Sixth session of the
United Nations Group of Experts
   on Geographical Names
New York, 5-26 March, 1975

Item 6 d/ of the
provisional
agenda

Romanization of Korean geographical names in the People's Democratic Republic pf Korea /PDRK/

Submitted by Hungary

From a letter dated 28 February, 1973, written by the Linguistic
Research Institute /LRI/, Academy of Social Sciences, PDRK, we
received information on a Romanization system shown in Table 1
and Table 2. These tables have been prepared on the basis of the
annex to this letter, titled: Romanization System for Korean /in
Korean language/. As the transcription system in this annex has
been given in the form of sometimes not precisely defined rules,
the arrangement into the form of a romanization table /Table 1/,
and into a comparative table /Table 2/, raised some questions
to be cleared. In order to clarify these points, the tables have
been sent recently for review and eventual corrections to the
LRI. In consequence of these circumstances the LRI System should
be regarded at present as preliminary..

The LRI System is basically the same as the McCune-Reischauer
System /McC-R/, with the exception of two deviations: a/ no dia-
critical marks /including the apostrophe for aspiration/ are used;
b/ the so called euphonic changes of consonants are different to
those given in the McC-R System. A detailed demonstration of the
differences between the two systems is given by us in Table 2.

General remarks of the LRI on the romanization: In case of geo-
graphical names consisting of a specific and a generic element,
where the latter changes the meaning of the name, this generic
must be always hyphenized. The transcription of this generic
must be given in the form shown in the list below, and not accor-
ding to Table 1, e.g. 청산리 is correctly Chongsan-ri, and not
Chongsalli cr Chongsal-li.

Other remarks: In case of the explanations "before vowels, fol-
lowed by vowels" and "before consonants, followed by consonants",
mute characters /e.g. ㅎ, ㅇ / should be disregarded. In case of the
explanations "after vowels, preceded by vowels", combinations
of vowels with y /e.g. ya, ye, etc./ or with w /wa, we, etc/ should
be also included.

List of generics to be hyphenized /given by LRI/

Generic	Transcription	Meaning		Examples
강	gang	river	금강	Kum-gang
천	chon	creek	어랑천	Orang-chon
리	ri	settlement	문수리	Munsu-ri
산	san	mount	백두산	Paekdu-san
봉	bong	hill	비로봉	Piro-bong
연	yon	lake	구룡연	Kuryong-yon
문	mun	gate, city	대동문	Taedong-mun
사	sa	temple	장안사	Changan-sa
도	do	island	제주도	Cheju-do
탑	tap	tower	무영탑	Muyong-tap
대	dae	panorama	늘말대	Ulmil-dae
교	gyo	bridge	옥류교	Okryu-gyo
동	dong	district	중성동	Chungsong-dong
촌	chon	village	서향초	Sohyang-chon
벌	bol	plain	호남벌	Honam-bol

Table 1

Preliminary transcription table of Korean geographical names
On the basis of the letter dated 28. February, 1973, by the
Linguistic Research Institute, Academy of Social Sciences,
People's Democratic Republic of Korea.

