B740–2B81F*

MSR-1 includes CJK, CJK-A and a minor part of CJK-B (19,849 characters among U+3447~U+29D98). The complete character set for the Chinese script in the IANA IDN tables from .CN, .TW, and .JP all fall in the ranges of CJK and CJK-A.

**3.4 The Best Practice: CDNC Character Set and Guide Rule**

On May 19th, 2000, the Chinese Domain Name Consortium (CDNC) was set up in Beijing by four NICs: CNNIC, TWNIC, HKNIC and MONIC. CDNC members also include Afilias, dotAsia, CONAC, KNET, and individual scholars and engineers from the Chinese language internet community. As an independent non-profit organization, CDNC is mainly in charge of the coordination and regulation of Chinese domain names around the world.

In 2004, according to RFC 3743 and RFC 4713, CDNC submitted to IANA a unified Chinese Character Set (19,320 characters) for domain name registration, building up mapping relationships between any given simplified character, its traditional character(s) and its variant(s).

Based on RFC 3743 and RFC 4713, the CDNC Character Set, and Chinese ccTLDs’ experience, CDNC put forwards its guiding rules for Chinese domain name registration:

* The IDL and its Variant Labels SHOULD belong to the same registrant.
* The Simplified Chinese form and Traditional Chinese form of the applied-for IDL SHOULD be resolvable simultaneously or non-resolvable at all.[[1]](#footnote-1)

In 2013, among 76 Chinese new gTLD applications, 32 applications abide by the CDNC Character Set and guiding rules.

Owing to the above factors, CGP would like to propose that the CDNC Character Set be treated as the initial character set of the CGP.

**4 Variants Coordination between C, J and K**

As introduced above, different panels (C, J and K) have different views about the variants corresponding to the same Chinese character. This will accordingly impact on the regulation of Chinese script sets and rules for Chinese domain name registration (even results in conflicts during IDN TLD registration). In the following, this problem is explained from the aspects of Chinese, Japanese and Korean languages.

**Chinese:**

In the Chinese language, there are two types of variant:

The first type is created by regional variations in the standard writing system. There are now two common writing systems: Simplified Chinese and Traditional Chinese. Both writing systems use different subsets of the same Unicode Han script, and they are not mutually exclusive to each other.

The second type is the generic variant. Several Chinese characters have other forms that are slightly different visually, but are treated the same and have universal interchangeability. This relationship of interchangeability is much stronger than the relationship between the Traditional and Simplified forms.

This understanding and variants mapping relationship have been reflected in the CDNC Character Set, the IANA IDN table for .CN and .TW.

**Japanese**

There are more than 6,000 kanji characters used in Japan, 2,000 of which are regularly used. Among those 2,000 kanji characters, some of them are in a simplified form (called the “new character form”), derived from the traditional imported form (called the “old character form”).

For Chinese characters used in Japanese (Kanji), it is appropriate to distinguish new and old forms as different and independent characters instead of handling them as variants. This understanding has been reflected in the IANA IDN table developed by the .JP registry, JPRS, in which no variants are identified for Kanji.

**Korean**

Hanja are no longer widely used in the ROK. A law enacted on April 14th, 2011 orders all ROK official government documents to be written only in Hangul. Hanja or other scripts can only be written within parentheses if allowed by presidential decree. Though many Korean words are derived from Hanja, they are usually written in Hangul.

Staff from the Korea Internet & Security Agency, the registry operator for the .KR ccTLD, stated that its IDN policy does not allow Hanja as reflected by the language table it submitted to IANA, and they have no intention of allowing the use of Hanja in their domestic market.

Thus a coordination scheme between different panels is needed if we expect unified Chinese script generation rules in the DNS root zone. However, if the Chinese script (Hanja) is no longer widely used in the ROK (*we still need conformation of this from the KGP*), this issue turns into coordination mainly between the CGP and the JGP. During the last CDNC meeting in Shanghai (May, 2014), we were glad to see a coordination scheme proposed by the Integration Panel. Its basic principles are:

***Each CJK panel creates an LGR and each LGR includes a repertoire and variants.***

***If an LGR includes Han characters, the variant mappings must agree for all three panels.***

***The variant types may be different and then the related repertoires may be different.***

Based on these principles, we can easily and clearly differentiate conflicting variants mapping rules and then a compatible solution to the coordination issue is possible in the near future.

