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Reports: Divisions of the Group of Experts

Report of China Division

Submitted by China**

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**Prepared by the China Division

Summary: Since the 11th United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, China has successfully completed the Second National Survey of Geographical Names and made progress in the construction of the standard system, cultural construction and public service for geographical names.

Since the 11th United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, China has actively implemented the resolutions of United Nations and promoted the standardization of geographical names and cultural development of geographical names, Progress has been made in the following areas:

1. Strengthen the system for standardization of geographical names.

China has organized professional teams to formulate seven transformation guidelines, including Bengali, Malay, Tagalog, Indonesian, Pashto, Urdu and Burmese. Seven national standards have been formulated, including *Geographical names--terminology*, *Antarctic geographical names--Part3:naming*, *Antarctic geographical names--Part4:Romanizing*, *Generic terms of geographical names in China--Chinese phonetic alphabet spelling rules* and *Transformation guidelines of geographical names from foreign language into Chinese in Japanese, Korean and Lao*. Preliminary studies are being conducted on the professional standards of transforming 18 foreign languages into Chinese, including Hebrew, Khmer, Vietnamese, Thai, Dayton, Tamil, Hindi, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyz, Kazakh, Tajik, Uzbek, Armenian, Ukrainian, Belarusian, Moldovan, Polish and Zonka.

2. Successfully complete the Second National Survey of Geographical Names.

In early 2014, the Chinese government decided to conduct the Second National Survey of Geographical Names from July 2014 to June 2018, with the aim to ascertain the basic situation of geographical names throughout the country, obtain the basic data of geographical names, raise the level of standardization of geographical names, strengthen the construction of geographical names information service and provide comprehensive, accurate information of geographical names to the society. Since then, funds of more than 6 billion yuan have been allocated for this purpose, more than 50,000 sets of professional equipment have been deployed, more than 130,000 publicity events have been held, more than 30,000 training courses have been conducted, and more than 3.5 million people have been trained for this purpose. After numerous rounds of supervision and inspection, the survey has been successfully completed. A total of more than 13 million geographical names have been collected, more than 24,000 maps of geographical names have been revised and mapped, and the information of geographical names throughout the country is basically clear. Geographical entities without names have been named, nearly 80,000 non-standard geographical names have been standardized and the standardization of geographical names has been further improved. More than 680,000 geographical names signs have been set up or replaced and as a result, the system of geographical names signs in urban and rural areas has been further improved.

3. Promote the construction of geographical names culture.

Since 2017, China has continuously strengthened the construction of geographical names culture, focusing on the protection of eight types of geographical names and cultural heritages, namely, thousand-year-old cities (capitals), thousand-year-old counties, thousand-year-old towns, thousand-year-old villages, geographical names in oracle bone inscriptions and bronze inscriptions, minority names, geographical names of famous mountains and rivers, and important geographical names culture and heritage in modern and contemporary China. A seminar on the construction of geographical names culture and the preservation of the cultural heritage has been held, *the Norm for the Examination and Verification of Cultural Heritage of Geographical Names in Thousand-year-old Counties* and *the Indicators for the Evaluation of Geographical Names Cultural Heritage in Thousand-Year-Old Counties* has been formulated, the process of confirmation and several related criteria has been further standardized. Twenty-seven counties have been identified as the thousand-year-old counties, including Quwo County in Shanxi Province, Pingyang County, Pujiang County, Haiyan County in Zhejiang Province, Shou County, Quanjiao County, She County, Yi County in Anhui Province, Sha County, Jianyang district in Fujian Province, Fengxin County, Qianshan County, Wuyuan County in Jiangxi Province, Dongping County, Fei County, Yuncheng County in Shandong Province, Yongcheng City, Wen County, Jia County, Xiangcheng County in Henan Province, Daye City, Macheng County, Huangmei County in Hubei Province, Chaoyang District in Guangdong Province, Oujiang County, Yanting County in Sichuan Province and Lingwu City in Ningxia Autonomous Region. As of today, China has identified 99 thousand-year-old counties in total.

