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SECOND UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE
STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES
London, 10-31 May 1972
Item 11 (a) of the provisional agenda

WRITING SYSTEMS

TRANSFER OF NAMES FROM ONE WRITING SYSTEM INTO ANOTHER

Romanization of Chinese

Document submitted by the joint regional conference
of the linguistic/geographical divisions: Europe -
East Central and South-East, and the Union of Soviet
Socialist Republics

The regional conference of linguistic/geographical divisions: Europe - East Central and South-East, and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics suggested that the Conference adopt the so-called Pinyin System (Hanyu pinyin), the official Romanization in the People's Republic of China as the international system for the Romanization of Chinese geographical names. In support of the proposal, the following items are mentioned:

(a) The Pinyin System is an officially approved Romanization in China. While there is no example for the domestic use of this system on maps, it is widely used in other fields, such as education and telecommunication, and publications line, journals and dictionaries. It will have even wider application "in view of the current attempt to promote a single national language". 1/

(b) The Pinyin System has been used in atlases and map series by several countries as follows: Grosser Bertelsmann Weltatlas, Gütersloh, 1961; Politikai Világtérkép, Budapest, 1961; Bertelsmann Atlas International, Gütersloh, 1963; Map of China, Budapest-Stockholm, 1967; The World Atlas, Moscow, 1967; The

1/ I.L. Legeza, Guide to transliterated Chinese in the Modern Peking Dialect (Leiden, 1968).

International Atlas, Chicago, 1969; Gran Atlas Aguilar, Madrid, 1969; World Map 1:2,500,000. Sheet 58, Ulan Bator, Warsaw, 1969.

(c) The Pinyin System is based on the Modern Peking Dialect and is easy to convert any other system into this one, provided it is based on the same dialect as for example, the Wade-Giles, the Zhuyin zimu or Chuyin tzǔmu, and the Russian Osanin Romanization. The Pinyin System has appeared in several publications. 2/ An earlier form of this system was published as index headings in a Chinese atlas, the few deviations of which can easily be converted into the Pinyin System. 3/ This index contains about 15,000 geographical names.

(d) The syllables of geographical names in the Pinyin Romanization system are written together, for example, there are no hyphens. In some cases an apostrophe should be used to divide syllables which could be interpreted in two different ways (example: Xi'an).

(e) There are only three digraphs in this system, as against nine in the Wade-Giles, and the use of the apostrophe, showing aspiration, is also eliminated. The use of the letter ü is used less frequently than in the Wade-Giles system.

(f) The Pinyin System permits the showing of the tones, but this is of little importance in geographical names, except where the provinces Shānxi (Shensi) and Shānxī (Shansi) are involved.

(g) It should be mentioned that some modifications on the Wade-Giles system have been done in the Romanization of geographical names as shown in the Board on Geographic Names Gazetteer 4/ and on the sheets of the International Map of the World on the Millionth Scale (IMW). These changes cause ambiguities in some cases: for example, the two different phonemes e and uo of the Modern Peking Dialect are equally converted to o. In other cases this system differs from the Modern Peking Dialect, thus creating confusion as is the case in the characters meaning harbour, rivulet etc.

(h) Finally, it should be referred to a comment by Professor Talbot to the map review by Mr. P.J.M. Geelan, 5/ that the Pinyin System "has the quality to express and distinguish the Chinese sounds better than any other conversion system". 6/ Another opinion: "... Pinyin is perhaps the simplest conversion system". 7/

2/ Hanzi Pinyin Jianzi (Shanghai, 1958); Chinesisch-Deutsches Wörterbuch (Beijing, 1959) and others.

3/ Zhonghua Renmin Gongheguo Dituji (Shanghai, 1957).

4/ United States Board on Geographic Names, China. Gazetteer No. 22 (Washington, 1956).

5/ "Map of China, review", The Geographical Journal (London), No. 135, 1969/1.

6/ H.D. Talbot, "Chinese place names", The Geographical Journal (London), No. 135, 1969/4.

7/ "British Standard Institution (BSI) strives to convert Chinese", The Times (London), 13 November 1967.

