

## Roundtable Discussion

### Chairman's remarks:

1. **Isolation** from international standardization process Industrial standards may be handled by vendors but language must be handled by the people.
2. **Lack of government actions** – awareness, bodies to support IT standards development. Myanmar and Cambodia are now starting. Lao and Nepal still need more encouragement.
3. **Small domestic market problem** – leads to lack of commercial attractions, diversified proprietary, protected implementations
4. **Information sharing** among experts in the country. Disagreement between computer and language experts.
5. **Invisible de-facto standards** are appearing. . PAS - publicly available standards can be submitted to ISO process easier than the more bureaucratic national bodies. This might be a threat to developing countries.

### Participants' remarks

#### 1 What we have learned so far

- The forum is very useful to participating countries. Assistance from Japan CICC is effective (new code standards are proposed to ISO).
- Need more participants from each country
- ISO/IEC JTC1/SC2 internal politics, want to learn more about any hidden untransparency
- Knowledge, documentations about other countries and the ISO. The information is useful for further work and give motivation. [Pk]
- Interest in creating standards for minority languages [Nepal]

#### 2 Our problems

- lack of governmental organization support, low awareness in IT in government
- low in continuation of work
- lack of human resources in standard development
- customer locked-in practices by using proprietary systems [Lao]
- miscommunications between linguists and computer specialists. The latter has to

be more knowledgeable on language.[pk]

### 3 Plan and proposal

- CICC seminar in new member countries for making awareness in standardization
- To get deeper understanding of JTC1 and its politics
- To create Asian Language Computing Resources on the web in collaboration with the group under SEARCC (South-east Asian Regional Computer Confederation). The formal description of the project will be provided by Mr. Mikami later. Editorial team will be created by volunteers.
- Mr. Sato's tutorial in this morning is quite informative and it is worth for review the list provided by him in the next AHTS meeting to check our achievement.
- Okinawa IT Summit launched an Initiatives called "e-Asia" or "dot force" etc. The Initiatives would cover many IT applications, including machine translation technology among Asian languages. In this context, discussions were made on approaches how to develop and how to make use of multilingual translation technologies. It was reported that several efforts had been made by Thailand, Malaysia for the last decade, including the CICC's Multilingual Translation Project and the recent initiatives by UNU (UN University in Tokyo).
- Possible engineering framework for joint development should be considered for future multilingual translation.
- To continue this seminar as a forum to share the development in IT in the Asian countries
- Native language access to IT will be one of the most important issues for Asian peoples. Dr. Thaweesak christined this problem "Last Meter Problem".
- "e-ASEAN" project was proposed by Thai government in the last ASEAN meeting. It is recommended to seek support from those recent initiatives by the government.
- Open Source Movement might be an important tools for Asian experts
- In addition to standardization activities, demonstration, prototyping and distribution of useful software and other resources is important
- For developing countries, it is still costly to participate to the ISO activities. Lack of resources make difficulties for their participation. The most important thing is to keep contact and get informed of the recent developments in ISO process. Although e-balloting and other virtual processes are discussed and will be implemented in future, still face to face contact is important. In that sense, virtual bulletin board on this topic should be created among members.