Korean charac-ter	Roman charac-ter	Expla-nation+	Examples		Korean charac-ter	Roman charac-ter	Expla-nation+	Examples	
ㄱ	k	1,2,3	고구려	Koguryo	ㄸ	dd	8	뜨아리	Ddoari
			박전	Pakchon	ㅌ	t	1,2,10	대선	Taechon
	g	4	국어	Kugo				까후리	Ggaturi
			박연	Pagyon				밭머리	Patmori
			평강	Pyonggang		ch	11	끝이	Gguchi
	ng	5	국로강	Tongno-gang	ㅊ	ch	1	조선	Choson
	-	6	밝다	Malda		t	2	꼿다	Katda
ㄲ	gg	1,2,3	까루리	Ggaturi		j	4	해주	Haeju
			손끝	Songgut				성진	Chongjin
	k	7	밖으로	Pakuro				잇아서	Anjaso
ㅋ	k	8	콩나물	Kongnamul	ㅉ	jj	8	따르다	Jjaruda
			소칼	Sonkal	ㅊ	ch	1,4	소산	Chosan
ㅂ	p	1,2,3	백선	Paekchon				꽃이	Ggochi
			갑산	Kapsan				보전보	Pochonbo
	b	4	가오	Kabo		t	2	돛대	Totdae
			해방	Haebang	ㅅ	s	1,4	사동	Sadong
	-	6	여돌	Yodol				웃오니	Usuni
ㅃ	bb	8	뵤죽산	Bbyojuk-san				깟이	Kapsi
ㅍ	p	8	판문점	Panmunjom		ss	12	좋소	Chosso
			남포	Nampo		t	2,3	삿갓	Satgat
ㄷ	t	1,2,3,9	단선	Tanchon		-	6	싻	Ssak
			받다	Patda				돓	Tol
			앝다	Alta				값	Kap
	d	4	문덕	Mundok	ㅆ	ss	1	씨름	Ssirum
			받으니	Paduni		t	2	하겼다	Hayotda
						ts	4	있오니	Itsuni

+ Explanations belonging to the figures, see at the end of the table

Table 1 /continued/

Korean charac-ter	Roman charac-ter	Expla-nation	Examples		Korean charac-ter	Roman charac-ter	Examples	
ㄴ	n	13	낭원	Nyongwon	ㅏ	a	아침	Achim
	nn	12	훈네	Chonne	ㅑ	ya	야수	Yasu
	l	5	신라	Silla	ㅓ	o	어부	Obu
ㅁ	m	8	마산	Masan	ㅕ	yo	겨레	Kyore
			젊으니	Cholmuni	ㅗ	o	오국	Ogok
ㄹ	r	1,4	라진	Rajin	ㅛ	yo	교장	Kyojang
			가루개	Karugae	ㅜ	u	우산	Usan
			석굴암	Sokguram	ㅠ	yu	유부도	Yubudo
			앓드니	Aruni	ㅡ	u	금강	Kumgang
	l	2,3	월미도	Wolmido	ㅣ	i	시험	Sihom
			울산	Ulsan	ㅐ	ae	개	Kae
			호남벌	Honambol	ㅒ	yae	얘 대!	Yae ya!
			앓다	Alta	ㅔ	e	세상	Sesang
			밟히다	Palpida	ㅖ	ye	혜산	Hyesan
			여듧	Yodol	ㅚ	oe	외국	Oeguk
	ll	14	빨래	Bballae	ㅟ	wi	위원	Wiwon
			신라	Silla	ㅢ	ui	신의주	Sinuiju
	n	15	동로강	Tongno-gang	ㅘ	wa	광주	Kwangju
			압록강	Amnok-gang	ㅝ	wo	원산	Wonsan
	-	16	닦	Tak	ㅙ	wae	쇄국	Swaeguk
			밥다	Papda	ㅞ	we	궤도	Kwedo
			없다	Upda				
			옮기다	Omgida				
ㅎ	h	17	함흥	Hamhung				
	-	18	좋다	Chota				
			밟히다	Palpida				
ㅇ	ng	19	양시	Yangsi				
	-	17	암록강	Amnok-gang				

Explanations: 1 At the beginning of a word - 2 In the middle of a syllable /below characters/ - 3 At the end of a word - 4 In the middle of a syllable followed by vowels - 5 In the middle of a syllable before ㄹ - 6 At the end of a word before ㄱ,ㄷ,ㅂ - 7 Below characters /at the end of syllables/ - 8 In all cases - 9 In the middle of a syllable after mute ㅎ and before vowels - 10 In the middle of a syllable before vowels, except ㅣ /i/ - 11 In the middle of a syllable before ㅣ /i/ - 12 After mute ㅎ - 13 In all cases if not preceded by ㅇ or followed by ㄹ - 14 In the middle of a syllable when two ㄹ meet - 15 In the middle of a syllable when preceded by ㄱ, ㅁ, ㅇ - 16 In the middle of a syllable when followed by ㄱ,ㄷ,ㅍ,ㅁ plus another consonant - 17 At the beginning of a syllable - 18 At the end of a syllable; at the beginning of a syllable when standing between a vowel and a consonant - 19 At the end of a syllable.

