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**The Regulations of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea
on Geographical Names**

Submitted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea**

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Abstract

The paper provides introduction to the system and contents, chapter by chapter, of the new DPRK Regulations on the Standardization of Geographical Names, formulated and made public by the DPRK Committee of Geographical Names.

The Regulations of the DPRK on Geographical Names

After the Eighth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, a series of measures was taken in the DPRK for keeping in legal protection and permanent preservation the designated geographical name of a geographical feature with a certain ground.

Accordingly, a national step was taken on November 3, 2002, to raise the status of the DPRK Committee of Geographical Names, which had been working previously as a non-governmental organization, to a non-standing body within the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK, the supreme legislative body, and invest it with higher functional authority.

And the previous guidelines on geographical names was re-formulated according to the Regulations of the DPRK on the Standardization of Geographical Names adopted on February 26, 2007.

The Regulations of the DPRK on the Standardization of Geographical Names consist of the system and the contents as follows.

Chapter 1. General Provisions

It gives toponymic explanations about the essence and mission of the geographical nomenclature, its functional structure and role, its classification and legal status.

Chapter 2. Historical Study And Naming of Geographical Names

In this chapter are stipulated the principles and methods in the historical study of geographical names.

Included in the principles for historical study of geographical names are the principle of ensuring the Juche character, the national identity, the spirit of the times, the scientific accuracy, the historical authenticity and the principle of restoring the etymological origin and meaning of geographical names.

The methods for the historical study of geographical names stipulated in this chapter include the method of making clear the etymological origin and meaning of geographical names and, on this basis, clarifying their history, the

historical method of clarifying the origin and course of changes of geographical names from the historical point of view, and the philological method of elucidating the history of geographical names and their state of distribution in the old maps.

Chapter 3. The Standardization of Geographical Names

This chapter is devoted to explanation of the concept and principle of the standardization of geographical names, its range and objects, its content and method, its order and stage, and the principles to be adhered to in the propagation and dissemination of standardized names, as well as the content and method required for the purpose.

Chapter 4. The Calling and Inscription of Foreign Geographical Names

Stipulated in this chapter are the principle and the methodology to be observed in the calling and inscription of the meaning part (the peculiar part) and the classificatory part (e. g. river, mountain, field and so on) of foreign geographical names according to their functional structures.

Also included are the requirement of observing the “the Regulations on Romanization of Korean Geographical Names” and the principles to be adhered to in inscribing the Korean geographical names, if necessary, in foreign letters.

Chapter 5. The Management of Geographical Names

This chapter deals with the use and service of geographical names and the principles to be adhered to in the collection of geographical names, revised or newly-designated, in the edition of materials such as photographs and multi-media data on the geographical features with appropriate names, in the bibliographical listing of geographical names and the registration of items for designation of geographical names, and in the building unite and the design for the geographical names database.

Chapter 6. The Supervision and Control over the Use of Geographical Names

This chapter gives introduction to the control body of geographical names and its duty, the principle to be observed in the use of geographical names and legal responsibilities for its violations.

With the publication of the Regulations of the DPRK on the Standardization of Geographical Names, six chapters in all, the work of the Standardization of Geographical Names is proceeding smoothly in conformity with the spirit of the times, the scientific accuracy and the ideological sentiments of the people.