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WRITING SYSTEMS: ROMANIZATION

New Romanization System of Korean

(Submitted by Republic of Korea\*\*)

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# The Revised Romanization of Korean

Korean Ministry of Culture & Tourism, following Ministry proclamation No. 2000-8 of 7 July 2000, revised and adopted new guidelines for romanization of Korean. The following contents include 1) basic principles, 2) summary, 3) special provisions, and 4) examples.

## 1. Basic Principles of Romanization

- (1) Romanization is based on standard Korean pronunciation.
- (2) Symbols other than Roman letters are avoided to the greatest extent possible.

## 2. Summary of the Romanization System

(1) Vowels are transcribed as follows:

• simple vowels

ㅏ	ㅑ	ㅓ	ㅕ	ㅡ	ㅣ	ㅞ	ㅟ	ㅛ	ㅜ
a	eo	o	u	eu	i	ae	e	oe	wi

• diphthongs

ㅑ	ㅓ	ㅕ	ㅗ	ㅛ	ㅜ	ㅝ	ㅟ	ㅛ	ㅜ	ㅟ	ㅛ
ya	yeo	yo	yu	yae	ye	wa	wae	wo	we	ui	

Note 1 : ㅟ is transcribed as *ui*, even when pronounced as ㅟ.

Note 2 : Long vowels are not reflected in Romanization.

(2) Consonants are transcribed as follows:

plosives(stops)

ㄱ	ㄲ	ㅋ	ㄷ	ㄸ	ㅌ	ㅍ	ㅑ	ㅑ	ㅑ
g, k	kk	k	d, t	tt	t	b, p	pp	p	

• affricates

ㅈ	ㅉ	ㅊ
j	jj	ch

• fricatives

ㅅ	ㅆ	ㅎ
s	ss	h

• nasals

ㄴ	ㅁ	ㅇ
n	m	ng

• liquids

ㄹ
r, l

Note 1 : The sounds ㄱ, ㄷ, and ㅂ are transcribed respectively as *g*, *d*, and *b* when they appear before a vowel; they are transcribed as *k*, *t*, and *p* when followed by another consonant or form the final sound of a word. (They are Romanized as pronunciation in [    ].)

e.g.

구미	Gumi	영동	Yeongdong
백암	Baegam	옥천	Okcheon
합덕	Hapdeok	벗꽃[번꽃]	beotkkot
월곶[월곶]	Wolgot		
한밭[한밭]	Hanbat		

Note 2 : ㄹ is transcribed as *r* when followed by a vowel, and as *l* when followed by a consonant or when appearing at the end of a word. ㄹㄹ is transcribed as *ll*.

e.g.

구리	Guri	설악	Seorak
칠곡	Chilgok	임실	Imsil
울릉	Ulleung	대관령[대관령]	Daegwallyeong

### 3. Special Provisions for Romanization

(1) When Korean sound values change as in the following cases, the results of those changes are Romanized as follows:

#### 1. The case of assimilation of adjacent consonants

e.g.

백마[백마]	Baengma	신문로[신문노]	Sinmunno
종로[종노]	Jongno	왕십리[왕심니]	Wangsirnri
별내[별래]	Byeollae	신라[실라]	Silla

#### 2. The case of the epenthetic ㄴ and ㄹ

e.g.

학여울[항녀울]	Hangnyeoul	알약[알랏]	allyak
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#### 3. Cases of palatalization

e.g.

해돋이[해도지]	haedoji	같이[가치]	gachi
맞히다[마치다]	machida		

4. Cases where ㄱ, ㄷ, ㅂ, and ㅈ are adjacent to ㅎ

e.g.

종고[조코]	joko	놓다[노타]	nota
잡혀[자퍼]	japyeo	날지[나치]	nachi

However, aspirated sounds are not reflected in case of nouns where ㅎ follows ㄱ, ㄷ, and ㅂ, as in the examples below.

e.g.

목호	Mukho	집현전	Jiphyeonjeon
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Note : Tense (or glottalized) sounds are not reflected in cases where morphemes are compounded, as in the examples below.

e.g.

