

Comments received for  
ISO 639-3 Change Request  
2008-083

Outcome: Rejected  
Effective date: 2009-01-26



## SIL International ISO 639-3 Registration Authority

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### Registration Authority decision on Change Request no. 2008-083: to split the code element “[nan] Min Nan” into two specific language varieties

The request to retire the code element for Min Nan and divide it into two distinct languages, Xiamen and Chaozhou, is rejected because it is incomplete. The Registration Authority agrees with the submitters that, based on the evidence submitted, Chaozhou and Xiamen (the latter including the group of very closely related varieties sometimes grouped under the name “Hokkien”) should be recognized with two separate code elements. However, the request does not address other Min Nan varieties at all that are also part of the denotation of “[nan] Min Nan.” Within the discussions and websites cited in support (as well as other sources), there are mentions of the Southern Min varieties of Hainan (Qiongwen) and Longyan, respectively, that are not directly addressed in the change request. The ISO 639-3 registration authority must account for the full breadth of denotation of a code element to be retired when it considers such a significant change, but it is not the work of the Registration Authority to fill in such large gaps of a request.

The Registration Authority invites the submitter to submit a new request in which the full breadth of the Min Nan varieties are taken into consideration.