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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 SEVENTH CONFERENCE

Report of Progress in the activity for national geographical names

(Submitted by Democratic People's Republic of Korea)

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In the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, number of progresses was achieved in standardization of Korean geographical names by the efforts of the Government of the DPR of Korea.

In the country, the geographical names of politico-administrative sections such as do (capital), si (city), gun (county), guyok (district), ri (worker's village) and major places are standardized by the decree of the presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly of the DPR of Korea.

And other names of villages and places are standardized by standard geographical map, gazetteer, and mass media.

The standard geographical map of the Country in the scale of 1 to 550,000 was printed in 1970, and is revised regularly and published in every 5 years. In April 2002, the Committee for geographical names of the DPR of Korea had compiled and published large gazetteer-“Place names' Dictionary” in 10 volumes covered all administrative and national geographical names.

In this gazetteer, there are 300,000 geographical names that had been used or being used, have a full analysis in terms of history, linguistics and geography.

For the recognition and convenience of usage of geographical names, we extracted 6,000 vocabularies from the gazetteer, and made a digital gazetteer for computer use in families and educational organs.

These years further extension and development of the external relations with other countries many brought foreign words in daily life of the people, including personal names and geographical names and technological names.

Aware of this fact, the coininittee for geographical names formulated “guideline of foreign languages Transcription” in May 2002, which provide more correct guidance for transcription from foreign language into Korean, from more than 51 foreign languages whose phonetic structures are different from Korean.

The production of “Place names' Dictionary/gazetteer” and formulation of “Foreign languages transcription guideline” are major achievements have been made last 5 years.