

OVERSEAS NEWS

China's policy on simplified characters and Pinyin

Chew, Chee Phoong. "China is determined to carry through the policy of Simplified Chinese Characters and Hanyu Pinyin." *Lianhe Zaobao* April 4 (1991): 25.

(The text below summaries a translation of the original newspaper article.)

In an interview to *Lianhe Zaobao*, officials from the Spoken Language Working Committee clarified the Chinese Government's position on written Chinese. Officials responsible for the implementation of the country's spoken and written language policy stressed that China was determined to carry through its policy of simplified Chinese characters and hanyu pinyin. The Beijing Government was actively promoting the standardisation of spoken and written Chinese to clear the confusion caused by indiscriminate use of Chinese characters in their complex, variant and wrongly written form.

But China had no intention as yet to publish any more simplified Chinese characters and it would continue to keep in abeyance a proposal from its academic circles to romanise Chinese characters. Phonetic symbols would continue to be used for teaching and eradicating illiteracy but they would not replace characters. Simplified Chinese characters and hanyu pinyin remained the standard Chinese script and were used at the United Nations and by all levels of schools in China.

The European Association of Japanese Resource Specialists

The European Association of Japanese Resource Specialists (EAJRS or Nihon Shiryo Senmonka Oshu Kyokai) was established in October 1989 at an international workshop hosted by the Staatsbibliothek Preussischer Kulturbesitz in West Berlin. The Association seeks to bring together librarians, archivists, bibliographers, museum and gallery curators and database specialists to promote co-operation within Europe and among Europe, North America and Japan.

The Association held its first annual conference at the International Culture Institute, Budapest, Hungary, from September 5 to 8 1990. A major theme of the conference was bibliographical research and Japanese collections in Eastern Europe, and visits were paid to the Library of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and the Ferenc Hopp Oriental Museums. Further sessions were devoted to Japanese librarianship in

North America, the resources of the Japanese Diplomatic Record Office, and recent developments in the National Diet Library, the National Center for Science Information Systems and the International Research Center for Japanese Studies. The Conference also discussed progress reports on pan-European bibliographic projects and the development of Euro-Japanese bibliographical co-operation.

The Association publishes a newsletter and welcomes new members. Membership inquiries should be addressed to Hamish Todd, Japanese Section, Oriental Collections, The British Library, 14 Store Street, London WC1E 7DG, United Kingdom.

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