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Activities relating to the Working Group on
Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers

Toponymic Databases in the Republic of Korea *

Toponymic Databases in the Republic of Korea[†]

SUMMARY

The paper reports the activities of the National Geographic Information Institute (NGII) of the Republic of Korea with regards to toponymic databases. NGII is now carrying out a project of upgrading the geographical names database which has been serviced since 2011 with more than 1.5 million names. A recent advancement is that it began to be provided in English: A pilot project of establishing a database of 223 administrative, mountain and river names in English has been completed and it is now in service. NGII has also hosted the UNCSGN resolutions database since 2009.

The National Geographic Information Institute, the mapping agency of the Republic of Korea, has made efforts to establish and manage toponymic databases. Three activities are prominent; upgrading the database of more than 1.5 million geographical names, servicing a database of major administrative and natural names in English, and hosting UNCSGN resolutions database.

Upgrading the geographical names database

The database of Korean geographical names now provides more than 1.5 million names searchable by administrative units and by words, with their locations in the satellite map[1]. It is now in the process of being upgraded to service with more accurate data and in a more user-friendly way. Major improvements include the followings;

- upgrading toponymic dictionary and providing additional information on the generic terms by feature types;
- providing the function of downloading searched data into a file to be put in diverse uses;
- supporting the search for statistics on toponyms with various conditions.

Establishing a geographical names database in English

The list of Korean geographical names in English has been provided by the book *The Gazetteer of Korea*, which was published in 2009 with more than seven thousand names[2]. Recently, a pilot project of establishing its database has been completed and it is now in service[3]. The database, which will be extended in the future, now contains 223 names of major administrative units and natural features which are composed of;

[†] This working paper pertains to the UNCSGN resolutions I/4 (National standardization) and V/6 (Promotion of national and international geographical names standardization programmes).

[1] The database is serviced at http://www.land.go.kr/portal/toponymy/Toponymy.do.

[2] A PDF file of this gazetteer can be downloaded at http://www.ngii.go.kr/en/main/main.do?rbsIdx=1.

[3] It is now serviced at http://www.land.go.kr/portal/word/landtermEng.do.

- ◆ names of 73 cities with more than 100,000 population;
- ◆ names of 100 conspicuous mountains (98 mountains and 2 peaks); and
- ◆ names of 50 rivers (13 rivers and 37 streams) chosen by a river ecosystem research as being beautiful.

Fields of the database currently serviced are feature type, administrative address and coordinates.

Hosting the UNCSGN resolutions database

NGII has hosted the UNCSGN resolutions database since May 2009. Initiated by the English version, it is now available with the French version; both containing 207 resolutions adopted up to the 10th Conference in 2012[4]. It is now prepared to be extended to a third language version, possibly Spanish or Arabic, depending on the readiness of the full texts of resolutions. The database can be accessible from the UNGEGN web-page http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/ungegn/confGeneral.html.

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[4] The English version is hosted at http://www.land.go.kr/portal/ungn/mainEn.do, while the French version at http://www.land.go.kr/portal/ungn/mainFre.do.