

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL**

**19 July 2012**

---

**Tenth United Nations Conference on the  
Standardization of Geographical Names**

New York, 31 July – 9 August 2012

Item 10 of the provisional agenda\*

Exonyms

**Report on the Revision of Exonyms  
in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea**

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

---

\* E/CONF.101/1.

\*\* Submitted by: Democratic People's Republic of Korea

**Report on the Revision of Exonyms  
in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea**

**July 2012**

## **Summary**

The report summarizes the DPRK's discovery of exonyms (Nyojin and Japanese words) and their standardization through revision.

### **Report on the Revision of Exonyms in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea**

Geographical names are becoming an ever more efficient means to further accelerate the efforts to place all social activities of the country on the information basis with the development of the IT industry.

Hence, in accordance with the resolutions of the United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (UNCSGN), the DPRK National Committee of Geographical Names (the DPRK NCGN) has begun standardizing geographical names throughout the country, and completed standardizing the names of mountains, mountain ranges, peak, plains, lakes, island, bay, cape and etc, and administrative unit names of town, ri/dong and gu.

In this process, the DPRK NCGN divided geographical names into the unit of mark (meaning, designation and marking) and the unit of classification according to their functional structure, and then divided the mark unit into several sub-units in terms of naming geographical places on the basis of interpretation of marks; Korean language, Chinese Character, dialect and foreign language

The DPRK NCGN categorized them on the basis of national, historical, geographical and linguistic way of research.

Some exonyms localized during the classification of the geographical names foreign elements and geographical names are as follows;

#### **1. Geographical names in Nuchen**

The geographical names in Nuchen came to existence in the northern area of

River Kyumya in South Hamgyong Province of the DPRK as a result of Nuchen invasion on the northern part of Koryo the feudalist state of Korea in the 11<sup>th</sup> Century, the Middle Age.

Now they were all changed into national words as follows;

geographical names in Nuchen	revised cultural name
① 아오지리 (Aoji-ri)	학송리 (Haksong-ri)
② 오모로리 (Omorori-ri)	신창리 (Sinchang-ri)
③ 니망지리 (Nimangji-ri)	락원리 (Rakwön-ri)
④ 서수라리 (Sösura-ri)	우암리 (Uam-ri)
⑤ 동관리 (Tonggan-ri)	강안리 (kangan-ri)
⑥ 주을리 (Juul-ri)	하온포리 (Haonpho-ri)
⑦ 오로군 (Oro-gun)	영광군 (Yönggwang-gun)
⑧ 응기군 (Unggi-gun)	선봉군 (Sönbong-gun)

Every unit of meaning has its own proper meaning, but they do not have any linguistic, semantic and phonetic way of explanation.

## 2. Japaneseque geographical names

In order to rule over the Korea, the Japan established new administrative units such as “tong”, “jeng”, “mok” under “bu”, “si” under “do” of first class administrative unit of Li Dynasty(1392 ~ 1910).

Hence there were the Japaneseque administrative district-“tong”, “jeng”, “mok” in geographical names. After the liberation of Korea they were renamed into “si” and “gun”, “ri”, “dong”.

As shown above, the DPRK NCGN completely updated exonyms, realizing the national standardization of all geographical names. This, in turn, resulted in

consolidating the foundation to standardize geographical names at the international level.

However, the standardization of “Sea of Japan” remains still pending due to Japan’s persistent opposition.