



1. Calendar of Events-Year 2002-03

- Association for Machine Translation in America-2002 Conference, Tiburon, California , Oct. 8-12, 2002.
Web : www.amtaweb.org
- National Seminar on 21st Century Reality : Language, Culture & Technology, MGIHU, Delhi, 29-31 Oct. 2002.
Web : www.hindivishwa.nic.in
- LRC-2002 : 7th Annual Localization Conference-econtent Localization, Dublin, Ireland, Nov. 12-13, 2002.
Web : www.localisation.ie
- International Conference on Universal Knowledge & Language, Taj Goa, Fort Aguada, 25-29 November, 2002.
Web : <http://www.cfilt.iitb.ac.in>
- 5th East Asia Forum on Terminology (EAFTerm 2002), HaiKou city, HaiNan Province, China, 8-11 Dec. 2002.
- Language Engineering Conference (LEC-2002), at University of Hyderabad, 13-15 December, 2002.
Web : <http://www.languageTechnologies.ac.in/lec2002.html>
- International Conference on online learning, NCST, Mumbai, 15-17 December, 2002.
Web : www.ncst.ernet.in/vidyakash2002
- ICON (International Conference on NLP) 2002, & International Conference on Knowledge Based Computer Systems, NCST Mumbai, 18-21, Dec. 2002.
Web : <http://www.ncst.org>
- A Workshop on NLP and Applications, Anna University, Chennai, Dec. 10-21, 2002.
Web : <http://annauni.edu>
- Workshop on Spoken Language Processing, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai, Jan. 9-11, 2003.
Web : <http://speech.tifr.res.in>
- Indo Wordnet Workshop, CIIL Mysore, Jan. 14-15, 2003.
Web : <http://www.ciil.org>
- Second International Workshop on Development in Indian Languages (IWTDIL-2003), ISI Kolkata, Jan. 22-24, 2003.
Web : www.isical.ac.in/~cvpr/events
- 13th international workshop on Research issues on Data Engineering: Multilingual Information Management (RIDE-MLIM' 2003), March 10-11, 2003.
Web : <http://www.aztecsoft.com>
- JHU Summer Workshop on Language Engineering, Baltimore, Maryland, USA, from July 14 to Aug. 22, 2003.
Web : <http://www.clsp.jhu.edu/workshops>

Unicode Related Meetings & Events

- UTC#92/L2#189 hosted by Microsoft, Redmond, WA, August 20-23, 2002.
- 22nd International Unicode Conference, San Jose, CA, Sept. 9-13, 2002.
- SC22/WG20 Japan (Tentative), October 2002.
- UTC#93/L2#190 Annual Members Meeting hosted by Compaq, Nashua, NH, November 5-8, 2002.
- IRG # 20 Hanoi, Vietnam, November 18-22, 2002.
- SC2/WG2#43 Tokyo, Japan Dec. 9-13, 2002.
- UTC/L2/IUC Mountain View, CA January 31, 2003.
- SC22/WG20 Busan, Korea (Tentative) Feb. 11-13, 2003.
- UTC#94/L2#191 Mountain View, CA March 4, 5-7, 2003.
- 23rd International Unicode Conference Prague, Czech Republic March 23-28, 2003.
- IRG#21 China April 7-11, 2003.
Web : <http://www.unicode.org/unicode/timesens/calendar.html>
Note : ■ Indicates conferences in India.

2. Reader's Feedback

“Global digital divide among scripts”

*Thanks for including me in your mailing list.
Attached is my short commentary on the theme of VishwaBharat.
I hope we are sharing the same interest.*

Recently I visited a website of the United Nations. The site (<http://www.unhchr.ch/udhr/>) introduces more than three hundred different language versions –from Abkhaz to Zulu!– of the “ Universal Declaration of Human Rights”. The site claims that this text is the most widely translated text in the world, and has been awarded the Guinness World Record for having done this great job. Thus the Universal Declaration is indeed “ the most universal text” in the world.

Try now! and you can find all eighteen Indian official language versions of the 1,778 words text, with only two exceptions – Konkani and Manipuri, But really disappointing for you would be the fact that all-Indian language versions are just posted as “gif” files, not in the form of encoded texts. And actually many other non-Latin scripts users in the world have to feel the same kind of sadness after visiting. Please note that I am not blaming staff of the United Nations at all, rather highly appreciating the great efforts of the staff and many voluntary supporters involved to create such valuable web resources. What I again recognized is the most urgent need of creating “equal opportunities for every language and script users around the globe”.

My recent study based on statistical data provided by the International Telecommunication Union and UNESCO gives a rough sketch of global digital-divide “among script”, Latin alphabet users, 39% of global population, consume 72% of world total writing/printing paper consumption and enjoy 84% of access to the internet. Hanzi-Chinese Ideograph –users in China/Japan/Korea, 22% in global population consumes 23% of paper and have 13% of internet access. Arabic script users, 9% in population consume 0.5% of paper and have 1.2% of Internet access. Cyril script users 5% in population, consume 1.1% of paper and have 1.6% of internet access. Then how about Indic script users? If all Bralmi-origin scripts widely used in southeast Asia-Myanmar, Thai, Lao, Khmer, etc.-included, Indic scripts users occupy 22% of world population, consume 2.2% of paper, and have just 0.3 of internet access.

The University Declaration of Human Rights Article 2 says: “Everyone is entitled to all the right and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language (underline), religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. **TDIL is really needed!**”

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