

Irish comments on FCD ISO/IEC 10646-1/PDAM 26 (Burmese)

Date: 1998-08-17

Q1: Ireland approves the PDAM registration.

Q2: Ireland approves the draft with the comments given below:

Technical:

1. The character BURMESE SIGN KINZI is not a real character. It is a presentation form of overjoined NGA. It should be deleted from the repertoire.
2. We *strongly* favour the retention of the parenthetical notes found with the character names. These notes present to the user a reversible bibliographical transliteration (as do the Tibetan character names elsewhere in the standard) as well as the pronunciation of those names. This has been the viewpoint of Irish experts since 1993.
3. We would favour the interleaving of the Sanskrit and Pali characters (U+1750-U+1759) into the normal alphabetical sequence of characters to facilitate ordering. There is no justification for keeping them separate from the main sequence, especially in view of the importance of Pali texts in Myanmar.
4. Two characters should be added to the repertoire so that a full complement of Burmese vowels (minus the tone marks which are added to them) is available.

 BURMESE LETTER UI

 BURMESE VOWEL SIGN UI

5. A distinction has been made between the VIRAMA (U+1737) and the KILLER (U+1738). We understand that the KILLER corresponds to an explicit VIRAMA which is normally coded as VIRAMA + ZERO-WIDTH NON-JOINER. In view of the fact that the KILLER is such a high-frequency character, it could be left coded as a separate character. In that case, the VIRAMA should be given a glyph shape which shows clearly that it is intended for conjunct formation. (It is important to note that Burmese users do not recognize the KILLER to be a VIRAMA in the way that Devanagari users recognize the VIRAMA to be a VIRAMA).