

# 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

Name of Primary Requester: Jamin R. Pelkey

E-mail address: Jamin\_Pelkey@sil.org

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 autonoms 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 identifier 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

- Ancient language
- Artificially constructed language
- Macrolanguage

(Select one. See explanations of these types at <http://www.sil.org/iso639%2D3/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 Wang (2004).
- 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.

KYSZ. 1996. Editorial Committee, eds. Kaiyuan shi zhi [Gazetteer of Kaiyuan county]. 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 Labo Phowa dialect)]. Minzu Yuwen, 2004.6:63-79.

### 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  
ISO 639-3/RA web site: <http://www.sil.org/iso639-3/default.asp>  
Email: [iso639-3@sil.org](mailto: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:**

Gordon, Raymond G., Jr. (ed.), 2005. Ethnologue: Languages of the World, Fifteenth edition. Dallas, Tex.: SIL International. Online version: <http://www.ethnologue.com/> .

LinguistList. Ancient and Extinct Languages. <http://linguistlist.org/forms/langs/GetListOfAncientLgs.html>

LinguistList. Constructed Languages. <http://linguistlist.org/forms/langs/GetListOfConstructedLgs.html>