**5 Proposed Initial Composition of the Panel**

**5.1 Panel Chair and Members**

The current membership of the Chinese Script Generation Panel (CGP) includes the following (in alphabetical order). All the members will be members of the Generation Panel for Chinese script LGR for the Root zone.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **No.** | **Name** | **Designation** | **Organization** | **Country/Region** | **Language Expertise** |
| **1** | Chris Dillon | Mr | University College London | UK | Chinese/Japanese/Korean |
| **2** | Di Ma | Dr | ZDNS | China | Chinese |
| **3** | Guoying Li | Dr | Beijing Normal University | China | Chinese |
| **4** | Jonathan Shea | Mr | HKIRC | Hong Kong | Chinese |
| **5** | JosephYee | Mr | Afilias | Canada | Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese, (Familiar with Japanese) |
| **6** | Kenny Huang | Dr | TWNIC | Taiwan | Chinese |
| **7** | Linlin Zhou | Ms | CNNIC | China | Chinese |
| **8** | Nai-Wen Hsu | Dr | TWNIC | Taiwan | Chinese |
| **9** | Wei Wang | Dr | CNNIC | China | Chinese |
| **10** | Xiaodong Lee | Dr | CNNIC | China | Chinese |
| **11** | Zheng Wang | Dr | CONAC | China | Chinese |
| **12** | Joe Zhang | Dr | Beijing UniHan Digital Technology Co., Ltd. | China | ChineseJapaneseKorean |
| **13** | JiaguiXie | Mr | CONAC | China | Chinese |

**5.2 Panel Diversity**

The Generation Panel (GP) for the Chinese Script LGR gathers experts from a variety of backgrounds (bringing varied linguistic and technical perspectives), including those who are national and regional policy makers, members from the technical community directly working with the DNS (e.g. registries and registrars), security, academia (technical and linguistic), members of community based organizations, and members with experience of local language studying.

Geographically, the GP for the Chinese script has members from across the relevant regions, including East Asia and Southeast Asia. There are also experts from non-Chinese-speaking regions but equipped with profound knowledge in oriental languages as well as culture. The members belong to seven different countries/regions from these areas. The members and their expert backgrounds are listed as follows:

1. **Wei Wang** is the chair of CGP. He is the deputy chief engineer of CNNIC and former deputy director of CNNIC. As the co-secretary of CDNC, he worked as a member of ICANN’s Chinese VIP team. His expert background in Chinese domain name registration and management helps to control the overall progress of the CGP, and to propose and evaluate the key schemes and policies.
2. **Kenny Huang** is the co-chair of the CGP, in charge of the coordination between C, J and K. He is on the APNIC executive council, the DotAsia advisory council and is a TWNIC board director and chair of the International Affair Committee. He worked as the APNIC policy SIG chair from 2002 to 2007 and on ICANN’s ASO Address Council from 2001 to 2011. He is the co-author of IETF RFC 3743. He is an IDN expert and helps to coordinate with the JGP and KGP to regulate Chinese variant mapping rules.
3. **Xiaodong Lee** is a policy expert. He is the CEO and CTO of CNNIC. He acts as the former vice president of ICANN and is also the organizer of several international and domestic technology standards in the fields of domain names and email. He is the co-author of RFC 4713 and is the CGP’s policy expert.
4. **Jeo Zhang** is a linguistic expert. From 1989 to 2003, he was the key developer of ISO/IEC 10646, chaired the CJK group as CJK JRG, and is an IRG rapporteur and contributing editor. As the CEO of UniHan Digital Technology, he acts as the invited researcher of the Language Application Institute under the Ministry Education of China. His background of Chinese language and Chinese culture provides support for variants set regulation.
5. **Chris Dillon** is a linguistic expert. He was a member of ICANN’s Chinese VIP team. He was a member of the joint ccNSO/gNSO IDN working group, is Co-Chair of the GNSO’s Translation and Transliteration PDP WG and provides linguistic advices to the CGP. As a non-native Chinese linguist, he provides valuable professional opinions from the European community.
6. **Guoying Li** is a linguistic expert. He is the Vice-Dean of the School of Chinese Language and Literature of Beijing Normal University. He is also the director of the Research Center of Classification and Standardization of Chinese Characters, supported by Beijing Normal University and the Language and Information Division, Ministry of Education of China.
7. **Jonathan Shea** is a registry/registrar expert. He is the CEO of HKIRC and HKDNR. He was a member of ICANN’s Chinese VIP team. From 2012, he was a member of the Joint ccNSO/gNSO IDN Working Group. He is the representative of registries/registrar in Hong Kong and also provides advice for the regulation of variants set and rules.
8. **Di Ma** is a community representative. He is the laboratory director of the Internet Domain Name System Beijing Engineering Research Centre (ZDNS). He is the key research engineer of KNET, whose back-end platform hosta over 20 new gTLDs including more than 10 Chinese gTLDs.
9. **Jiagui Xie** is a DNS/IDNA/Unicode expert. He is the director of the new gTLD Lab in CONAC (the 政务 and 公益 new gTLD Registry). He has rich experience in DNS/gTLD/ccTLD/IDN and EPP technologies.
10. **Joseph Yee** is a DNS/IDNA/Unicode expert. He works for Afilias and is also an expert in Japanese language and provides advice for Chinese characters usage in the Japanese language.
11. **Nai-Wen Hsu** is a DNS/IDNA/Unicode expert. He is the technical department director at TWNIC and co-author of RFC4713. He helps to evaluate the variant mapping rules.
12. **Linlin Zhou** is a DNS/IDNA/Unicode expert. She is the author of several Whois-related IETF drafts with working-group status.
13. **Zheng Wang** is a community representative. He is the director of joint labs in CONAC and is also the architect of CONAC’s registry system. He is a member of ICANN’s Internationalized Registration Data Working Group.

