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**Reports by Governments on the situation in their countries and on the progress made in the
standardization of geographical names since the Tenth Conference (for distribution only)**

Report of the Republic of Korea

Submitted by the Republic of Korea**

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Report of the Republic of Korea¹

SUMMARY

This paper reports on the activities of the standardization and management of geographical names by the Republic of Korea's two government agencies of for the past five years: the National Geographic Information Institute (NGII) and the Korea Hydrographic and Oceanographic Agency (KHOA). During the period of 2012~2016, the NGII and the KHOA standardized and publicly announced 420 natural and artificial feature names and 451 marine geographical names, respectively. The NGII established a long-term master plan for surveying geographical names and examining the accuracy of names database. The KHOA organized various activities with the goal of standardizing and promoting awareness of marine geographical names, which included publishing materials for the public, conducting education and training courses, and holding annual symposiums.

In the Republic of Korea, names of natural and artificial features have been standardized and managed by the National Geographic Information Institute (NGII) and those of marine geographical features by the Korea Hydrographic and Oceanographic Agency (KHOA). The Korea Committee on Geographical Names (KCGN) functions as the authority that finally reviews and decides on the names reported or proposed by the NGII and the KHOA.

1. Standardization and management of geographical names by the NGII

1.1. Standardization of geographical names, 2012~2016

During the period of 2012~2016, the KCGN approved the standardization and public announcement of 420 natural and artificial feature names reported by the NGII. According to procedural rules, new names or name changes for natural and artificial features were proposed by committees of lower local municipalities, e.g., city, provincial, or country committees, and reported by the NGII. Among the 420 natural and artificial feature names, 395 were new names and 25 were changed names. 26 names were approved at the subsequent meeting after being rejected or deferred at the previous meeting. In total, the number of standardized natural and artificial names reached up to 152,292. Newly standardized names were mostly given to features used by local residents or in maps but not publicly announced (e.g., small islands and peaks) and to newly constructed features (e.g., bridges, intersections and parks).

1.2. A nation-wide survey of geographical names and the renovation of the management system of geographical names

¹ This working paper pertains to the UNCSGN resolutions IX/7 (Dissemination of information concerning the origin and meaning of geographical names) I/4 (National standardization), and V/6 (Promotion of national and international geographical names standardization programs).

In 2012, the NGII began to implement the previously established masterplan in order to provide a foundation for surveying and managing geographical names, preparing an institutional framework to cooperate with other governmental agencies, as well as promoting the national standardization of geographical names. According to this masterplan, a detailed action plan was established and implemented each year. To date, several projects have been implemented. For example, an integrative database for geographical names was established in 2012, which included the revision of the management system of geographical names. Since then, the NGII has surveyed geographical names and included the new information in the database. In 2014, the classifying system of geographical names was adjusted to reflect the naming practices of the public.

Major achievements of the masterplan can be summarized as follows;

- a) The NGII provided a comprehensive manual for the classification of geographical names into four categories: administrative, artificial, natural, and marine names. Each category was further classified on the basis of related research. The new classification scheme was applied to the new database system as well.
- b) The list of geographical names with their relative importance was prepared. When the information on the importance of geographical names is accessible, it is possible to decide the number of geographical names according to the scale and size of a map.
- c) The accuracy of the geographical name database was examined by the result of a nation-wide survey. The names in the database were thoroughly reviewed and changed when they were identified as spelling errors, exonyms, wrong classification codes and coordinates, and disappeared names.

1.3. Achievements in publications

The NGII has spent its resources on research and publication to facilitate the efficient management of geographical names and provide precise information to the general public. In 2015, the NGII initiated a new project to publish a place-name book titled *People, Places and Place Names in the Republic of Korea* for foreigners. This project was designed to help foreigners correctly read and understand Korean geographical names at ease. Another purpose of this book was to introduce the richness of Korean cultural and historical heritage represented in geographical names. To attract the interest of the general public, the book was written in a conversational style and included diverse examples to explain Korean geographical names.

The NGII initiated a grand project to publish a comprehensive national atlas with the help of the Korean Geographical Society. The first volume, published in 2014, covers the territorial history of Korea. The recently published second and third volumes include the human and physical geography, respectively. The new massive atlas, a successor of the 2007 edition, will be used to easily understand the geography of Korea and to identify geographical names that contain abundant information.

Noting the recommendation of the UNCSCGN resolutions IV/4, V/14, and VI/7, the NGII also revised its guidelines for using Korean geographical names in 2015. The changes lie in the ways of writing generic terms of artificial features which are regulated by *Rules of Writing Generic Terms of Korean Geographical Names in the International Settings*, enacted in 2014 and revised in 2015. Counts of names, maps and statistical figures as well as administrative procedures have also been updated.

As a national map agency, the NGII has been publishing a series of topographic maps. Maps with diverse

scales and coverages are available from the NGII

- 1:5,000 digital topographic maps: 17,646 maps covering the whole country (in Korean)
- 1:25,000 digital topographic maps: 868 maps covering the whole country (in Korean)
- 1:25,000 digital topographic maps: 868 maps covering the whole country (in English)
- 1:25,000 topographic maps: 803 maps covering the whole country (in Korean)
- 1:50,000 topographic maps: 230 maps covering the whole country (in Korean)
- 1:250,000 regional maps: 26 maps covering the whole country (in Korean)
- 1:1,200,000 map of Korea (Korean and English editions)
- 1:2,000,000 map of Korea (Korean and English editions including Korean territorial water)
- 1:5,000,000 map of Korea and vicinity (Korean and English editions)
- 1:33,000,000 world map (Korean and English editions)

1.4. International activities related to geographical names

The NGII organized two international meetings on toponymy. One was a symposium on Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage held in Seoul, 5-7 November 2014 and the other was a workshop on Place Names to the Public held in Jeju, 8-10 October 2015. The meetings were designed to increase awareness of the academia and policy makers to the elements of cultural heritage contained in geographical names and to the relevance of geographical names with people's life, respectively.

The NGII currently hosts the web-based database of UNCSGN resolutions, which provides a useful engine to search 207 resolutions by Conference, subject and key words (<http://www.ngii.go.kr/portal/ungn/mainEn.do>). Three language versions of the database have been in service; English (since 2009), French (since 2012) and Spanish (since 2015). The database is also accessible from the UNGEGN website at: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/ungegn/confGeneral.html>. The database will be updated to include resolutions which will be adopted at the 11th Conference. As the Arabic text of resolutions are now prepared by the Arabic Division, the task of loading it onto the database frame will begin in an appropriate time scheme.

2. Standardization and management of marine geographical names by the KHOA

2.1. Marine geographical names approved by the KCGN and undersea feature names approved by SCUFN, 2012~2016

In order to systematically manage and standardize marine geographical names, the KHOA publicly announced marine geographical names both domestically and internationally. Having completed survey of marine geographical names in the jurisdictional and international sea areas for the past five years, the KHOA publicly announced 451 marine geographical names approved by the KCGN. 15 undersea feature names in international waters, including a few in the Antarctic Ocean, were submitted and registered at the General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO) Gazetteer which is managed by the Sub-Committee on Undersea Feature Names (SCUFN), jointly run by the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC). So far, 990 marine geographical names were announced domestically and 50 internationally.

2.2. Achievements in publications

In order to standardize and publicize marine geographical names, the KHOA published various

publications. Regarding standardization, the KHOA revised its guidelines for the standardization of marine geographical names in 2016 to improve the application of principles in a more logical and systematic manner.

With regard to publicity, online comics and games were developed for use by all members of the public and efforts are being made to publicize marine geographical names to the public in an easy manner.

2.3 Outreach activities

Several activities were conducted to enhance the awareness and understanding of marine geographical names. The KHOA carried out five hands-on marine educational sessions for 83 elementary students from 2013 to 2016. Furthermore, trainings for 200 elementary and secondary school teachers were held to enhance awareness and accessibility of marine geographical names from 2012 to 2016. Such trainings are expected to create a synergistic effect when it comes to the education of students.

In addition, the KHOA conducted various activities domestically and internationally, including hosting exhibitions and symposiums. Two exhibitions under the theme of marine geographical names were held in 2013 and 2015 respectively and they promulgated marine geographical names to the public. Since 2006, the KHOA also hosted annual international symposiums on undersea feature names and facilitated an opportunity to discuss and exchange information on research and technological advancements among experts.

Moreover, the KHOA produced the GEBCO World Map in Korean and English and in four additional languages (Cambodian, Portuguese, Vietnamese and Filipino) with Asia and America in the center, with an intention to expand the use of marine geographical names worldwide. The KHOA has been supporting international experts' activities on marine geographical names as well, such as improving the marine geographical names with insufficient information in B-8 *GEBCO Gazetteer of Undersea Feature Names*. The KHOA has internationally contributed to practical affairs on undersea features by creating and continuously updating GEBCO SCUFN online systems on submitting and reviewing the proposals on undersea feature names, as well as on definitions of generic terms.