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: 2021-8-31

Name of Primary Requester: Tiûⁿ, Hôk Chû
E-mail address: tojhokchu at gmail dot com

Names, affiliations and email addresses of additional supporters of this request:
• Ang Bêng-chiong (翁銘章), Taiwan Society South (台灣南社), mjweng at nuk dot edu dot tw
• Têⁿ Si-chong (鄭詩宗), Ko-hiông (高雄) Medical University, tennsichong at gmail dot com
• Têⁿ Liông-kng (鄭良光), Tâi-bûn Thong-sîn (台文通訊), ssimoncheng at gmail dot com
• Ngô Ka-bêng, Tâi-bûn Ke-sî-mî, ngoohebi at taigi dot info
• Toshikazu Ogawa, Williams Gengakki Co., Ltd., siothekhim at gmail dot com
• Ko An-iông (E. Greve), aiongtaigi at gmail dot com
• PHẠM Ngõc Thuý Vi, thuyvitw at gmail dot com
• Kirinputra, 3 at tawa dot asia

Associated Change request number : 2021-045 (completed by Registration Authority)
Tentative assignment of new identifier : tws (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:
      Tiô-Sûaⁿ
   b) Autonym (self-name) for this language:
      Tiô-Sûaⁿ (Tiô-Sûaⁿ-ûe)
   c) Common alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:
      Teochew, Chiu Chow, Trieu Chau; Tiô-chiu-ûe, 潮州話, 潮汕話, 潮語; 潮州话, 潮汕话, 潮语
   d) Reason for preferred name:
      Teochew comes via direct anglicization of the traditional Teochew name “Tiô-chiu-ûe” (“speech of the prefecture of Teo”). However, within the Teochew-speaking region of China today, since the administrative divisions have changed and the chief cities of the Teochew-speaking region are Teochew (Chouzhou) and Swatow (Shantou), Tiô-Sûaⁿ is arguably the preferred autonym of the 21st century, and few will find it objectionable. “Tiô-chiu-û” remains the prevalent autonym outside of China, but younger Teochew speakers in China may
object to it. For additional information, please refer to the paper accompanying this submission (Appendix A-4).

**Attachment:** [https://github.com/KIRINPUTRA/reclassifying-ISO-639-3-nan](https://github.com/KIRINPUTRA/reclassifying-ISO-639-3-nan)

e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language (complete individual language currently in use): Teochew speakers number roughly 10 million in China and two to five million overseas. For additional information on this and all following items, please refer to the paper accompanying this submission (§2.4).

f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available: tws

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

- [x] 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](http://www.sil.org/iso639%2D3/types.asp))

For individual languages, also complete:

b) Countries where used:

- China (incl. Hong Kong), Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand.

c) Region within each country: towns, districts, states or provinces where used. Include GPS coordinates of the approximate center of the language, if possible:


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
- [x] Spoken
- [ ] Attested only in writings
b) Language family, if classified; origin, if artificially constructed:
Ethnologue: Sino-Tibetan

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:
Haklau.

4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE

a) What written literature, inscriptions or recordings exist in this language? Are there newspapers, radio or television broadcasts, etc.?:
Vernacular literature goes at least as far back as the 1400s, in a Sino-script that is to Teochew what Hán Nôm is to Vietnamese. There was a Teochew newspaper in the late 19th or early 20th century. There was a romanized missionary script in the 19th century, that does not seem to have taken hold beyond the Church. There was a proposal to create a Teochew language Wikipedia in 2008. Indonesian Teochew speakers write in Indonesian-based (Rumi) romanized Teochew. In terms of volume and variety of media and broadcasting, Teochew in its home region is doubly overshadowed by Mandarin and Cantonese. In Singapore, there is public service broadcasting. There are radio news broadcasts in Singapore (FM 95.8) and Malaysia.

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?:
Not official. De facto language of instruction at public schools throughout the Teochew region at least through the 90s. Teochew-language instruction persisted in rural districts at least into the 10s.

c) Comment on factors of ethnolinguistic identity and informal domains of use:
Use of Teochew is vigorous in districts where it is the majority language, incl. outside of China. In China and Singapore, Teochew is politically subordinate to Mandarin; in China, young people are typically fluent in Cantonese as well. Please refer to the paper accompanying this submission (§2.4).

* Speakers of this language share in the Chinese macro-ethnolinguistic identity.
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:

b) Knowledge through personal communication. Describe:

c) Knowledge from published sources. Include known dictionaries, grammars, etc. (please give complete bibliographical references):

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: