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STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

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Item 15 of the agenda

RULES FOR SPELLING CHINESE PLACE NAMES WITH
CHINESE PHONETIC ALPHABET

Paper presented by the People's Republic of China^{*/}

1. In spelling Chinese place names with the Chinese phonetic Alphabet, spell Han place names according to their pronunciation in the Common Speech (putonghua), and spell minority nationality place names in accordance with the "Rules for the Transliteration of Minority Nationality Place Names with the Chinese Phonetic Alphabet".
2. In spelling Han place names, write proper names and common names separately. But in spelling the names of towns and villages, write all the syllables consecutively, without making such separation.

e.g.: Heilongjiang Sheng, Tong Xian, Taiwan Haixia, Tai Shan, Fuhai Linchang
But: Zhoukoudian, Jiuxian, Wangcun, Xifengzhen, Dahushan, Daqinghe
3. In spelling Han place names, treat modifying adjectives as part of the proper names or of common names, as the case may be.

e.g.: Xiliao He, Xinyi He, Chaobai Xinhe
4. In spelling minority nationality place names, proper names and common names are generally written separately, too.
5. In spelling minority nationality place names, treat common names and modifying adjectives generally as is habitually done in Han character transliteration, i.e. by transliterating the meaning, rendering the sound or giving both the sound and the meaning. Where the meaning is translated into the Han characters, spell the Han characters; where the sound is rendered, transliterate the pronunciation in the minority language concerned.
6. Capitalize the first letter of a place name and that of each of its separate parts.
7. Irregularity is allowed in special cases.

^{*/} Document prepared by the Committee for Reforming the Chinese Written Language, State Bureau of Surveying and Cartography of the People's Republic of China, September 1976.

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