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**UNITED NATIONS  
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GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES**

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**Item 9 of the Provisional Agenda**

**MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON TOPONYMIC DATA FILES  
AND GAZETTEERS**

**Surveys and Treatment of Geographical Names in the  
Republic of Korea\***

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**\* Prepared by Republic of Korea**

## **National Standardization in Korea**

### **Summary**

In 1958 Korea carried out its first modern-day adjustment of geographical names, which included about 20,000 names of administrative units, 100,000 names of natural geographical features and some marine geographical names.

These geographical names are entered into the database and renewed annually by the National Geographic Information Institute (hereafter referred to as the NGII), which provides on-line services through its homepage. The on-line services are provided in such a way that users can view the three-dimensional topography surrounding these names, using the maps provided.

The geographical names are marked on maps distributed commercially. The principle that they are to reflect the actual names used in specific areas is firmly adhered to although there may be slight differences in basic principles among maps using differing scales. In rare cases maps may adopt both an official name and one used in a specific area.

Administrative geographical names fall under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Government Administration and Home Affairs, and local government, while natural and marine names fall within the scope of the NGII under the Ministry of Construction and Transportation, and the National Oceanographic Research Institute of the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries respectively in accordance with the Waterway Act. There is close coordination and cooperation among the ministries in this regard.

### **Field Collection of Names**

#### **? Background**

The nation's first readjustment of geographical names in modern times was attempted by the Ministry of National Defense in 1958, a few years following the Korean War (1950-1953). Under Minister of National Defense Order No. 103, the Central Geographical Names Committee was established in

the Geographical Institute (which was later replaced by the NGII under the Ministry of Construction and Transportation) of the Ministry of National Defense, with local geographical names committees set up in local autonomous bodies.

The Central Geographical Names Committee finalized its work and put on public notice 124,000 names (contained in a total of 194 volumes of registers) in April 1961 in the nation's first contemporary attempt to examine geographical names. In 1998, a second such attempt was made to overhaul geographical names (contained in a total of 179 volumes of registers) and update them to reflect actual changes that had taken place.

### **? Ongoing Status**

The National Geographic Information Institute has put on public notice 150,173 natural geographical names by April 2004 through deliberations by the Central Geographical Names Committee. It will continue to undertake such work for other unnamed areas.

The geographical names thus revised are marked in the National Basic Map designed for everyday use. The basic principle in this process is that the actual names used by local residents are adopted through consultations with local autonomous bodies including on-site surveys. Local residents' requests for the designation or changing of a name for a specific area are also taken into account in the process of deliberations by the Central Geographical Names Committee.

**< Table 1> Ongoing Status of Reexamination of Geographical Names**

Year of Public Notice	Number of Geographical Names on Public Notice	Scope Areas (Cities and Provinces)
1961	124,000	Nationwide
1983	10	Chungbuk and Gyeonggi
1984	2	Jeonbuk and Gyeonggi
1985	2	Gyeonggi and Gyeongnam
1987	2,761	Seoul, Chungbuk, Chungnam, Jeonnam
1989	4,380	Incheon, Gyeonggi, Gangwon, Jeonbuk, Gyeongbuk, Gyeongnam and Jeju
1991	478	Gyeonggi, Gangwon, Chungbuk, Chungnam, Jeonbuk, Jeonnam, Gyeongbuk and Gyeongnam
1994	1,952	Seoul, Gwangju, Gyeonggi, Gangwon and Jeonnam
1995	35	Seoul, Busan, Gyeonggi, Gyeongbuk and Jeonnam
1997	1	Jeonnam
1998	4,324	Chungbuk, Chungnam and Busan
1999	758	Chungbuk, Chungnam and Daegu
2000	5,507	Jeonbuk, Gyeongnam, Gyeonggi and Jeju
2001	2,112	Incheon, Jeonnam and Gyeongnam
2002	6	Busan
2003	3,726	Daegu, Gangwon, Jeonnam, Jeju
2004	119	Jeonnam
Total	150,173	

**< Table 2> List of Public Notice in 2003~ 2004**

Kind \ Year	2003			2004		
	Creation	Change	Abolition	Creation	Change	Abolition
Valley	5	13	1	-	1	-
Ridge	113	77	9	-	-	-
Head land	20	-	-	-	-	-
Island	340	61	2	-	118	-
Ferry	34	21	23	-	-	-
Field	9	4	1	-	-	-
Village	1987	445	86	-	-	-
Rock	30	19	5	-	-	-
Mountain	259	128	2	-	-	-
Castle	16	-	-	-	-	-
Spring	4	2	2	-	-	-
Fall	6	2	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,845</b>	<b>2,823</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>-</b>