

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL**

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

New York, 31 July – 9 August 2012

Item 4 of the provisional agenda\*

**Reports by Governments on the situation in their countries and on the progress  
made in the standardization of geographical names since the Ninth Conference  
(for distribution only).**

Review of Standardization of Geographical Names in the  
DPRK after the Ninth UN Conference on Standardization of  
Geographical Names

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

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## **Summary**

This paper reviews standardization of geographical names in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in three aspects.

1. Intensification of standardization of the geographical names of the country
2. Notating of the geographical names in accordance with the Rules of Latin Notation of the Geographical Names of Korea
3. Upgrading of the database of geographical names

Since the Ninth UN Conference on Standardization of Geographical Names up to now, the DPRK Committee for Standardization of Geographical Names, true to the resolution of the Conference, has conducted the work of standardizing geographical names of the country in various ways, like standardizing the geographical names of the country, Latin notating of the geographical names of the country and building up of the database of the geographical names.

1. It has intensified standardizing of the geographical names in and out of the country.

In the DPRK standardizing of the administrative names of provinces, cities, counties (districts, ku or jigu) and ri (dong or workers' ku) has been standardized by a decree of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly.

a. Of the geographical names of the natural beings and the residential units below ri, those originated in foreign languages have been renamed as suited to the culture unique to the Korean nation.

Specialists in geography, linguistics, history and geology have been enlisted in this work; they have identified the names originated in foreign languages by the historical, geographical and linguistic methods, and renamed them as required by standardization of geographical names.

As a result, the geographical names originated in foreign languages have been eliminated in the DPRK.

b. New reservoirs have been named.

Reservoirs newly built or under construction have been surveyed on the sites, and those with a capacity of more than  $9917 \times 10^4 \text{m}^3$  have been categorized as "ho." Decree No 1947 of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly on

naming 20 reservoirs as “ho” has been issued on November 19, 2011. Thus, new reservoirs, like Paegam Youth Ho, Orang Ho, Kangryong Ho, Ryesonggang Ho, have been registered as standardized geographical names.

c. Standardized geographical names have been given publicity for wide use.

Books and dictionaries of standardized geographical names have been published for reference by relevant units and individuals.

Following the publication of Dictionary of Names of Villages by provinces after the 8th UN Conference on Standardization of Geographical Names, many books on geographical names have so far been published, including Origins of Names of Villages, Dictionary of Geographical Names, Tales of Geographical Names, Geographical Names of Korea (Pyongyang), and Study of the Geographical Names of Korea. With the broad sections of the people reading them, standardization of geographical names is being undertaken as a mass drive.

d. Standardizing foreign geological names is also brisk in the DPRK.

2. Notating geographical names is under strict control so that they conform to the Rules of Latin Notation of the Geographical Names of Korea.

The DPRK Committee of Standardization of Geographical Names is achieving the unified character of the standardized geographical names by ensuring that the notation in Korean in education, transport, post and telecommunications, commerce and advertising is done according to the Rules.

Study of the Rules has been deepened, but it has not been changed since the Sixth UN conference on Standardization of Geographical Names in 1992.

In April 2009, a map of Korea drawn on a scale of 1 to 1 000 000 was published with the geographical names standardized according to the Rules, for

reference at home and abroad.

3. The database of geographical names has been upgraded.

In the database used before the ninth UN Conference on Standardization of Geographical Names, it was revealed that the names in the map were not in harmony with the actual local names. To solve this problem, Kumsusan 1.0, an administrative and geographical names management system, was developed in 2011. This system can be used effectively also in cartography. The system was explained in detail in a paper, which has already been submitted.

The system will contain the standardized geographical names in the large atlas of Korea published in 2011 and the atlas of the world. The DPRK Committee for Standardization of Geographical Names will, in the future too, remain faithful to the resolutions of the UN Geographical Name Standardization and perform its responsibility of standardizing the geographical names of Korea and other countries of the world.