**6 Relationship with Past Work or Working Groups**

In April 2004, the Joint Engineering Team (JET), a group composed of members of CNNIC, TWNIC, KRNIC, and JPNIC as well as other individual experts, produced RFC 3743, "Joint Engineering Team (JET) Guidelines for Internationalized Domain Names (IDN) Registration and Administration for Chinese, Japanese and Korean", a guideline for zone administrators, including but not limited to registry operators and registrars and information for all domain names holders on the administration of domain names that contain characters drawn from the Chinese, Japanese, and Korean scripts. It includes various concepts for variant handling, such as bundling, atomic IDL Packages, and reserved variants. It also defines a standard table as well as an algorithm to generate the preferred variant and reserved variants. The key mechanisms of this specification utilize a three-column table, called a Language Variant Table, for each language permitted to be registered in the zone.

Collectively, CDNC has devised solutions to handle Chinese domain name variants, such as the bundling of Simplified Chinese (SC) and Traditional Chinese (TC) (“TC-SC Equivalence”) domain names — as defined by the JET in RFC 3743 (April 2004) and for the Chinese language as defined in RFC 4713 (October 2006) — and delegating both to any registrant who applies for either Simplified or Traditional Chinese domain names. CDNC’s registration policy on handling TC-SC Equivalence is widely accepted. CDNC IDN Table 1, developed by many Chinese linguistic and domain name experts over the last 10 years is currently adopted by the Chinese, Taiwanese, Hong Kong, Macau and Singaporean governments, as well as by many new gTLD applicants. With over a decade of operating experience, CDNC’s TC-SC Equivalence solution is the best market-proven practice for handling Chinese variants in domain names.

**7 Work Plan**

**7.1 Suggested Timeline with Significant Milestones**

The Generation Panel intends to divide the work on the LGR for the Root zone into four stages:

1. Finalization of Code Points

2. Finalization of Variants

3. Finalization of Whole Label Rules

4. Finalization of LGR Documents for Chinese Script and Submission to ICANN

In the first phase of each stage, the general principles and framework will be decided, on which further decisions will be based. After the principles are finalized, in the second phase the data (character repertoire, variants, and labels) will be analyzed to make concrete decisions. Finally, at each stage, the output will be released to the wider community (including ICANN and the IP) for feedback. Each of the four tasks above will be finalized after one or more public comment periods.

It is anticipated that the work will take at least half a calendar year. The tentative work plan is depicted in the chart below. Though the chart depicts a linear progression, it is understood that in reality at each stage discussion and feedback will incrementally and cyclically develop the previous portion(s) of the work as well, including both principles and data. Further, though it is anticipated that the work will finish in 2014, the actual time may vary based on the feedback received by the community and the IP at various stages and phases of the work and may conclude before ICANN51 in Los Angeles in October 2014.

**7.2 Proposed Schedule of Meeting and Teleconferences**

Most of the work will be accomplished through the email list. The task force will be holding regular teleconferences, for the period of the work. In addition, the task force will also organize face-to-face meetings during the discussions on variants (in a series of meetings of CDNC or ICANN in 2014) and then towards the end of the work (in October 2014).