Based on the above arguments, the Regional Conference of the Groups No. 7 and No. 8 suggests the following Recommendation:

The Conference

Recognizing the Pinyin System/Hanyu pinyin currently being official in China for the transcription of Chinese characters into Roman alphabet,

Noting that while this system is linguistically proper, it is the simplest, and therefore the most suitable for the romanization of geographical names,

Recommends the adoption of the Pinyin System/Hanyu pinyin as the international system for the Romanization of Chinese geographical names.

Annex

COMPARATIVE TABLE OF CHINESE ROMANIZATION

<u>Pinyin</u>	<u>Wade-Giles</u>	<u>Pinyin</u>	<u>Wade-Giles</u>
a	a	cen	ts'ên
ai	ai	ceng	ts'êng
an	an	cha	ch'a
ang	ang	chai	ch'ai
ao	ao	chan	ch'an
ba	pa	chang	ch'ang
bai	pai	chao	ch'ao
ban	pan	che	ch'ê
bang	pang	chen	ch'ên
bao	pao	cheng	ch'êng
bei	pei	chi	ch'ih
ben	pên	chong	ch'ung
beng	pêng	chou	ch'ou
bi	pi	chu	ch'u
bian	pian	chua	ch'ua
biao	piao	chuai	ch'uai
bie	pie	chuan	ch'uan
bin	pin	chuang	ch'uang
bing	ping	chui	ch'ui
bo	po	chun	ch'un
bu	pu	chuo	ch'o
ca	ts'a	ci	tz'ü
cai	ts'ai	cong	ts'ung
can	ts'an	cou	ts'ou
cang	ts'ang	cu	ts'u
cao	ts'ao	cuan	ts'uan
ce	ts'ê	cui	ts'ui
cei	(ts'ei)	cun	ts'un

<u>Pinyin</u>	<u>Wade-Giles</u>	<u>Pinyin</u>	<u>Wade-Giles</u>
cuo	ts'uo	fen	fên
da	ta	feng	fêng
dai	tai	fo	fo
dan	tan	fou	fou
dang	tang	fu	fu
dao	tao	ga	ka
de	tê	gai	kai
dei	tei	gan	kan
den	(tên)	gang	kang
deng	têng	gao	kao
di	ti	ge	kê/ko
dian	tien	gei	kei
diao	tiao	gen	kên
die	tieh	geng	kêng
ding	ting	gong	kung
diu	tiu	gou	kou
dong	tung	gu	ku
dou	tou	gua	kua
du	tu	guai	kuai
duan	tuan	guan	kuan
dui	tui	guang	kuang
dun	tun	gui	kuei
duo	to	gun	kun
ê	ê/o	guo	kuo
en	ên	ha	ha
er/r	êrh	hai	hai
fa	fa	han	han
fan	fan	hang	hang
fang	fang	hao	hao
fei	fei	he	hê/ho

<u>Pinyin</u>	<u>Wade-Giles</u>	<u>Pinyin</u>	<u>Wade-Giles</u>
hei	hei	kao	k'ao
hen	hên	ke	k'ê/k'o
heng	hêng	kei	k'ei
hong	hung	ken	k'ên
hou	hou	keng	k'êng
hu	hu	kong	k'ung
hua	hua	kou	k'ou
huai	huai	ku	k'u
huan	huan	kua	k'ua
huang	huang	kuai	k'uai
hui	hui	kuan	k'uan
hun	hun	kuang	k'uang
huo	huo	kui	k'uei
ji	chi	kun	k'un
jia	chia	kuo	k'uo
jian	chien	la	la
jiang	chiang	lai	lai
jiao	chiao	lan	lan
jie	chieh	lang	lang
jin	chin	lao	lao
jing	ching	le	lê
jiong	chiung	lei	lêi
jiu	chiu	leng	lêng
ju	chü	li	li
juan	chüan	lia	lia
jue	chüeh	lian	lien
jun	chün	liang	liang
ka	k'a	liao	liao
kai	k'ai	lie	lieh
kan	k'an	lin	lin
kang	k'ang	ling	ling

