



## Economic and Social Council

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### **Tenth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names**

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Item 8(d) of the provisional agenda\*

#### **National standardization:**

**administrative structure of national names authorities,  
legislation, policies and procedures**

### **Administrative Structure of National Names Authorities: The Establishment of the Korea Committee on Geographical Names (KCGN)**

Submitted by the Republic of Korea \*\*

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## **Summary**

Founded in 2010, the Korea Committee on Geographical Names (KCGN) is the highest authority on geographical names and marine geographical names in the Republic of Korea. The KCGN carries out effective and systemized maintenance and management of geographical names and marine geographical names at the national level through discussions and decisions. The KCGN makes decisions about the approval and change of geographical names and marine geographical names as well as other important items that are relevant to geographical names and marine geographical names.

### **1. The Establishment of the Korea Committee on Geographical Names (KCGN)**

Founded in 2010, the Korea Committee on Geographical Names (KCGN) is the highest authority on geographical names and marine geographical names in the Republic of Korea. The KCGN carries out effective and systemized maintenance and management of geographical names and marine geographical names at the national level through discussions and decisions. The KCGN makes decisions about the approval and change of geographical names and marine geographical names as well as other important items that are relevant to geographical names and marine geographical names. In principle, the KCGN deliberates on national physical geographical names only. For the unified and systemized management of geographical names in the Republic of Korea, the Korean Committee on Geographical Names established in 1980 and the Korean Committee on Marine Geographical Names (KCMGN) established in 2002 were integrated and made into the Korea Committee on Geographical Names (KCGN) in 2010 as a committee affiliated with the Ministry of Land, Transport and Maritime Affairs, Republic of Korea.

As for the structure of the KCGN, it consists of not more than 30 committee members including a chairman and two vice-chairmen. The chairman of the KCGN is elected from among committee members who are not government officials. The two vice-chairmen of the KCGN are the Director General of the National Geographic Information Institute (NGII) and the Director General of the Korea Hydrographic and Oceanographic Administration (KHOA). Both the NGII and the KHOA are government agencies that are affiliated with the Ministry of Land, Transport and Maritime Affairs, Republic of Korea.

### **2. The Procedure of the Approval and Change of Geographical Names**

As for the procedure of the approval and change of geographical names, after city/county/district committees on geographical names discuss and make decisions about geographical names at the city/county/district levels, the committees submit reports to city/province committees on geographical names concerned. After city/province committees on geographical names discuss and make decisions about the reports that have been submitted by city/county/district committees on geographical names, the city/province committees submit reports to the KCGN. Then, the sub-committee on geographical names of the KCGN discusses and makes the final decisions about the reports submitted by city/province committees on geographical names. After the final decisions of the KCGN, the approval and change of geographical names should be publicly notified by the Minister of Land, Transport and Maritime Affairs, Republic of Korea. The contents of the official announcement of geographical names include geographical names that are approved or changed, location in terms of administrative district, and coordinates or limits.

### **3. The Procedure of the Approval and Change of Marine Geographical Names**

As for the procedure of the approval and change of marine geographical names, the separate small committee on marine geographical names of the KCGN discusses and makes the final decisions about marine geographical names that have been proposed. Following the final decisions of the KCGN, the Minister of Land, Transport and Maritime Affairs, Republic of Korea should publicly notify the approval and change of marine geographical names. The official announcement of marine geographical names consists of marine geographical names that are approved or changed, location, and coordinates or limits.

Figure 1. The Flowchart of the Approval and Change of Geographical Names

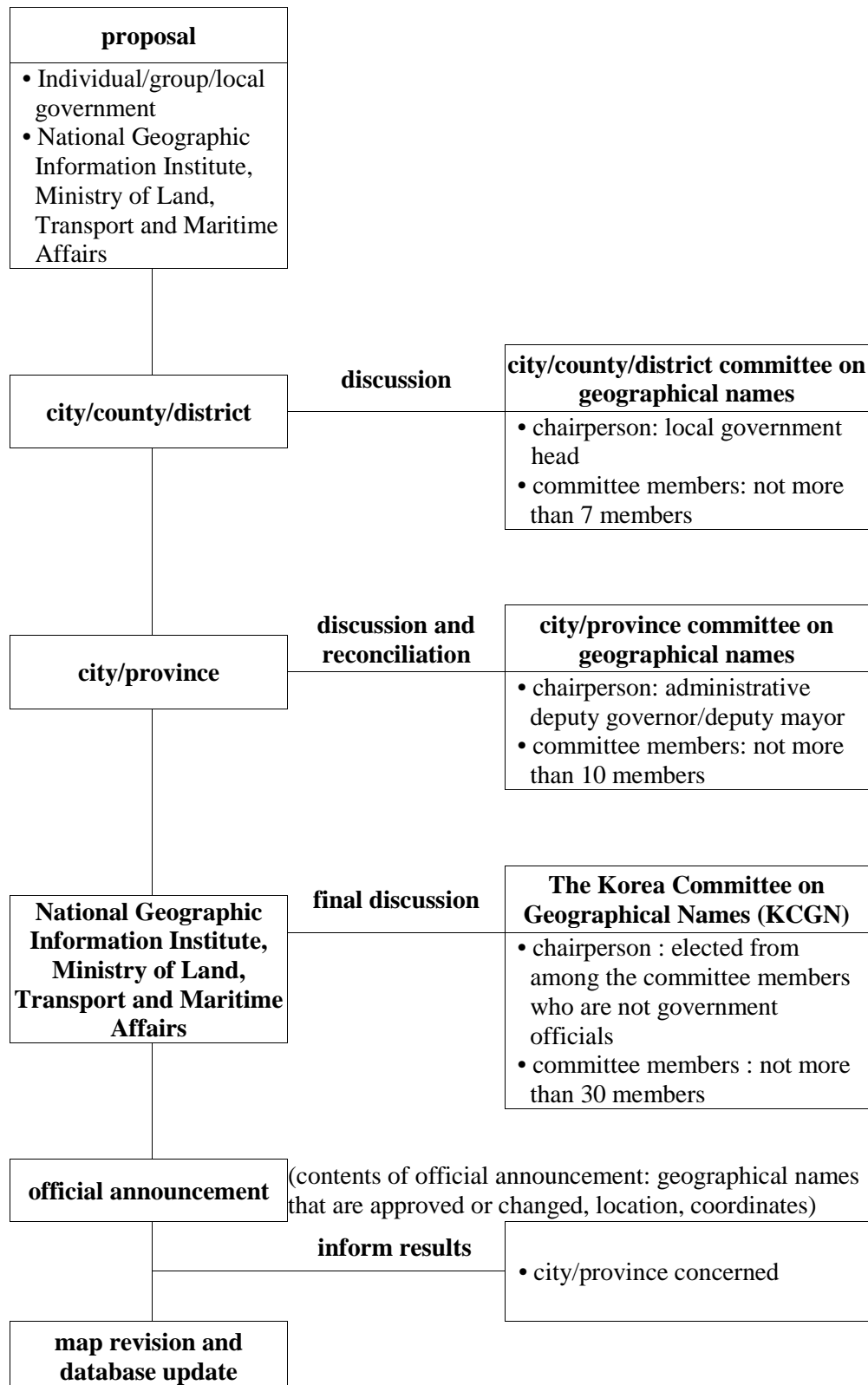


Figure 2. The Flowchart of the Approval and Change of Marine Geographical Names

