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# **ISO/IEC JTC 1 Special Working Group on Accessibility (SWG-A)**

## **JTC 1 SWG-A N 350**

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# **JTC 1 SWG – Accessibility**

Karen Higginbottom – Convener  
Jennifer Garner – Secretariat

November 2008  
Nara, Japan

[www.jtc1access.org](http://www.jtc1access.org)

# Establishment and ToR

**The JTC 1 Special Working Group on Accessibility (SWG-A) was established at the October 2004 JTC 1 Plenary meeting in Berlin, Germany ([Resolution 24](#)):**

JTC 1 believes that the work in the area of information communication and technology standardization for accessibility is a major undertaking, encompassing many international, regional and local interests. Additionally, there are significant standards efforts taking place in ISO, IEC, ITU and the national and regional standards bodies as well as various consortia/fora and user groups.

As identified in its long term business plan and to be responsive to international, regional, national, and end user requirements in the area of accessibility, JTC 1 establishes a Special Working Group on Accessibility with the following Terms of Reference:

The SWG will:

- determine an approach, and implement, the gathering of user requirements, being mindful of the varied and unique opportunities (direct participation of user organizations, workshops, liaisons)
- identify a mechanism to work proactively between meetings to make forward progress
- gather and publish an inventory of all known accessibility standards efforts
- identify areas/technologies where voluntary standards are not being addressed and suggest an appropriate body to consider the new work
- track public laws, policies/measures and guidelines to ensure the necessary standards are available
- through wide dissemination of the SWG materials, encourage the use of globally relevant voluntary standards
- assist consortia/fora, if desired, in submitting their specifications to the formal standards process

Membership in the SWG will be open to:

- ISO/IEC JTC 1 National Bodies and Category A Liaisons
- ISO/IEC JTC 1 SCs with accessibility efforts or concerns (such as SC 35, SC 36, SC 37)

- ISO or IEC TCs with accessibility efforts or concerns (such as ISO TC 159)
- ITU-T SGs with interests/efforts in accessibility
- Regional standard development and support organizations with accessibility efforts/concerns (such as ICT SB DATSCG, ETSI HF, ITI, ANEC, CEN TC 224)
- Representatives of consortia/fora (for example, but not limited to) W3C's WAI, FSG Accessibility Workgroup, the International Ergonomics Association
- Consumer Organizations and User Representatives (the SWG will be responsible for determining the most appropriate method to identify and engage such recognized activities)

The SWG on Accessibility will meet twice a year. To demonstrate the achievements of the group, a status report will be submitted to JTC 1 after each SWG meeting as well as at each JTC 1 Plenary.

# Task Groups

- **Task Group 1 on User Requirements -**  
Dr. John Gill (UK) and Mr. Michael Takemura (US)
- **Task Group 2 on Accessibility Standards Inventory and Gap Analysis -**  
Mr. Alex Li (US)

# 2008 Ad Hoc Activities

## **AH 13 on Policies and Scoping of Accessibility for Web Sites and Content for ISO and IEC Work – Ms. Josée Auber (France)**

- The ad hoc will complete the response to [SWG-A N 315](#) (JTC 1 Chairman's correspondence concerning JTC 1 web site accessibility issues), allowing several days for feedback only on scoping of the work between ISO, IEC, and National Bodies; and on ongoing interaction between the ad hoc and responsible parties.
- The ad hoc will also provide feedback to ISO/IEC staff on the development of an accessibility policy, and may be available to coach/mentor ISO/IEC staff in the translation of the accessibility policy into associated procedures to implement accessible web sites.
- The leader of Ad Hoc 13 will work with the JTC 1 ITSIG Liaison to convey the SWG-A's inputs on the ISO e-Services Guide.



