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What's New in Technical Processing

Committee on East Asian Libraries

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WHAT'S NEW IN TECHNICAL PROCESSING

Computerized Code of Chinese Characters Issued

OW261314 Beijing XINHUA in English 1254 GMT 26 Mar 81

[Text] Beijing, 26 Mar (XINHUA)--A national standard code of Chinese character set designed specially for computer use has been issued by the State Bureau of Standardization and put to use.

The national standard, entitled "Code of Chinese Graphic Character Set for Information Interchange," specifies a primary set of characters with their binary coded representations for Chinese information interchange. The code will apply to Chinese information interchange between general computer information processing systems and communication systems, the bureau said. Based on world standards formulated by International Organization of Standardization, the Chinese primary national standard includes 6,763 general characters, and 682 symbols of ordinal numbers, numerical characters, the Latin alphabet, the Japanese Kana, the Greek alphabet, the Russian alphabet, Chinese phonetic symbols and Chinese phonetic-annotated letters. After publication in pamphlet form and examination by the State Bureau of Standardization, the code will be adopted as the official national standard. Both Chinese and English language editions of the code will be published by the technical standards publishing house and placed on sale in China and abroad.

The supplementary set of the national standard, which is in preparation, will include original complex, variant, ancient and dialect forms of Chinese characters, the bureau said. With completion of both primary and supplementary sets of the national standard, China will develop similar codes for graphic characters of minority languages for information processing systems, the bureau said.

The standard was presented by the Fourth Ministry of Machine Building. A group started working on the project in 1979. The group, comprised of 16 units across China, included the North China Institute of Computing Technology, the Institute of Computing Technology under the Chinese Academy of Sciences and Beijing University. Over the last two years, the group collected and studied technical literature in China and abroad, solicited opinions of several hundred organizations and received help from noted Chinese philologists and information processing specialists.

Characters To Be Registered

OW270258 Beijing XINHUA in English 1251 GMT 26 Mar 81

[Text] Beijing, 26 Mar (XINHUA)--China will apply to the International Organization of Standardization (ISO) for registration of its new code of Chinese graphic characters for computer data systems, the China Association for Standardization said today.

The application for the code, entitled "Code of Chinese Graphic Character Set for Information Interchange (Primary Set)," will be submitted to the ISO technical committee on computer and information processing. After endorsement by the ISO, the code will be recognized as an international standard enabling the adoption of a unified code of the Chinese character set by other countries, the association said.

The code, drafted by the North China Institute of Computing Technology and presented by the Fourth Ministry of Machine Building, has been put to use in China. Meanwhile, the ISO technical committee on standardization of documentation will hold its 19th meeting in Nanjing, east China, March 30 to April 3.

A Chinese delegation consisting of experts on documentation, information, library science and philology will attend the meeting and give briefs on the scientific basis of the new Chinese character computer code.

(From FBIS-PRC, National Affairs, March 27, 1981.
Contributed by Tao-tai Hsia)