ISO 639-3 Registration Authority
Request for New Language Code Element in ISO 639-3

This form is to be used in conjunction with a “Request for Change to ISO 639-3 Language Code” form

Date: 2007-5-25

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Names, affiliations and email addresses of additional supporters of this request:

Associated Change request number : 2007-122 (completed by Registration Authority)
Tentative assignment of new identifier : ypb (completed by Registration Authority)

PLEASE NOTE: This completed form will become part of the public record of this change request and the history of the ISO 639-3 code set. Use Shift-Enter to insert a new line in a form field (where allowed).

1. NAMES and IDENTIFICATION

   a) Preferred name of language for code element denotation:
      Phowa, Labo

   b) Autonym (self-name) for this language:
      Labo; Phowa

   c) Common alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:
      Labopho, Pho, Phula, White Phu, Ekhepho, Zemapho, Asaheipho, Asahopho

   d) Reason for preferred name:
      Two autonyms are used by speakers of this language in order to identify themselves with
      the Phowa macro-group, which is apparently composed of three distinct languages
      containing gradient, transitional dialects (cf. [ypw] split application form), and in order to
      distinguish themselves as a distinct entity within Phowa: Labo (note, however, that some
      (smaller) dialects of Labo use "Asahopho" as the embedded autonym instead).

   e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language (complete
      individual language currently in use):
      Labo Phowa: 17,000

   f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available: [ypb]

Your suggestion will be taken into account, but the Registration Authority will determine the identifier to be proposed. The
identifiers is not intended to be an abbreviation for a name of the language, but to serve as a device to identify a given language
uniquely. With thousands of languages, many sets of which have similar names, it is not possible to provide identifiers that resemble
a language name in every case.

2. TEMPORAL DESCRIPTION and LOCATION

   a) Is this a ☑ Living language
      □ Nearly extinct/secondary use only (includes languages in revival)
      □ Recently extinct language
      □ Historical language

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Ancient language
☐ Artificially constructed language
☐ Macrolanguage

(Select one. See explanations of these types at http://www.sil.org/iso639-3/types.asp)

For individual languages, also complete:

b) Countries where used:
   China

c) Region within each country: towns, districts, states or provinces where used. Include GPS
coordinates of the approximate center of the language, if possible:
   Yunnan Province: in central, north-central and southeastern Kaiyuan County

d) For an ancient or historical language, give approximate time frame; for a recently extinct language,
give the approximate date of the last known user’s death

3. MODALITY AND LINGUISTIC AFFILIATION

a) This language is: ☐ Signed ☒ Spoken ☐ Attested only in writings

b) Language family, if classified; origin, if artificially constructed:
   Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Burmic, Ngwi (Loloish), Southeastern

c) Closest language linguistically. For a Macrolanguage, list the individual languages (adopted and/or
   proposed) to be included in its group. For signed language, note influence from other signed or
   spoken languages:
   Ani Phowa

4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE

a) What written literature, inscriptions or recordings exist in this language? Are there newspapers,
   radio or television broadcasts, etc.?:
   No body of literature exists in Labo Phowa; the language is unwritten beyond a technical
   orthography. A preliminary linguistic description of one Labo Phowa dialect is published in

b) Is this language officially recognized by any level of government? Is it used in any levels of formal
   education as a language of instruction (for other subjects)? Is it taught in schools?:

c) Comment on factors of ethnolinguistic identity and informal domains of use:
Spoken by all ages in vital villages. Home, village, market, and administrative domains. in
vital regions. Number of speakers is decreasing in central Kaiyuan County.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

You do not need to repeat sources previously identified in the form, “Request for Change to ISO 639-3
Language Code”

a) First-hand knowledge. Describe:
Personal onsite research carried out in 2006 as part of a larger linguistic survey of the
Phula language varieties spoken in Yunnan Province (described in Pelkey forthcoming
[2008]).

b) Knowledge through personal communication. Describe:

c) Knowledge from published sources. Include known dictionaries, grammars, etc. (please give
complete bibliographical references):
KYDZ. 1984. Editorial Committee, eds. Kaiyuan shi diming zhi [The geographic place name
gazetteer of Kaiyuan county]. Kaiyuan: Renmin Zhengfu.

Kunming: Yunnan Minzu Chubanshe.

PELKEY, JAMIN R. Forthcoming (2008). The Phula languages in synchronic and
diachronic perspective, La Trobe University, PhD dissertation.

WANG CHENGYOU. 2004. Yiyu Pula Hua Gaikuang [An Overview of Phula Yi (sic.: a

Please return this form to:
ISO 639-3 Registrar
SIL International, Office of Language Information Systems
7500 West Camp Wisdom Road
Dallas, Texas 75236 USA
Email: iso639-3@sil.org
An email attachment of this completed form is preferred.

Further information:
If your request for a new language code element is supported by the Registration Authority as a formal
proposal, you may be contacted separately by researchers working with the Ethnologue or with LinguistList
asking you to provide additional information.
Sources of documentation for ISO 639-3 identifiers:

