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THE PRESENT STATE OF AUTOMATION
IN THE COMPILATION OF JAPANESE GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

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(Paper presented by the Secretariat)

THE PRESENT STATE OF AUTOMATION
IN THE COMPILATION OF JAPANESE GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

The Geographical Survey Institute of Japan has been conducting, with cooperation of local public bodies, collection and control of geographical names for entry into maps published in Japan. In order to carry out efficient control of geographical names in line with the recommendation made at the third session of the United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, the Institute is at work of compiling a register of geographical names for inclusion in the National Gazetteer of Geographical Names, by means of an electronic computer to put deta into its memory device with making necessary adjustments in the inputs already made.

Geographical names being registered are of those places totalling 500,000 whose names are on the 1/25,000 scale topographical maps published by the Institute.

During the period from 1974 to 1978, a total of 51,300 natural geographical names, including names of 4,800 islands, 3,700 lakes, 15,400 mountains and 27,400 rivers, and a total of 154,000 residential geographical names (oaza, or geographical subdivision of mura or mati) were put in the memory device.

Items

Items related to the registering of geographical names for inclusion in the Gazetteer are as follows:

I. Items common to all geographical names:

1) letters used to inscribe geographical names and their readings

2) Geographical name code.

3) Location (expressed in administrative code)

4) Geodetic coordinates

5) Name of the 1 : 25,000 topographic map

II. Additional items recorded with regard to different categories of geographical name:

1) Mountain: ..... Elevation.

2) Island: ..... Geodetic coordinates obtained by the polygon approximation method after measuring the shape of the island with digitizer, length of the coast line, and area of the island.

3) Lake: ..... Geodetic coordinates obtained by the polygon approximation method and length of the shore line, surface area, maximum depth, surface elevation of the lake.

4) River: ..... Geodetic coordinates of water course and basin obtained by the polygon approximation method, elevation of water-course, length of water-course, and area of basin.

<u>Since</u>

Since in computerizing geographical names, not all geographical names can be expressed correctly by Japanese phonetic letters alone, about 6,500 out of about ten and several thousand "kanji" (Chinese Characters) used for the geographical names are memorized in the computer. A unique high-speed printer is in use for compiling and putting out input deta.

ROMANIZATION

With regard to the problem of Romanization, there have been no alternations since the report was presented at the Third Session of the United Nations Conference.