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Comments Received on JTC 1 N 7334, Revision of Title and Scope of JTC 1/SC 24

Canada:

Canada supports the revised scope and recommends the addition of an exclusion to the scope of SC24 the work of ISO TC211, DGIWG, WMO, IHO, ICAO and TU/IAG.

Japan:

Japan disapproves the proposed change of the title and scope of SC24 for the following reasons:

- 1) The term "environmental" is not clear.
- 2) The area "integrated environmental data representation" overlaps with other SC's works, especially those of SC32 (Data management and interchange).
- 3) The area "modelling and simulation" is too broad to be added because it may include political and/or economical ones.

United States:

The US votes to disapprove ISO/IEC JTC 1 SC 24 N 2547 with the following comment. Incorporation of the comment into the document would change the US position to Approve.

Area of Work: Revise “An important aspect of the work in environmental data representation is effective cooperation with ISO TC 211, DGIWG, WMO, IHO, ICAO and IAU/IAG.” to read, “An important aspect of the work in JTC1/SC 24 is effective cooperation with other recognized standards organizations. In the work of environmental data representation these organizations include ISO TC211, DGIWG, WMO, IHO, ICAO, IAU/IAG, and NATO. In the work of virtual reality these organizations include W3C and Web3D. In the work of computer graphics and image processing these organizations include DGIWG, ISO TC211, and NATO.”

United Kingdom:

Dear Lisa

I would be grateful if you would note the UK's support of this proposal.

Regards

David Keech
BSI

London

Just recently we became aware that a new proposal was drafted in a document SC 24 N 2547 which was not formally submitted to us. This proposal introduces the term “integrated environmental data representation” in the title. This term has no clear interpretation and may cause confusion with the vast fields of application of geographic information which cannot be within the scope of any single ISO committee.

We are, however, most concerned with the omitted exclusion of work within the scope of ISO/TC 211. In document N 2530 the exclude paragraph is phrased as follows:

Excluded:

Character and image coding; coding of multimedia and hypermedia document interchange formats, JTC 1 work in user system interfaces and document presentation, ISO/TC 207 work on environmental management and ISO/TC 211 work on geographic information and geomatics.

In document N 2547, which is now subject to a ballot, the corresponding paragraph is as follows:

Excluded:

Character and image coding; coding of multimedia and hypermedia document interchange formats; JTC 1 work in user system interfaces and document presentation, ISO/TC 207 work on ISO 14000 environment management.

It is stated that the latter is modified to incorporate comments of the UK and Japan NBs. The major change is that reference to ISO/TC 211 is deleted.

This seems strange as the UK comment explicitly expresses the need to exclude work in the field of environmental data representation in ISO/TC 211 and DGIWG, WMO, IHO, ICAO and IAU/IAG (all except IAU are ISO/TC 211 Class A liaisons). Japan NB does not contradict this in its comment. On the contrary, Japan comments that ‘environmental representation’ is too broad for SC 24 as an area of work. It is thus hard to see the reason why ISO/TC 211 work is deleted from the ‘exclude’ part, and instead referred to under the following sentence which is added to the area of work:

An important aspect of the work in environmental data representation is effective cooperation with ISO/TC 211, DGIWG, WMO, IHO, ICAO and IAU/IAG.

This seems far too weak according to us. (I may also add that the list of organizations seems a bit restricted in my personal opinion.)

To complete the picture, I am happy to state that ISO/TC 211 and SC 24 have a very good cooperation both bilaterally and in the *Joint steering group on spatial standards and related interoperability* – JSG. In fact, of all our internal liaisons within the ISO system, SC 24 is the one that we collaborate most closely with. This is not at least due to the work of the SC 24 chair, Ms. Laura Moore, whom we are very happy to see as a frequent participant in our meetings. This close cooperation also underlines the need to clarify the roles of each committee even better than if there were no such cooperation.

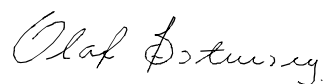
We fully recognize the work of SC 24 in the fields of synthetic modelling and simulation of real world environment and features (this description might not be precise). We are, however, concerned if such modelling (e.g. standard representation of synthetic environment) will be confused with the efforts within several application areas to model their universes of discourse. Such application areas include basic topography (reference data/background data), geology, nature management, planning, transportation, hydrology, and many, many others. The role of SC 24 within information technology standards ought to be precise in relation to

the role of TC 211 in geographic information and to other committees within their application areas (e.g. ISO/TC 204 Transport Information and Control Systems).

We hope that JTC 1 will seriously consider our concerns which are meant to clarify the roles of different committees, and to avoid duplication of efforts and confusing the user communities.

We are sure that the long-standing excellent cooperation between our committees in general, and with SC 24 in special, will continue, and we will make any effort to contribute to that!

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Olaf Østensen".

Olaf Østensen
Chairman of ISO/TC 211