ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 2/WG 2
PROPOSAL SUMMARY FORM TO ACCOMPANY SUBMISSIONS
FOR ADDITIONS TO THE REPERTOIRE OF ISO/IEC 10646 / UNICODE

A. Administrative

1. Title: **Proposal for Encoding Devanagari Glottal Stop**

2. Requesters' names: INCITS/L2, UTC, SIL International (contacts: Peter Constable, Steve Smith)

3. Requester type: Member contribution (L2), liaison contribution (UTC), expert contribution (SIL)

4. Submission date: 2003-06-02

5. Requester's reference (if applicable):

6a. Completion: This is a complete proposal.

6b. More information to be provided

B. Technical—General

1a. New script? Name?

No.

1b. Addition of characters to existing block? Name?

Yes: Devanagari.

2. Number of characters

1

3. Proposed category

Category A

4. Proposed level of implementation and rationale

Level 1.

5a. Character names included in proposal?

Yes.

5b. Character names in accordance with guidelines?

Yes.

5c. Character shapes attached in a reviewable form?

Yes.

6a. Who will provide computerized font?

SIL International

6b. Font currently available?

Yes.

6c. Font format?

TrueType

7a. Are references (to other character sets, dictionaries, descriptive texts, etc) provided?

Yes.

7b. Are published examples (such as samples from newspapers, magazines, or other sources) of use of proposed characters attached?

Yes.

8. Does the proposal address other aspects of character data processing?

This character has no unusual behaviours in relation to text processing, but is comparable to other Devanagari consonant characters.

C. Technical—Justification

1. Has this proposal for addition of character(s) been submitted before?

No.

2. Contact with the user community?

Yes.

3. Information on the user community for the proposed characters (for example: size, demographics, information technology use, or publishing use) is included?

The user community for this character are speakers of Limbu that write their language using Devanagari script.

As reported in "Revised proposal to encode the Limbu script in the UCS" (WG2/N2410, L2/02-055), while there is a distinct Limbu script, far more Limbus are literate in Nepali than in Limbu. For this reason, many Limbu publications use both Limbu and Devanagari scripts. The use of Devanagari script for Limbu is evidenced in digitized samples provided herein, digitized samples provided in N2410, and also in the Limbu-Nepali-English Dictionary (Subba, B.B., 1979).

3b. Reference

WG2/N2410 (L2/02-055). Revised proposal to encode the Limbu script in the UCS."

Subba, B.B., 1979. *Limbu Nepali English Dictionary*. Gangtok, Govt. of Sikkim, Directorate of Education. [Limbu and Devanagari scripts.]

4a. The context of use for the proposed characters (type of use; common or rare)?

In common use for Limbu materials published using Devanagari script.

4b.Reference

5. Are the proposed characters in current use by the user community?

Yes.

5b. Where?

Nepal and India.

5c. Reference

6. After giving due considerations to the principles in N 1352 must the proposed characters be entirely in the BMP?

Yes.

6b. Rationale

Living script.

6c. Reference

7. Should the proposed characters be kept together in a contiguous range (rather than being scattered)?

N/A.

8. Can any of the proposed characters be considered a presentation form of an existing character or character sequence?

No.

9a. Can any of the proposed character(s) be considered to be similar (in appearance or function) to an existing character?

In some typefaces, the character is similar in appearance to U+0294 LATIN LETTER GLOTTAL STOP, and in Limbu it is used to signify a glottal stop. In some typefaces, however, it appears with the matra line. There is a likelihood that implementations for Devanagari script would not be able to accommodate Devanagari text with an intermingled Latin character. Moreover, one of the design principles for the Universal character set is not to unify characters across scripts. For these reasons, a distinct DEVANAGARI GLOTTAL STOP character is preferable.

10a. Does the proposal include use of combining characters and/or use of composite sequences (see clause 4.11 and 4.13 in ISO/IEC 10646-1)?

No.

10b. If YES, is a rationale for such use provided?

N/A.

10c. Reference

N/A.

10d. Is a list of composite sequences and their corresponding glyph images (graphic symbols) provided?

N/A.

10e. Reference

N/A.

11. Does the proposal contain characters with any special properties such as control function or similar semantics? If YES, describe in detail (include attachment if necessary).

N/A.

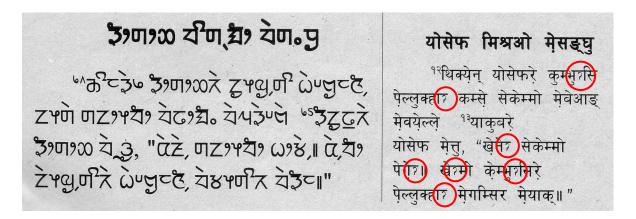## D. Proposed Characters

The following character is proposed:

Name	Representative glyph
U+097D DEVANAGARI GLOTTAL STOP	

Unicode character properties for this character should be the same as those for other Devanagari consonant characters.

Note: this proposal was approved by UTC 94/L2 191: "[94-C24] Consensus: Accept the character "DEVANAGARI GLOTTAL STOP" as described in document L2/02-394 for encoding at U+097D post Unicode 4.0."

E. Illustrative samples

Source: Tongsing tokma mundhum ['Tongsing Ritual']. Bairagi Kainla. 2052 B.S. [1995-1996]. Royal Nepal Academy, Kathmandu. (Obtained from N2410.)

Source: सुरुवात ३- योसेफको जीवनी र कथा ['*The beginning 3- life story of Joseph*'] Isai Yakthung Sapsak Thobo Yokchum. 1998. International Bible Society.