

TO: Unicode Technical Committee

FROM: Deborah Anderson

DATE: 27. January 2005

RE: Liaison report, Script Encoding Initiative, UC Berkeley Dept. of Linguistics

Ongoing Work:

Balinese: Michael Everson's trip to meet with a variety of experts in Bali produced the L2/05-008 (N2908), which was accepted into PDAM2.

Avestan and Manichaean: Michael Everson traveled to Iran and worked on Avestan and Manichaean. A final proposal will, hopefully, be readied soon. A few outstanding issues remain.

Medieval (European) texts: There will be a meeting in Lisbon in March between Michael Everson and some medievalists (including Odd Einar Haugen, Norway and António Emiliano, Spain). Michael will be working on a proposal for those characters which he feels eligible.

Latin epigraphic symbols: A meeting at the IUC in Berlin with Marcus Dohnicht on specific needs of Latin epigraphers will take place.

Indic Scripts: A trip to India for Michael Everson to work with script experts on Saurashtra and Meitei scripts was postponed indefinitely due to the timing of funding. A proposal to UNESCO has been submitted. The trip was being coordinated by Peri Bhaskararao. In the meantime, all contacts in India have sent messages reflecting interest in seeing the meeting take place in the near future.

Phonetic symbols: In an effort to encourage linguists devising orthographies to use already encoded Unicode characters, Unicode Technical Note #19 was written (in conjunction with Rick McGowan and Ken Whistler). Notification was sent to SIL, NEH, NSF, DOBES, E-MELD/LinguistList, all projects involved in documenting endangered languages.

Follow-up Activities:

N'Ko: As a prerequisite of UNESCO funding, follow-up activities are needed. A proposal for funding to pay for CLDR work on N'Ko and font development is pending at UNESCO.

NEH Award

The National Endowment for the Humanities has provided funding for work on Unicode scripts for two years, beginning 1 January 2005. The NEH project (renamed *Universal Scripts Project* for the NEH), will support work on historic scripts and modern minority scripts.

The historic scripts slated for work include Egyptian hieroglyphs (with additional financial assistance promised by the University of Chicago/University of Michigan) and several Anatolian scripts. For modern minority scripts, funding will go to support work on Vai, Myanmar extensions, Lanna, P. Hmong, Cham, Chakma, Lepcha, Ol Chiki, Meitei, and Saurashtra.

These scripts were chosen because they have local or scholarly contacts, and basic research on them has been done. I have been in contact with SIL to encourage collaboration whenever possible and to prevent duplication of effort.

If the work is completed under budget and before the two-year timeframe, other scripts will be encoded. A re-application to NEH for additional funding is possible in the second year, if the initial project proves successful.