The identification of the cultural heritage of geographical names such as ancient towns and ancient villages have been carried out throughout China by categories and in batches, and a wide range of activities such as cultural exhibitions on geographical names, knowledge competitions and the production of audio-visual works have been carried out, thus effectively strengthening the protection of geographical names culture. A large-scale TV program called The China Geographical Names Conference has been planned, aiming to present the rich and colorful landscapes and geographical names of China in an all-round and detailed way through online and offline synchronous knowledge contests. The program is scheduled to be broadcast on the general channel and the international channel of the China Media Group around August 2019. The research project called "Geographical Names Culture in Chinese Poetry" has been launched, and a film called "the Geographical Names of China" has been produced, activities of collecting and broadcasting short videos on the theme of "Beautiful China, Dream of Geographical Names" have been held across the country. A series of 30 public activities of geographical names, including animations entitled "Cultural Stories of Thousand-year-old Villages about Geographical Names", a collection of local geographical names in Chengdu, lantern riddles of geographical names in China, cultural dissemination of geographical names on campus, "revival" of historical memory, a live broadcast of the "strolling through the axis of Beijing" and tracing

the geographical names disappeared during the construction of the Three Gorges Project, have been held.

4. Deepen the public service related to geographical names.

China is pressing ahead with the construction of public service projects for geographical names and improving the public service system related to geographical names. Through the Second National Survey of Geographical Names, information databases at national, provincial, municipal and county levels have been established, geographical names information administration platforms and social service platforms have been developed. Geographical names public service platforms have been launched in all provinces (autonomous regions and municipalities). A wide range of geographical names services, such as electronic maps and navigation have been carried out, and the capacity of geographical names information management and service has been significantly enhanced.

The relevant government departments of China have jointly issued *the Guidance on further Clearing up and Rectifying Non-standard Geographical Names*, in order to continuously carry out the nationwide campaign to clear up and rectify non-standard geographical names. *The Guidance on Strengthening the Installing and Management of Geographical Name Signs* has been formulated, which provides a policy basis for standardizing the installing of geographical names standard and strengthening the management of geographical name signs. New geographical name signs use two-dimensional codes and intelligent chips in China's provinces (autonomous regions, cities), providing a more convenient geographical names sign guidance service for the society. The research, development and acceptance of the Geographical Names and Address Database Management System have been completed, and third-party assessments of the database construction in 37 pilot areas has been conducted. Training courses on the construction of the Toponymic and Address Database throughout the country have been organized in order to comprehensively summarize and popularize the typical experiences, practices and relevant standards and norms in the pilot areas. The government has published 13,220 standard names for islands in some Chinese sea areas, supplemented six standard names for southern Tibet, and published the first batch of 12 standard Chinese translations of geographical names for "Charon".

5. Publications of geographical names.

In connection with the Second National Survey of Geographical Names, seven books on geographical names have been published, including *Introduction of Toponymy Management*, *Introduction of Toponymic Services*, *Introduction of Toponymic Culture*, *Study of Toponymic Planning*, *Study of Toponymic Signs*, *Study of Toponymic Spelling and Conversion*, and *Study of Toponymic Informatization*. *The Second National Survey of Geographical Names Documentary* has been compiled and a portable map of geographical names in China has been produced. A number of reference books such as standard maps, records, gazetteers, and annals of standard geographical names have been compiled, and books on geographical names culture have been

published, such as *the Administrative Map of Fujian Province ,China* and *the Gazetteer of Guangxi, China*, making geographical names information services more diversified. An activity to solicit articles on toponymic theories has been held, 349 articles were collected in total. Among them, five articles won the first-class awards, 15 articles for second-class awards, 20 articles for third-class awards, 30 articles for excellence awards and nine articles for organization awards. The *protection and Development-2017 national collection of essays on toponymic theories* has been published, promoting the exchange and development of toponymic theories. An activity has been launched to solicit the creation of Chinese geographical names poems, and more than 300 articles on toponymic theories, geographical names culture and information have been published on the Internet, Wechat public accounts and national geographical names micro-blogs.