Table 2

Comparative table of the McCune-Reischauer and the Linguistic Research Institute transcription of geographical names

Remarks: Sources of the comparison were: Romanization Guide 1972, U.S. Board on Geographic Names, and the Linguistic Research Institute System, as given in Table 1.

To demonstrate the changes of consonants, we constructed arbitrary combinations of syllables in many cases, presuming that these combinations may occur in geographical names, too.

Explanations to the figures are given at the end of the table.

Korean character	Example	Transcription McC-R	Transcription LRI
ㄱ	북강	Pukkang	Pukyang
	삿강	Sakkang	Satyang
	갑강	Kapkang	Kapyang
	빨강	Patkang	Patyang
	박문	Pakmun	Pangmun
	박남	Paknam	Pangnam[1]
ㄲ		kk, k[2]	gg
ㅋ		k'	k
ㅂ	박방	Pakpang	Pakbang
	갑방	Kappang	Kapbang
	산방	Sappang	Satbang
	남방	Nammang	Nambang
	갑남	Kamnan	Kapnam
	갑라	Kamna	Kapra
ㅃ		pp, p[3]	bb
ㅍ		p'	p

Korean character	Example	Transcription McC-R	Transcription LRI
ㄷ	다산	Chasan[4]	Tasan
	디산	Chisan	Tisan
	울다	Ulta	Ulda
	박다	Pakta	Pakda
	갑다	Kapta	Kapda
	삿다	Satta	Satda
ㄸ		tt, t[5]	dd
ㅌ		t', ch[6]	t, ch[7]
ㅈ	박진	Pakchin	Pakjin
	울진	Ulchin	Uljin
	갑진	Kapchin	Kapjin
	삿진	Satchin	Satjin
ㅉ		tch, ch[5]	jj
ㅊ		ch'	ch, t[8]
ㅅ	삿강	Sakkang	Satgang
	산문-	Sanmun	Satmun
	삿네	Sanne	Satne
	삿빡	Sappak	Satbak
	삿라	Sanna	Satra
	삿삿	Sassan	Satsan
	삿다	Satta	Satda
ㅆ	있으니	Issuni[9]	Itsuni
	하있다	Hayossta[9]	Hayotda
	삿씨	Sassi	Sattsi

Table 2 /continued/

Korean character	Example	Transcription McC-R	Transcription LRI
ㄴ	나진	Yajin	Nyajin
	니산	Isan	Nisan
ㅁ		m	m
ㄹ	라진	Najin[10]	Rajin
	라신	Yajin	Ryajin
	리산	Isan	Risan
	러산	Nisan	Ruisan
	갑라	Kamna	Kapra
	삿라	Sanna	Satra
	울함	Urham	Ulham
	밟히다	Palphida	Palpida
	좋다	Chohda	Chota
ㅓ		ŏ	o
ㅕ		yŏ	yo
ㅡ		ŭ	u
ㅟ		wi, i[11]	wi
ㅢ		i, ui[12]	ui
ㅝ		wo	wo
ㅔ		13	we
ㅙ		wae	13
ㅞ		we	13
ㅟ		wi	13

Explanations

1 In the LRI System the character ㄱ having the same position, will be also ng before ㄹ

2 After ㄱ

3 After ㅂ

4 The same deviation occurs before ㅓ, ㅛ, ㅠ, ㅖ, ㅐ

5 After ㅅ

6 At the beginning of a syllable before ㅣ /i/

7 In the middle of a word before ㅣ /i/

8 In the middle of a word before consonants

9 There is no such case in the McC-R System, therefore this should be regarded as a presumed transcription

10 The same deviations occur at the beginning of a syllable before other vowels and with the exception of ㅣ /i/ and ㅟ /ui/

11 After ㅂ and ㅁ

12 After ㅇ and ㅎ

13 There is no such character in this system