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GUIDELINES FOR THE ROMANIZATION OF KOREAN

(submitted by the Republic of Korea)

Guidelines for the Romanization of Korean

1. Basic Principles for Transcription

(1) Romanization is based on standard Korean pronunciation.

(2) No symbols except Roman letters are used, so far as possible.

(3) Romanization follows the principle of 'one letter (or set of letters) per phoneme.'

2. Summary of the Transcription System

(1) Vowels are transcribed as follows:

simple vowels	ㅏ	ㅓ	ㅗ	ㅜ	ㅡ	ㅣ	ㅐ	ㅔ	ㅚ		
	a	ǒ	o	u	ǔ	i	ae	e	oe		

diphthongs	ㅑ	ㅕ	ㅛ	ㅠ	ㅒ	ㅖ	ㅢ	ㅘ	ㅝ	ㅙ	ㅞ	ㅟ
	ya	yǒ	yo	yu	yae	ye	ǔi	wa	wo	wae	we	wi

[Note] Long vowels are not marked in transcription.

(2) Consonants are transcribed as follows:

plosives(stops)	ㄱ	ㄲ	ㅋ
	k, g	kk	k'
	ㄷ	ㄸ	ㅌ
	t, d	tt	t'
	ㅂ	ㅃ	ㅍ
	p, b	pp	p'

affricates	ㅈ	ㅉ	ㅊ
	ch, j	tch	ch'

fricatives	ㅅ	ㅆ	ㅎ
	s, sh	ss	h

nasals	ㅁ	ㄴ	ㅇ
	m	n	ng

liquids	ㄹ		
	r, l		

【Note 1】 ㄱ, ㄷ, ㅂ and ㅈ are transcribed respectively as *g*, *d*, *b* and *j*, between vowels, or between ㄴ, ㄹ, ㅁ, or ㅇ and a vowel; otherwise they are transcribed as *k*, *t*, *p*, and *ch*.

e.g.　가구　kagu　　바둑　paduk　　갈비　kalbi

제주　Cheju　　남배　tambae　　받침　patch'im

【Note 2】 ㅅ is transcribed as *s* except in the case of 시, when it is transcribed as *sh*.

e.g.　시루　shiru　　신안　Shinan　　신촌　Shinch'on

부산　Pusan　　상표　sangp'yo　　황소　hwangso

【Note 3】 ㄹ is transcribed as *r* before a vowel, and as *l* before a consonant or at the end of a word : ㄹㄹ is transcribed as *ll*.

e.g.　사랑　sarang　　물건　mulgŏn　　발　pal

진달래　chindallae

3. Special Provisions for Transcription

(1) When Korean sound values change as in the following cases, the results of those changes are transcribed as follows:

1. The case of assimilation of adjacent consonants

e.g.　냇물　naenmul　　부엌문　puŏngmun

낚는다　nangnunda　　닫는다　tannŭnda

삵는다　kamnŭnda　　진리　chilli

십리　shimni　　압력　amnyŏk

독립　tongnip

2. The case of the epenthetic ㄴ and ㄹ

e.g.　가랑잎　karangnip　　낮일　nannil

담요　tamnyo　　홑이불　honnibul

풀잎　p'ullip　　물약　mullyak

3. The case of palatalization

  e.g.   굳이 kuji   해돋이 haedoji

      같이 kach'i

4. The case when ㄱ, ㄷ, ㅂ, and ㅈ are adjacent to ㅎ

  e.g.   국화 kuk'wa   낳다 nat'a

      밟히다 palp'ida   맞히다 mach'ida

【Note】   The tense (or glottalized) sounds, which occur in cases when morphemes are compounded as in the examples below, are transcribed by voiceless consonants.

  e.g.   장기(長技) changki   사건 sakŏn

      냇가 naetka   작두 chaktu

      신다 shinta   산불 sanpul

(2) When there is a possibility of confusion in pronunciation, or a need for segmentation, a hyphen ' - ' may be used.

  e.g.   장이 chang-i   잔기(殘期) chan-gi

      물가에 mulka-e   종로에 Chongno-e

【Note】   In the transcription of personal names and names of administrative units, assimilated sound changes before or after a hyphen are not transcribed.

  e.g.   김복남 Kim Pok-nam   사북면 Sabŭk-myŏn

(3) The first letter is capitalized in proper names.

  e.g.   인천 Inch'ŏn   대구 Taegu

      세종 Sejong

(4) Personal names are written by family name first, followed by a space and then the given name. A hyphen will separate given names, except that non-Sino-Korean given names may be joined without a hyphen.

  e.g.   김성호   Kim Sŏng-ho

      남궁동자   Namgung Tong-cha

손미희자　Son Mi-húi-cha

정 마리아　Chŏng Maria

한 하나　Han Hana

(5) In spite of the Note to (2) above, administrative units such as 도, 시, 군, 구, 읍, 면, 리, 동 and 가 are transcribed respectively as *do, shi, gun, gu, úp, myŏn, ri, dong,* and *ga* and are preceded by a hyphen.

e.g.　충청북도　Ch'ungch'ŏngbuk-do

제 주 도　Cheju-do

의정부시　Ûijŏngbu-shi

파 주 군　P'aju-gun

도 봉 구　Tobong-gu

신 창 읍　Shinch'ang-úp

주 내 면　Chunae-myŏn

인 왕 리　Inwang-ri

당 산 동　Tangsan-dong

봉천2동　Pongch'ŏn 2-dong

종로2가　　Chongno 2-ga

퇴계로5가　T'oegyero 5-ga

【Note】　Terms for administrative units such as 특별시, 직할시, 시, 군, 읍 and so on may be omitted.

e.g.　부산직할시　Pusan　　　신창읍　Shinch'ang

(6) Names of geographic features, cultural properties, and man-made structures may be written without hyphens.

e.g.　남　산　Namsan　　　속 리 산　Songnisan

금　강　Kúmgang　　　독　도　Tokto

해 운 대　Haeundae　　　경 복 궁　Kyŏngbokkung

도산서원　Tosansŏwon　　불 국 사　Pulguksa

현 충 사　Hyŏnch'ungsa　　독 립 문　Tongnimmun

오 죽 헌　Ojuk'ŏn　　　축 석 루　Ch'oksŏngnu

종 묘	Chongmyo	다 보 납	Tabot'ap
무량수전	Muryangsujŏn	연 화 교	Yŏnhwagyo
극 락 전	Kŭngnakchŏn	석 굴 암	Sŏkkuram
안 압 지	Anapchi	남한산성	Namhansansŏng

【Note】 Hyphens may be inserted in words of five syllables or more.
e.g. 금동 미륵보살 반가상 Kŭmdong-mirŭkposal-pan-gasang

(7) Some proper names, which cannot be abruptly changed in view of international practices and common longstanding transcriptions, may be written as follows:

e.g. 서 울 Seoul   이순신 Yi Sun-shin
이승만 Syngman Rhee   연 세 Yonsei
이 화 Ewha

(8) When they are difficult to print or to typewrite, the breve ' �‿ ' in $ŏ$, $ŭ$, $yŏ$, and $ŭi$, and the apostrophe ' ' ' in k', t', p' and ch', may be omitted as long as there is no confusion in meaning.