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THIRD UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE
STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

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STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES IN JAPAN

When preparing a new map, data for naming of places are collected with the assistance of local public bodies.

Legal treatment is given in the case of the naming of local public bodies, including mati (town) or aza (sub-village) in Si (city), Mati (town), or Mura (village); in other words, the naming of such communities is governed by law. In the case of natural geographical features, those covering wide areas, their naming is given semi-official treatment on the Map of Geographical Names of Natural Regions compiled by the Geographical Survey Institute.

While, generally, natural geographical features, such as mountains, rivers, capes, etc., are called by the names of traditional usage, it happens that, for instance, a certain mountain is called by different names in different localities around the mountain, and, likewise, a certain river has different names in places on the upper and down streams. In the circumstances, the Geographical Survey Institute and the Hydrographic Department established the Joint Committee on the Standardization of Geographical Names to adopt the standardized names for use on topographic maps and nautical charts.