# **2008 Meeting**

**June 2008 – Tokyo, Japan** - hosted by the National Body of Japan (Japanese Industrial Standards Committee (JISC)) and the Information Processing Society of Japan/Information Technology Standards Commission of Japan (IPSJ/ITSCJ)

# 2008 Participation

- **9 National Bodies:** Australia, Canada, Denmark, France, Japan, Norway, Republic of Korea, United Kingdom, United States
- **3 JTC 1 Subcommittees:** SC 29, SC 35, SC 36
- **1 ITU-T SG:** ITU-T SG 16
- **2 Regional standard development and support organizations:** ETSI HF STF 333, ITI
- **2 Consortia/fora:** Linux Foundation, W3C/Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI)
- **1 Consumer Organizations, User Representatives and other interested parties:** Visual Impairment Knowledge Centre

# Presentations and Reports Received in 2008

- ITU-T SG 16 Liaison Officer
- TEITAC Liaison Officer
- IEC TC 100 Liaison Officer
- Danish National Body Report on Accessibility Standardization
- Japanese National Body Report on Accessibility Standardization
- Korean National Body Report on Accessibility Standardization
- Joint Steering Group Coordinating the Work of CEN/CENELEC and ETSI on Mandate M/376 - European Accessibility Requirements for Public Procurement on Products and Services in the ICT Domain
- ETSI HF STF 333 (EC Mandate 376)
- W3C/WAI Initiatives Update

# Major Accomplishments

- PDTR Ballots for SWG-A Deliverables initiated 30 October 2007 and closed 29 February 2008
- PDTR BRMs conducted at June 2008 SWG-A Plenary
- DTR ballots initiated 11 July 2008 and close 12 October 2008
  - [ISO/IEC DTR 29138-1](#), “Information Technology — Accessibility Considerations for People with Disabilities — Part 1: User Needs Summary”
  - [ISO/IEC DTR 29138-2](#), “Information Technology – Accessibility Considerations for People with Disabilities – Part 2: Standards inventory”
  - [ISO/IEC DTR 29138-3](#), “Information Technology – Accessibility Considerations for People with Disabilities – Part 3: Guidance on User Needs Mapping”

# Resolutions of Note

## **SWG-A 2008 Tokyo Resolution 17: Request for JTC 1 Subcommittee Chairmen to Report on Responses to the New Work Item Question Regarding Accessibility** (see [JTC 1 N 9259](#))

Considering that the JTC 1 Special Working Group on Accessibility had requested that a specific question regarding accessibility be included on the JTC 1 Directives Annex G3 New Work Item Proposal form, the SWG respectfully requests that the JTC 1 Subcommittee Chairmen include information on the responses to this accessibility question in their reports to the November 2008 JTC 1 Plenary. The SWG on Accessibility will evaluate the results of this information at their next meeting to determine its effectiveness in promoting the incorporation of accessibility considerations into JTC 1 standards and to address areas that could further benefit from accessibility considerations.

*Unanimous*

# Resolutions of Note – cont.

## **SWG-A 2008 Tokyo Resolution 20: SWG on Accessibility Request for JTC 1 National Body and SC Secretariat Feedback on [SWG-A N 343](#)**

The JTC 1 Special Working Group on Accessibility requests JTC 1 National Bodies and SC Secretariats to consider document SWG-A N 343 which SWG-A has sent to ISO and IEC Central Secretariats. The SWG-A further requests the National Bodies and SC Secretariats to provide feedback on the relevance of this document to their own web site procedures to help the SWG-A fulfill its role on promoting the uptake of strategies to improve accessibility throughout standardization development.

*Unanimous*

# Resolutions of Note – cont.

## **SWG-A 2008 Tokyo Resolution 22: Endorsement of JTC 1 Special Working Group on Accessibility Convener** (see [JTC 1 N 9193](#))

The JTC 1 Special Working Group on Accessibility endorses Mr. Alex Li (USA) for a three-year term of office as Convener of the JTC 1 SWG on Accessibility. The SWG-A instructs its Secretariat to forward this endorsement to JTC 1 for consideration and approval.

*Unanimous*

# Appreciation

The SWG-A's activities have been greatly enhanced by JTC 1's decision to embrace direct participation by interested users and organizations. Their continued involvement is encouraged.



# 2009 Meetings

**15 January 2009** - teleconference (hosted by the Secretariat) from 13:00 (UTC) to 16:00 (UTC) to conduct a BRM for DTR ballots (if necessary), to determine a timeline for the revision of the TR and to conduct other business as necessary

**22-26 June 2009** - western Canada - in the event that a physical meeting is not necessary, a teleconference could be held during this week

The JTC 1 Special Working Group has resolved to promote the awareness of teleconference arrangements for all its future meetings in the meeting notices and agendas. JTC 1 procedures related to teleconference meetings will be circulated to the SWG-A when approved.