압구정	Apgujeong	낙동강	Nakdonggang
죽변	Jukbyeon	낙성대	Nakseongdae
합정	Hapjeong	팔당	Paldang
셋별	saetbveol	울산	Ulsan

(2) When there is the possibility of confusion in pronunciation, a hyphen “-” may be used.

e.g.

중앙	Jung-ang	반구대	Ban-gudae
세운	Se-un	해운대	Hae-undae

(3) The first letter is capitalized in proper names.

e.g.

부산	Busan	세종	Sejong
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(4) Personal names are written by family name first, followed by a space and the given name. In principle, syllables in given names are not separated by hyphen, but the use of a hyphen between syllables is permitted.

e.g.

민용하	Min Yongha (Min Yong-ha)
송나리	Song Nari (Song Na-ri)

① Assimilated sound changes between syllables in given names are not transcribed.

e.g.

한복남	Han Boknam (Han Bok-nam)
홍빛나	Hong Bitna (Hong Bit-na)

② Romanization of family names will be determined separately.

(5) Administrative units such as 도, 시, 군, 구, 읍, 면, 리, 동, and 가 are transcribed respectively as *do*, *si*, *gun*, *gu*, *eup*, *myeon*, *ri*, *dong*, and *ga*, and are preceded by a

hyphen. Assimilated sound changes before and after the hyphen are not reflected in Romanization.

e.g.

충청북도	Chungcheongbuk-do		
제주도	Jeju-do	의정부시	Uijeongbu-si
양주군	Yangju-gun	도봉구	Dobong-gu
신창읍	Sinchang-eup	삼죽면	Samjuk-myeon
인왕리	inwang-ri	당산동	Dangsan-dong
봉천 1동	Bongcheon 1(ii)-dong		
종로 2가	Jongno 2(i)-ga		
퇴계로 3가	Toegyero 3(sam)-ga		

Note : Terms for administrative units such as 시, 군, 읍 may be omitted.

e.g.

청주시	Cheongju	함평군	Hampyeong
순창읍	Sunchana		

(6) Names of geographic features, cultural properties, and man-made structures may be written without hyphens.

e.g.

남산	Namsan	속리산	Songnisan
금강	Geumgang	독도	Dokdo
경복궁	Gyeongbokgung		Muryangsujeon
연화교	Yeonhwagyo	극락전	Geungnakjeon
안압지	Anapji	남한산성	Namhansanseong
화랑대	Hwarangdae	불국사	Bulguksa
현충사	Hyeonchungsa	독립문	Dongnimmun
오죽헌	Ojukheon	축석루	Chokseongnu
종묘	Jongmyo	다보탑	Dabotap

(7) Proper names such as personal names and those of companies may continue to be written as they have been previously.

(8) When it is necessary to convert Romanized Korean back to Hangeul in special cases such as in academic articles, Romanization is done according to Hangeul spelling and not pronunciation. Each Hangeul letter is Romanized as explained in section 2 except that ㄱ, ㅋ, ㆁ and ㄷ are always written as *g*, *d*, *b* and *l*. When ㅇ has no sound value, it is replaced by a hyphen. It may also be used when it is necessary to distinguish between syllables.

e.g.

집	jib	짚	jip
밖	bakk	값	gabs
붓꽃	buskkoch	머느	meogneun
독립	doglib	문리	munli
물엿	mul-yeos	굳이	gud-i
좋다	johda	가곡	gagog
조랑말	jolangmal	없었습니다	eobs-eoss-seubnida

