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### **Tenth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names**

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Item 4 of the provisional agenda\*

**Reports by Governments on the situation in their countries and on the progress  
made in the standardization of geographical names since the Ninth Conference  
(for distribution only).**

### **Report on the Work on the Standardization of Geographical Names in the Republic of Korea between 2007 and 2012**

Submitted by the Republic of Korea\*\*

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## Summary

Between 1961 and April, 2012, 151,928 geographical names have been approved or changed. In 2008, the National Geographic Information Institute (NGII) published ‘The National Atlas of Korea’ that synthesized national physical and human geography information as well as an English gazetteer. The NGII continuously published Korean and English versions of map of Korea and vicinity (1:3,000,000), and map of Korea (1:1,000,000). In 2012, the NGII produced ‘Toponymic Guidelines for Map Editors and Other Editors, Republic of Korea’ for a convenient and correct usage of geographical names of Korea worldwide. Between 2002 and 2011, a total of 671 marine geographical names have been approved for official use in Korea. The names consist of 469 sea surface names and 202 undersea feature names. Since 2007, 35 of undersea feature names have been approved by SCUFN. The Korea Hydrographic and Oceanographic Administration (KHOA) organized the International Symposiums on Application of Marine Geophysical Data and Undersea Feature Names. The KHOA has been supporting the participation of the developing countries in the UNGEGN since 2011.

## 1. Work on the Standardization of Geographical Names (by NGII)

### 1.1 The Promotion and Current State of National Geographical Names Management

#### 1) The Operation of Committees on Geographical Names and the Maintenance of Geographical Names

With the reorganization of government structure in 2009, ‘A Law on Survey, Waterway Investigation, and Land Register’ was enacted in order to systematically construct and make use of spatial information. The enactment of the law led to the establishment of the Korea Committee on Geographical Names (KCGN), which is an integration of the former Korean Committee on Geographical Names and the Korean Committee on Marine Geographical Names (KCMGN). The KCGN discusses and makes decisions about the approval and change of geographical names through reconciliation as well as the official announcement of geographical names. The KCGN consists of not more than 30 committee members. Between 1961 and April, 2012, 151,928 geographical names have been approved or changed by former Korean Committee on Geographical Names and the KCGN through discussions and decisions. The state of maintenance of geographical names carried out by the National Geographic Information Institute (NGII) between 2007 and 2011 is as follows.

Table 1. The State of Maintenance of Geographical Names, 2007-2011

Year	Total	Approval	Change	Disuse
2007	13	7	6	-
2008	1	-	1	-
2009	28	19	8	1
2010	1	1	-	-
2011	56	27	29	-
Total	99	54	44	1

In addition, 17 Korean geographical names having historical meanings were approved and used for mapping for peaks, valleys, and so on that are located at King George Island, Antarctica. Those 17 Korean geographical names are not only used for mapping but also registered in Antarctica Geographical Names Index in 2011.

## 2) The Development and Improvement of Geographical Names Management System

In 2003, a geographical names management system that enabled user friendly search, changes arrangement, record management and so forth was developed. In 2006, complimentary functions were added to the geographical names management system for the improvement of the categorization system of geographical names. This enabled local government officials in charge of geographical names affairs to better use the geographical names management system. In 2011, the NGII not only improved the geographical names management system for the effective linkages with data provided by related organizations, but also took complimentary measures for data structure in order to effectively manage metadata.

## 3) Researches and Publications on Geographical Names

In 2011, the NGII completed a basic research on the preparation of the formation of geographical names system in order to analyze legal systems related to geographical names and draw a draft of a proposed law. Considering that there had been an increasing interest in local culture, history, and geographical names, the NGII published, between 2008 and 2011, a series of four books on the origins of geographical names that include the characteristics and genesis of geographical names. Furthermore, in 2008, the NGII published 'The National Atlas of Korea' that synthesized national physical geography information (e.g., geomorphology, geology, land, vegetation) and human geography information (e.g., population, transportation, industry, cities) as well as an English gazetteer. The NGII continuously published Korean and English versions of map of Korea and vicinity (1:3,000,000), map of Korea (1:1,000,000), and so on. The NGII uses these atlases and maps as a source data if there are requests for the amendment of errors in geographical names.

## 4) International Activities Related to Geographical Names

In 2011, the NGII hosted a meeting of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management (UNGGIM) and a joint meeting of UNGEGN Evaluation and Implementation Working Group and Publicity and Funding Working Group. In 2012, the NGII produced 'Toponymic Guidelines for Map Editors and Other Editors, Republic of Korea' for a convenient and correct usage of geographical names of Korea worldwide.

### **1.2. A Plan for the Management of National Geographical Names**

In 2012, the NGII made a long-term plan (2012-2020) for geographical names not only to actively cope with the changes of national and international circumstances relevant to geographical names, but also to organize geographical names affairs in a systematic manner. The main contents of the long-term plan for geographical names include the amendment of the errors in geographical names, the augmentation of the standardization of geographical names, the preparation of geographical names system and organizational structure, the upgrade of geographical names management system, the augmentation of international cooperation related to geographical names, and so on.

## **2. Work on the Standardization of Marine Geographical Names (by KHOA) 2.1**

### **The Marine Geographical Names Approved by KCGN (2007-2011)**

The KCGN reviewed the proposal for marine geographical names based on the principle of standardization on marine geographic names. All of the domestic geographical names approved by the KCGN were registered in *Gwanbo*, the government official gazette with details of name, location, and characteristics of geographical features. It has announced that the total of 671 marine geographical names were approved for official use since 2002, which consist of 469 sea surface names and 202 undersea feature names.

### **2.2 The Undersea Feature Names Approved by SCUFN**

The KCGN proposed 35 names to the GEBCO Gazetteer from 2007 to 2011: 10 features on the East Sea in 2007, 8 features in 2008, 4 features on the Pacific Ocean in 2009, 9 features on the Pacific Ocean in 2010, 2 features on the East Sea, and 2 features on the South Pacific Ocean in 2011. Total 35 names proposed by the KCGN have been approved by the GEBCO (IHO-IOC) Sub Committee on Undersea Feature Names (SCUFN).

### **2.3 International Activities Related to Marine Geographical Names**

The KHOA organized the International Symposiums on Application of Marine Geophysical Data and Undersea Feature Names so that many experts could share the research works and have animated discussions. Furthermore, KHOA has been supporting the participation of the developing countries in the UNGEGN since 2011. The KCGN plans to continuously investigate new marine geographical names and standardize them.