

**Group of Experts on
Geographical Names**

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WORKING PAPER

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REPORT

ON THE PROGRESS MADE IN THE STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL
NAMES SINCE THE FOURTH UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE
STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

(submitted by the China Division)

In the past two years, continuous progress has been made in the standardization of geographical names. The nationwide investigation into geographical names has nearly come to an end. On this basis, the work of standardizing these names has been done with the result that each name has a standard writing form. The editing and filing of the material gathered from the investigation have been carried out. With these materials at our disposal, we have begun to give advisory opinions to users, to compile publications on place names and to provide standardized place name material for various departments of our country. In order to make the pinyinized Chinese geographical names easily usable both at home and abroad, the Department of Geographical Names of the Research Institute of Surveying and Mapping, under the National Bureau of Surveying and Mapping, has compiled "The Gazetteer of China", which is based on the "Atlas of the People's Republic of China". The gazetteer contains 33,000 entries of Chinese geographical names, each name having Han characters, Pinyin, geographic coordinate, and location on Map. The names in the gazetteer are listed in syllabic sequence of Han characters.

For the sake of reference, two tables of the syllables and stroke number of each name's first Han character are included in the gazetteer, giving the page number on which the name appears. A cross-reference from Pinyin to Han character forms is given for the geographical names of some minority nationalities. A spelling list of nationalities in China and a glossary of generics commonly used on maps are attached to the gazetteer. The compilation of the "Geographical Name Dictionary of the People's Republic of China" is under way. This masterpiece will first of all be published in volumes of provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities. After that, a bound volume is to be published at home and abroad. In addition, work has been done on the standardization of converting foreign geographical names into Han characters, with the result that "A Handbook of Han Character-converted Foreign Geographical Names" containing 18,000 entries has been published.