

# Notes on the chart of the International Phonetic Alphabet in Chinese

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The idea of having a version of the IPA chart in Chinese was initiated by a group of Chinese phoneticians and dialectologists in 2006. The situation that existed at the time was that the IPA terms used in mainstream Chinese textbooks and in classrooms were still following various older versions of the chart and principles. For instance, there were no approximants in the consonant chart; instead, the Chinese translation of the term ‘frictionless continuant’ was still listed in the consonant chart. After the revised IPA chart was released in 2005, Chinese phoneticians and dialectologists considered it a good opportunity to promote the updated IPA terminology in Chinese, reflected in a Chinese version of the chart. In the winter of 2006, the Phonetic Association of China organized an advisory committee and a working committee to undertake the translation. Following some months of e-mail communications among committee members, a meeting was organized at the Institute of Linguistics, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, on 7 January 2007. Five members of the advisory committee and seven members of the working committee participated in the final discussion. At the meeting in Beijing, we worked out the 2007 version of the IPA chart in Chinese that is reproduced here. This chart was first published in the first issue of the Chinese journal *Fangyan* 方言 [Dialect] in 2007. The copyright symbol at the top of the chart indicates that the Chinese version is a work of the Phonetic Association of China, which is, officially speaking, a member of the Linguistic Society of China. The intention of the Association in disseminating the chart has been to unify and clarify the traditions of Chinese phonetic usage, to standardize Chinese terminology for referring to speech sounds and categories, and to communicate and promote the knowledge of IPA practices to Chinese-speaking society.

The members of the Advisory Committee of the Phonetic Association of China for IPA terminology in Chinese were:

Bao, Huaiqiao (President of PAC)	Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences
Cao, Jianfen	Institute of Linguistics, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences
Huang, Taiyi	Institute of Automation, Chinese Academy of Sciences
Lin, Maocan	Institute of Linguistics, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences
Lü, Shinan	Institute of Acoustics, Chinese Academy of Sciences
Tseng, Chiu-yu	Institute of Linguistics, Academia Sinica
Wang, Hongjun	Peking University
Wang, Jialing	Tianjin Normal University
Wang, Lijia	Peking University
Zee, Eric	City University of Hong Kong

The members of the Working Committee of the Phonetic Association of China for IPA terminology in Chinese were:

Hu, Fang (Secretary)	Institute of Linguistics, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences
Kong, Jiangping	Peking University
Li, Aijun	Institute of Linguistics, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences
Mai, Yun	Institute of Linguistics, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences
Tao, Jianhua	Institute of Automation, Chinese Academy of Sciences
Wang, Yunjia	Peking University
Xiong, Ziyu	Institute of Linguistics, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences
Zhu, Xiaonong	Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

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