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TITLE: WG11 Convenor's Report to the Sixth Plenary of SC22, 1993-09-20/24

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STATUS: New

CROSS REFERENCE: N/A

DOCUMENT TYPE: WG Convenor's Report

ACTION: For information to SC22 Member Bodies. This document will be discussed at the Sept/93 Plenary of SC22.

1. Meetings

The following meetings of SC22/WG11 have been held since the last report:

21-23 August 1992	Tampere (Finland)
12-16 October 1992	Paris (France)
26-30 April 1993	Cambridge (MA, U.S.A.)
19-23 July 1993	Amsterdam (Netherlands)

The tight meeting schedule of WG11 over the last year has served its purpose:

— The final text of TR 10182 - Guidelines for Language Bindings (SC22/N1365) has been approved and is now in the hands of ITTF for final publication.

— The (only) NO vote on the second CD 10967-1 - Language Independent Arithmetic, part 1: Integer and Floating Point Arithmetic (SC22/N1263) was resolved during the April 1993 meeting, the text for the DIS was approved in July 1993, and the DIS processing of this document has started.

— The two NO votes on the second CD 11404 - Language Independent Datatypes (SC22/N1305) have been resolved during the July 1993 meeting, and the editors instructions for the DIS were approved. It is hoped that the DIS processing of this document can start by early October 1993.

— During the first CD ballot on Language Independent Procedure Calling (SC22/N1289), this document was approved with comments. Great efforts were undertaken to align this document as much as possible with the SC21 document on Remote Procedure Calling (CD 11578): co-located meetings with the SC21 RPC group were held in October 1992 and April 1993. During the July 1993 meeting, the final editors instructions to produce the text for the first CD were approved. It is hoped that the document to be registered as CD will be available by early November 1993.

The following meeting is planned:

21-25 March 1994   London

It is hoped that by March 1994 DIS ballots on LIA-1 and LID, and the CD ballot on LIPC will be finished.

Note: due to a regrettable omission of the convener, the minutes of the April 1993 meeting have not been sent timely to the SC22 secretariat for distribution to SC22.

2. WG11 Participation

In the previous WG11 convener report to SC22 it was noted that the participation in WG11, and the attendance to WG11 meetings was decreasing. Since then the situation has deteriorated: at this moment the editors of the LID and LIPC documents have no support to attend meetings anymore. They have offered to prepare (as 'off-line' editors) their documents for the next ballot round (as indicated above) but at a lower priority (and hence with delays) than was originally planned. Continuation of support for the next phases is uncertain, and will almost certainly not be implemented with the necessary efficiency and speed.

There are currently four Member Bodies active in WG11: U.S., U.K., Australia and the Netherlands. The number of active participants at meetings has fallen to a maximum of six (3 from the U.S., and 1 from each other country). SC22 Member Bodies are urgently requested to review their support for the WG11 activities.

3. Work Item JTC1.22.14 - Language Bindings Guidelines

The document is finalized, and is in its final publication phase with ITTF.

4. Work Item JTC1.22.16 - Common Procedure Calling Mechanism

Working draft 6 of this document (SC22/N1289) was approved by SC22 for CD registration. The updated version for registration will be available in November 1993.

During the October 1992 and April 1993 meetings much work was done on the alignment of the draft with the emerging RPC drafts.

5. Work Item JTC1.22.17 - Common Language-Independent Datatypes

The 2 NO votes on the 2nd CD (SC22/N1305) were resolved in Amsterdam in July 1993. A revised version will be sent to ITTF for DIS processing in October 1993.

6. Work Item JTC1.22.28 - Language Compatible Arithmetic Standard

On the second CD ballot of CD 10967-1.2 - Language Independent Arithmetic Part 1: Integer and Floating Point Arithmetic (SC22/N1263) one NO vote was registered. This NO vote was resolved during the April 1993 meeting, and an updated version of CD 10967-1 was sent in August 1993 to ITTF for DIS processing.

7. Work Item JTC1.22.33 - Language Compatible Mathematical Procedure Standard

This standard will be published as CD10967-2. The first draft is expected by October 1993. The delay is due to the delay of part 1.

8. Work Item JTC1.22.34 - Language Compatible Complex Arithmetic and Procedure Standard

This standard will be published as CD10967-3. The first draft is expected by spring 1994. The delay is due to the delay of part 1.

9. Language Independent Service Specifications

A NWI proposal for a TR, titled 'Guidelines for the Preparation of Language Independent Service Specifications', has been in ballot in SC22 (SC22/N1376, closing date 1993/08/31). The results are not yet known. It is the intention of WG11 (when the NWI is approved) to develop this TR as a companion document to TR 10182, based on the IEEE TCOS Language Independent Specification Methods document (SC22/N1251). IEEE has granted permission to use this document.

During the July 1993 meeting of WG11, some issues around the documentation structure of LI Specifications and language bindings were discussed. It was recognized that when a LI Service Specification is based on LID and LIPC, and when 'generic' language bindings from a language to LID and LIPC exist, there possibly a need exist for 'very thin' language bindings to that service (example: the very thin POSIX bindings, WG11/N368). However, at this moment neither the POSIX LIS specification, nor the corresponding C binding are written in this fashion.

10. Liaisons

Liaisons exist with the following SC22 WGs: WG2 - Pascal, WG3 - APL, WG4 - COBOL, WG9 - Ada, and WG15 - POSIX. Also, liaison representatives from SC24 (Graphics) and SC26 (Micro Processors) to WG11 have been appointed.

Informal liaisons also exists with SC22/WG13 – Modula-2, SC22/WG17 – Prolog, SC2 – Characters, SC21/WG8 – RPC, and ECMA TC33 – PCTE.

11. SC22/WG11 Milestones

Work Item 22.14 – Language Bindings Guidelines
Milestones: 5.3   93-06   TR published

Work Item 22.16 – Language-Independent Procedure Calling
Milestones: 2.8   93-10   WD approved for registration as CD

Work Item 22.17 – Language-Independent Datatypes
Milestones: 2.8   91-01   WD approved for registration as CD
              3.0   91-05   CD registered
              3.1   91-05   CD study initiated
              3.8   93-10   CD approved for registration as DIS

Work Item 22.28 – Language-Independent Arithmetic, Part 1
Milestones: 3.8   93-04   CD approved for registration as DIS

Work Item 22.33 – Language-Independent Arithmetic, Part 2
Milestones: 2.1   91-09   WD study initiated
                     93-10   First draft circulated
              2.8   94-08   WD draft for CD registration

Work Item 22.34 – Language-Independent Arithmetic, Part 3
Milestones: 2.1   91-09   WD study initiated
                     94-11   First draft circulated
              2.8   95-04   WD draft for CD registration

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