### New Romanization System(Simplified Table)

ㅏ	ㅑ	ㅓ	ㅕ	ㅗ	ㅛ	ㅜ	ㅠ	ㅡ	ㅣ	ㅞ	ㅟ	ㅠ	ㅡ	ㅢ	ㅣ	ㅤ	ㅥ	ㅦ	ㅧ	ㅨ	ㅩ
a	eo	o	u	eu	i	ae	e	oe	wi	va	yeo	yo	yu	yae	ye	wa	wae	wo	we	ui	

	initial	ㅇ	ㄱ	ㄴ	ㄷ	ㄹ	ㅁ	ㅂ	ㅅ	ㅈ	ㅊ	ㅋ	ㅌ	ㅍ	ㅎ
final			g	n	d	r	m	b	s	j	ch	k	t	p	h
ㄱ	k	g	kg	ngn	kd	ngn	ngm	kb	ks	kj	kch	kk	kt	kp	kh(k)
ㄴ	n	n	ng	nn	nd	ll(nn)	nm	nb	ns	nj	nch	nk	nt	np	nh
ㄹ	l	r	lg	ll	ld	ll	lm	lb	ls	lj	lch	lk	lt	lp	lh
ㅁ	m	m	mg	mn	md	mn	mm	mb	ms	mj	mch	mk	mt	mp	mh
ㅂ	p	b	pg	pn	pd	pn	pm	pb	ps	pj	pch	pk	pt	pp	ph(p)
ㅇ	ng	ng	ngg	ngn	ngd	ngn	ngm	ngb	ngs	ngj	ngch	ngk	ngt	ngp	ngh

• ‘Final’ refers to the final position character in a Korean syllable. ‘Initial’ refers to the first position character in a Korean syllable. When the final position character of one syllable is followed by the first position character of the next, the phonetic value of either or both characters changes in a limited number of cases as demonstrated here.

#### 4) Examples

ㄱ			
강남	Kangnam	▶	Gangnam
강릉	Kangn ũng	▶	Gangneung

강원도	Kang-won-do	▶	Gangwon-do
강화도	Kanghwado	▶	Ganghwado
개성	Kaesŏng	▶	Gaeseong
거북선	Kŏbuksŏn	▶	Geobukseon
거제도	Kŏjedo	▶	Geojedo
경기도	Kyŏnggi-do	▶	Gyeonggi-do
경북궁	Kyŏngbokkung	▶	Gyeongbokkung
경상남도	Kyŏngsangnam-do	▶	Gyeongsangnam-do
경상북도	Kyŏngsangbuk-do	▶	Gyeongsangbuk-do
경주	Kyŏngju	▶	Gyeongju
경포대	Kyŏngp'odae	▶	Gyeongpodae
고구려	Koguryoŏ	▶	Goguryeo
고려	Koryŏ	▶	Goryeo
공주	Kongju	▶	Gongju
광주	Kwangju	▶	Gwangju
광화문	Kwanghwamun	▶	Gwanghwamun
국새	Kuksae	▶	Guksae
군산	Kunsan	▶	Gunsan
금강	Kŭmgang	▶	Geumgang
금강산	Kŭmgangsan	▶	Geumgangsan
김포	Kimp'o	▶	Gimpo
김해	Kimhae	▶	Gimhae

ㄴ

낙동강	Naktonggang	▶	Nakdonggang
남대문	Namdaernun	▶	Namdaemun
남태령	Namt'aeryŏng	▶	Namtaeryeong
내장산	Naejangsan	▶	Naejangsan

ㄷ

다도해	Tadohae	▶	Dadohae
다보탑	Tabot'ap	▶	Dabotap
대관령	Taegwallyŏng	▶	Daegwallyeong
대구	Taegu	▶	Daegu
대동강	Taedonggang	▶	Daedonggang

대전	Taej 0 n	▶	Daejeon
대한민국	Taehanmin-guk	▶	Daehanminguk
덕수궁	T ǒ ksugung	▶	Deoksugung
독도	Tokto	▶	Dokdo
독립문	Tongnimmun	▶	Dongnimmun
동강	Tonggang	▶	Donggang
동두천	Tongduch' ǒ n	▶	Dongducheon
두만강	Tuman-gang	▶	Dumangang

口

명동	My 0 ng-dong	▶	Myeong-dong
목포	Mokp'o	▶	Mokpo
무궁화	Mugunghwa	▶	Mugunghwa
묵호	Muk'o	▶	Mukho

