

Date: May 13, 2011

Title: Comments on Proposal for encoding Naxi Dongba Pictographic script (N4043)

Source: U.S. National Body (INCITS/L2)

Action: For consideration

This document is in response to JTC1/SC2/WG2 N4043 "Revised Proposal for Encoding Naxi Dongba Pictographic Script."

We have several questions and comments on the proposal:

1. What is intent of representing text electronically? The U.S. National Body is unclear on why these pictographs should be encoded as characters for electronic text representation. The proposal currently includes no example of the encoding used to represent Naxi Dongba text digitally. Please provide clear in-line print examples.
2. The proposal summary form says that the names are in accordance with the "character naming guidelines" of P&P document. However, the names on pp. 155-182 are missing the script name, for example, "A", "A SHER", etc. The script name needs to be included as a part of each character name.
3. a. The proposal summary form states that Beijing Founder Electronics Co. will provide the font. Is the font that will be provided for publishing the standard the same as that in the proposal? Or will it be a different font?
b. Will this be a TrueType font?
c. Can the Beijing Founder Electronics Co. provide appropriate licensing for the font to be used in publication of the standard?
4. If the encoding is to be used for the digital representation of Naxi Dongba text, how are the 100 volumes of *Naxi Dongba Guki Yizhu Quanji* going to be represented? There are many variants, so how will these be handled?
5. It appears to the USNB that a rendering model will be required to handle the stacking, as shown in the Dongba scriptures (p. 3). The proposal does not address how this would be done. Without making it clear how the characters proposed for encoding relate to requirements for overall text layout, the proposal is not complete.