<u>Pinyin</u>	<u>Wade-Giles</u>	<u>Pinyin</u>	<u>Wade-Giles</u>
liu	liu	nan	nan
long	lung	nang	nang
lou	lou	nao	nao
lu	lu	nei	nei
luan	luan	nen	nên
lüe	lüeh	neng	nêng
lun	lun	ni	ni
luo	lo	nian	nien
lǔ	lǔ	niang	niang
lüan	lüan	niao	niao
lǔn	lǔn	nie	nieh
ma	ma	nin	nin
mai	mai	ning	ning
man	man	niu	niu
mang	mang	nong	nung
mao	mao	nou	nou
mei	mei	nu	nu
men	mên	nuan	nuan
meng	mêng	nüe	nüeh
mi	mi	nun	nun
mian	mien	nuo	nuo
miao	miao	nǔ	nǔ
mie	mieh	ou	ou
min	min	pa	p'a
ming	ming	pai	p'ai
miu	miu	pan	p'an
mo	mo	pang	p'ang
mou	mou	pao	p'ao
mu	mu	pei	p'ei
na	na	pen	p'ên
nai	nai	peng	p'êng

<u>Pinyin</u>	<u>Wade-Giles</u>	<u>Pinyin</u>	<u>Wade-Giles</u>
pi	p'i	ru	ju
pian	p'ien	rua	(jua)
piao	p'iao	ruan	juan
pie	p'ieh	rui	jui
pin	p'in	run	jun
ping	p'ing	ruo	jo
po	p'o	sa	sa
pou	p'ou	sai	sai
pu	p'u	san	san
qi	ch'i	sang	sang
qia	ch'ia	sao	sao
qian	ch'ien	se	sê
qiang	ch'iang	sei	(sei)
qiao	ch'iao	sen	sên
qie	ch'ieh	seng	sêng
qin	ch'in	sha	sha
qing	ch'ing	shai	shai
qiong	ch'iong	shan	shan
qiu	ch'iu	shang	shang
qu	ch'ü	shao	shao
quan	ch'üan	she	shê
que	ch'üeh	shei	(shei)
qun	ch'ün	shen	shên
ran	jan	sheng	shêng
rang	jang	shi	shih
rao	jao	shou	shou
re	jê	shu	shu
ren	jên	shua	shua
reng	jêng	shuai	shuai
ri	jih	shuan	shuan
rong	jung	shuang	shuang
rou	jou	shui	shui

<u>Pinyin</u>	<u>Wade-Giles</u>	<u>Pinyin</u>	<u>Wade-Giles</u>
shun	shun	wai	wai
shuo	shuo	wan	wan
si	ssü	wang	wang
song	sung	wei	wei
sou	sou	wen	wên
su	su	weng	wêng
suan	suan	wo	wo
sui	sui	wu	wu
sun	sun	xi	hsi
suo	so	xia	hsia
ta	t'a	xian	hsien
tai	t'ai	xiang	hsiang
tan	t'an	xiao	hsiao
tang	t'ang	xie	hsieh
tao	t'ao	xin	hsin
te	t'ê	xing	hsing
tei	(t'ei)	xiong	hsiung
teng	t'êng	xiu	hsiu
ti	t'i	xu	hsü
tian	t'ien	xuan	hsüan
tiao	t'iao	xue	hsüeh
tie	t'ieh	xun	hsün
ting	t'ing	ya	ya
tong	t'ung	yan	yen
tou	t'ou	yang	yang
tu	t'u	yao	yao
tuan	t'uan	ye	yeh
tui	t'ui	yi	i/yi
tun	t'un	yin	yin
tuo	t'o	ying	ying
wa	wa	yong	yung

<u>Pinyin</u>	<u>Wade-Giles</u>	<u>Pinyin</u>	<u>Wade-Giles</u>
you	yu	zheng	chêng
yu	yü	zhi	chih
yuan	yüan	zhong	chung
yue	yüeh	zhou	chou
yun	yün	zhu	chu
za	tsa	zhua	chua
zai	tsai	zhuai	chuai
zan	tsan	zhuan	chuan
zang	tsang	zhuang	chuang
zao	tsao	zhui	chui
ze	tsê	zhun	chun
zei	tsei	zhuo	cho
zen	tsên	zi	tzü
zeng	tsêng	zong	tsung
zha	cha	zou	tsou
zhai	chai	zu	tsu
zhan	chan	zuan	tsuan
zhang	chang	zui	tsui
zhao	chao	zun	tsun
zhe	chê	zuo	tso
zhen	chên		