ㅂ

백두산	Paektusan	▶	Baekdusan
백령도	Paengny 0 ngdo	▶	Baengnyeongdo
백제	Paekche	▶	Baekje
부곡	Pugok	▶	Bugok
부산	Pusan	▶	Busan
부여	Puy 0	▶	Ruyeo
분당	Pundang	▶	Bundang
불고기	pulgogi	▶	bulgogi
불국사	Pulguksa	▶	Bulguksa

ㅅ

서울	Seoul	▶	Seoul
석가탑	S ǒ kkat'ap	▶	Seokgatap
설악산	S ǒ raksan	▶	Seoraksan
성남	S 6 ngnam	▶	Seongnam
속리산	Songnisan	▶	Songnisan
속초	Sokch'o	▶	Sokcho
송탄	Songt'an	▶	Songtan
신라	Shilla	▶	Silla



○

압록강	Amnokgang	▶	Amnokgang
애국가	Aegukka	▶	Aegukka
여의도	YO Üido	▶	Yeouido
영등포	Y 0 ngd Üngp'o	▶	Yeongdeungpo
영산강	Y 9 ngsar-gang	▶	Yeongsangang
예천	Yech' ö n	▶	Yecheon
완도	Wando	▶	Wando
울릉도	Ull ü ngdo	▶	Ulleungdo
울산	Ulsan	▶	Ulsan
원주	Wonju	▶	Wonju
의정부	Üj ö ngbu	▶	Uijeongbu
인천	Inch' 9 n	▶	Incheon
일산	Ilsan	▶	Ilsan
임진각	Imjin-gak	▶	Imjingak
임진강	Imjin-gang	▶	Imjingang

ㄱ

잠실	Chamshil	▶	Jamsil
전라남도	Ch ö llana-do	▶	Jeollanam-do
전라북도	Ch ö llabuk-do	▶	Jeollabuk-do
전주	Ch 0 nju	▶	Jeonju
제주	Cheju	▶	Jeju
제주도	Chejudo	▶	Jejudo
조치원	Choch'iwon	▶	Jochiwon
종로	Chongno	▶	Jongno
종묘	Chongmyo	▶	Jongmyo
지리산	Chirisan	▶	Jirisan
진도	Chindo	▶	Jindo
진해	Chinhae	▶	Jinhae

ㄴ

창경궁	Ch'anggy ö nggung	▶	Changgyeonggung
창덕궁	Ch'angd ö kkung	▶	Changdeokkung
창원	Ch'ang-won	▶	Changwon
천안	Ch' 0 nan	▶	Cheonan

첨성대	Ch'õ ms õngdae	▶	Cheomseongdae
청량리	Ch'õ ngnyangni	▶	Cheongnyangni
청주	Ch'õ ngju	▶	Cheongju
춘천	Ch'unch'õ n	▶	Chuncheon
충청남도	Ch'i'ungch'õ ngnam-do	▶	Chungcheongnam-do
충청북도	Ch'ungch'õ ngbuk-do	▶	Chungcheongbuk-do
칠보산	Ch'ilbosan	▶	Chilbosan

**E**

태극기	T'aeg ũ kki	▶	Taegeukgi
태백산	T'aebaeksan	▶	Taebaeksan
태종대	T'aejongdae	▶	Taejongdae

**P**

파주	P'aju	▶	Paju
판교	P'an-gyo	▶	Pangyo
판문점	P'anmunj 8 m	▶	Panmunjeom
평택	P'y 8 ngt'aek	▶	Pyeongtaek
포천	P'och'Un	▶	Pocheon
포항	P'ohang	▶	Pohang

**H**

하회	Hahoe	▶	Hahoe
한강	Han-gang	▶	Hangang
한글	Han-g ũ l	▶	Hangeul
한라산	Hallasan	▶	Hallasan
한복	hanbok	▶	hanbok
해운대	Haeundae	▶	Haeundae
홍도	Hongdo	▶	Hongdo
화랑	hwarang	▶	hwarang
훈민정음	Hunminj Ung- ũ m	▶	Hunminjeongeum