**7.3 Sources of Funding for Travel and Logistics**

Foremost, all the members of the panel will be volunteering their time for this purpose. The work has travel and logistic support requirements. ICANN will support the logistics of the group (e.g. conference calls, assisting in coordination, wiki pages for posting information, etc.) to a limited extent. Members of the working group are encouraged to find sources of funding to attend face-to-face meeting(s) related to the GP. ICANN might be able to fund a limited number of those members who are active in the proceedings of the working group, and will also provide support for remote participation for the members not able to attend the meeting(s).

**7.4 Need for ICANN Provided Advisors**

No advisors are needed at this time, based on earlier discussions and experience during the case study on Chinese Script Issues. ICANN will be requested for advisors, if the need arises during the discussions for the development of the LGR for the Root zone. At ICANN 49 (Singapore) and ICANN 50 (London), meeting agendas on the GP may be necessary.

(The Generation Panel will remain active after the finalization of the LGR documents to continue to address comments from the community, ICANN, and the Integration Panel.)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Task** | **Duration** | **Start** | **Finish** |
| **LGR for Chinese Script** | **159 days** | **14-Mar-14** | **16-Oct-14** |
| **Joint Conference of CGP and CDNC** | 2days | 14-Mar-14 | 16-Mar-14 |
|  Discussion of members |
|  Discussion of proposal |
| **Formation of Generation Panel** | 14days | 17-Mar-14 | 29-Mar-14 |
|  Introduce members |
|  Finalization of proposal |
|  Application to ICANN for formation of LGR |
|  ICANN 49 Singapore |
| **Character Set** | **42 days** | **30-Mar-14** | **25-May-14** |
|  ***Definition of General Principles*** | 11 days | 30-Mar-14 | 11-Apr-14 |
|  For inclusion |
|  For exclusion |
|  For deferral |
|  Interaction with IG for feedback |
|  ***Analysis of Data*** | 15 days | 14-Apr-14 | 2-May-14 |
|  Included in Chinese Script IDNs |
|  Excluded from Chinese Script IDNs |
|  Interaction with IG for feedback |
|  Documenting character set in MSR |
| **Release for Public Comments: Character Set for LGR** | 10 days | 05-May-14 | 16-May-14 |
| **Incorporation of Comments by Public and IG** | 5 days | 19-May-14 | 27-May-14 |
| **2nd Joint Conference of CDNC and CGP** | 1 day | 28-May-14 | 28-May-14 |
| **Variants** | **42 days** | **05-May-14** | **27-Jun-14** |
|  ***Definition of General Principles*** | 12 days | 05-May-14 | 20-May-14 |
|  What is a variant |
|  What is not a variant |
|  Typology of variants |
|  ***Interaction with JGP and KGP*** | 5 days | 07-May-14 | 13-May-14 |
|  ***Interaction with IG for Feedback*** | 5 days | 14-May-14 | 20-May-14 |
|  ***Analysis of Data*** | 20 days | 21-May-14 | 16-Jun-14 |
| Initial analysis |
|  Second review of variants |
|  Finalization of variants with dispositions |
|  Documenting variants in the MSR |
| **Release for Public Comment: Variant Rules** | 5 days | 17-Jun-14 | 22-Jun-14 |
| **Incorporation of Comments by Public and IG** | 5 days | 23-Jun-14 | 27-Jun-14 |
| **ICANN 50 (London England)** | 5 days | 22-Jun-14 | 26-Jun-14 |
| **Whole label Rules** | **60 days** | **17-Jun-14** | **5-Sep-14** |
|  ***Definition of General Principles*** | 20 days | 17-Jun-14 | 11-Jul-14 |
|  Scope of whole label rules |
|  Typology of variants |
|  Interaction with JGP and KGP |
|  Interaction with IG for Feedback |
|  ***Analysis of Data*** | 20 days | 14-Jul-14 | 8-Aug-14 |
|  Initial analysis |
|  Second review of label rules |
|  Finalization of whole label rules |
|  Documenting whole label rules |
|  ***Release for Public Comment  Whole Label Variant Rules*** | 10 days | 11-Aug-14 | 22-Aug-14 |
|  ***Incorporation of Comments  by Public and IG*** | 10 days | 25-Aug-14 | 5-Sep-14 |
| **Finalization of LGR Documents** | 30 days | 08-Sep-14 | 16-Oct-14 |
|  ***Finalizing Document*** |
|  ***Finalizing LGR XML Structure*** |
|  ***Submission to ICANN*** |
| **ICANN 51 (L.A. CA USA)** | 5 days | 12-Oct-14 | 16-Oct-14 |

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