Introduction to Korterm
(Korea Terminology Research Center
for Language and Knowledge Engineering)

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1. What is Korterm?

In the era of Internet and information evolution, new terminology has swept into the lives of people in general. It becomes key words these days how to organize and standardize the tremendous technical terms. Korea is surrounded by four countries: China, Japan, North Korea and Russia, and also communicated by European languages. All of terminologies, documents and communication had met with localization and harmonization problems among these geographical regions as well as the language unification problem with South/North Korea. For this reason, Korterm was established in 1998 with the support of Ministry of Culture and Tourism (Korea).

In March of 1997, there was a call from China National Institute of Standards to organize an expert meeting to discuss about terminology standardization in East Asia Region (including China, Japan, Mongol, South Korea and North Korea) and finally to establish East Asian terminology center. This organization is called "Eafterm" (East Asian Forum on Terminology; http://eafterm.org/) and its annual meeting has been hosted by four countries (China, Japan, Korea and Mongol)[1]. Korterm has contributed to organize and promote the Korean terminology bank and East Asian regional cross-lingual terminology and dictionary database. Korterm has hosted annual Korean domestic terminology symposium to identify and promote the terminology works, organized international workshops in LREC, joined ISO

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[1] The fifth Eafterm meeting will be held in Hainan island, China, December/1~8/2002. See http://www.cnterm.org/eafterm/.

activities actively and tried to establish collaboration with North Korean academic societies. The following points are a brief history:

1998.8.   Establishment of Korterm (http://korterm.org/)
1998.8.   Member of Infoterm and Termnet (http://www.infoterm.org)
1998.12.   Second Forum on Eafterm hosted by Korterm (http://eafterm.org/)
1998.12.   First Symposium on Terminology and Language Engineering
1999.11.   First International Roundtable on Terminology
1999.11.   Second Symposium on Terminology and Language Engineering
1999.12.   National secretariat of ISO/TC37 (for terminology standardization)
2000.4.   Establishing Yanbien (Northern China) branch of Korterm
2000.5.   Hosting Workshop for terminology resource and computation
           (LREC2000, Athens)
2000.12.   Second International Roundtable on Terminology
           Third Symposium on Terminology and Language Engineering
2001.8.   Secretary of ISO/TC37/SC4 (language resource management)
2001.11.   Fourth Symposium on Terminology and Language Engineering
2002.2.   Preliminary Meeting of ISO/TC 37/SC 4 hosted by Korterm
2002.8.   Hosting Workshop for terminology and language ressource
           management (LREC2002, Las Palmas)

2. What are the Goals of Korterm?

As stated, Korterm itself involves:

- Communicating knowledge between experts with the cooperation of terminology fields,
- Creating terminology can be usable to experts and systems of specialized fields,
- Promoting domestic and international information infrastructure for efficient and standardized communication.

Goals can be accomplished by

- Facilitating terminology processing such as term collecting, term classifying, term defining, and term extracting etc.
- Promoting terminology research and developing terminology network systems in domestic and international settings.
- Accumulating a store of knowledge and experience in preparing methodological tools and guidelines for valuable terminology.

3. What does Korterm do to reach its goals?

Below are some examples of what Korterm has achieved, giving clear benefits to industry, trade and consumers concerned with terminology.

Theoretical and applied researches in terminology include

- Processing large corpus on specific domain corpus;
- Developing new methods for electronic terminology dictionary;

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- Applying terminological knowledge to terminological works such as information retrieval, machine translation, text categorization, and so on;
- Making a basic and good environment in computing and programming for terminology database;
- Promoting combination related academic societies with institutes by providing meeting places such as conference or symposium;
- Promoting cooperation with international organizations such as ISO/TC 37, Infoterm, TermNet, Eafterm. For example, we have hosted several international meetings such as Roundtable, Workshop, Forum, etc. Especially, Korterm has been ISO/TC37/SC 4 Secretariat since 2001 and played a key role in ISO/TC 37;
- Providing access to terminology database by on-line (http://korterm.org/) and off-line, publishing books and journals on terminology.

4. What will Korterm do?

Korterm has master plan as follows:

➢ **First phase (2002~2004)**
Developing an integrated value-added system, including various terminology works such as terminology collection (science/technology terms), economic/industry standards terminology maintenance and extension, terminology field coverage expansion and promoting quality, enhancing application in language industry and verification for high reliability and distribution.

➢ **Second phase (2004~2007)**
Developing advanced integrated systems. For this, Korterm has a plan such as collecting terms including terms of humanities & social sciences and science & technology, managing economics & industry standards terms, databasing standard knowledge for terminology, terminology education system and development of various applied products.

➢ **Third phase (2008-)**
Extending and managing the developed system continuously. There are some examples such as activation of terminology field, distribution of terminology information base, keeping going on terminology extension and management, *etc*.

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