Standardization of Geographical Names in Cyprus

Presented by Mr. K. Konstantinidis
1. **Introduction**

1.1. The Cyprus Permanent Committee for the Standardization of Geographical Names, faithful to the resolutions of the United Nations Conference on the standardization of Geographical Names, has completed its work on the collection, standardization and transcription of the main Geographical Names of the Island, some 2,000, and published the "CONCISE GAZETTEER OF CYPRUS". The Gazetteer was submitted to the 4th United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names held here in Geneva in 1982. A copy of the Gazetteer may be seen at the exhibition and copies may be obtained on application to the relevant committee in Cyprus.

1.2. It is worth mentioning that the Cyprus Permanent Committee for the Standardization of Geographical Names has been set up by the Decision No. 15.769 of the 21st April 1977, of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cyprus. The transliteration system adopted for the production of the Gazetteer mentioned above has been agreed jointly between Cyprus and Greece both members of the Romano-Hellenic Linguistic Division.

2. **Progress made**

2.1. The Cyprus Permanent Committee for the Standardization of Geographical Names is proceeding with the remaining part of the task of compiling a complete Toponymic Gazetteer of Cyprus, which will contain all the toponyms of the Island, amounting to
about 100,000 names. Needless to mention that the Geographical Names, forming part of the history and cultural heritage of the communities living in Cyprus, will be fully respected by the bodies concerned during the processes of the production of the Gazetteer. No reference to derivation, historic or other elucidation will be made.

2.2. The task for the collection, standardization and transliteration of the Geographical Names of the Island has been entrusted to the Department of Lands and Surveys and the Cyprus Scientific Research Centre. The toponyms are collected by field methods and are being processed by glossologists of the Cyprus Scientific Research Centre. Thereafter the names are submitted to the Cyprus Permanent Committee for the Standardization of Geographical Names for approval. Up to now about 60,000 names have been treated and it is envisaged that the work will be completed in the very near future. The Government of the Republic of Cyprus will be in the pleasant position to present the complete Toponymic Gazetteer of Cyprus to the next Conference of the United Nations for the Standardization of Geographical Names.

3. Compilation

3.1 The Toponymic Gazetteer of Cyprus will be composed of three parts.

(a) Part One. It will contain the names in lexicographical order by administrative district and by village for the purpose of easy reference.
(b) Part two. Each entry of the toponym in this part of the Gazetteer will involve six columns and will be in lexicographical order irrelevant to administrative district and village.

(c) Part Three. This part will contain in alphabetical order all Geographical Terms used in Cyprus with their respective interpretation in English.

3.2 Part One and Part Three of the Gazetteer referred to in 3.1(a) and 3.1(c) respectively require no more explanation. Regarding Part Two, 3.1.(b), which may be considered as the main part of the Gazetteer, the six columns already mentioned will have the headings,

(i) Name
(ii) Transliteration
(iii) Description
(iv) District
(v) Village
(vi) Position.

A brief description of the entries to each one of this columns is given in the paragraphs 3.3 to 3.8 that follow.

3.3 Names column: In Cyprus we have two Official languages, Greek and Turkish. Since the Turkish language is in Roman Script, no
transliteration is required. Therefore all names Greek and Turkish are entered in this column in lexicographical order in either Greek or Turkish as the case may be. Compound toponyms containing a generic term are entered in the order of the proper name.

3.4 Transliteration column: Only the Greek names are entered in this column after being transliterated according to the principles of the new romanization system. APPENDIX "A". The Turkish names being in Roman script are not entered in this column. They are left intact.

3.5 Description column: As the term indicates the description of the name, be it a town, village, river or mountain or any other form of natural or artificial feature known by this name, is entered in this column. APPENDIX "B" is the list of the Description Terms used for this column.

3.6 District column: The name of one of the six administrative districts to which the name belongs i.e Lefkosia, Lemesos, Larnaka, Pafos, Ammochostos or Keryneia is entered in this column.

3.7 Village Column: In this column the name of the village in which the name falls is stated.

3.8 Position Column: The location of each name is defined in this column by reference to the 1 km Grid Square of the map in which the name falls. The grid is on the Universal Transverse Mercator Projection Zone 36.
4. **New maps**

4.1. Under the item 5 of the provisional agenda Cyprus is submitting the following three new editions of maps, all in English, compiled and published by the Department of Lands and Surveys. The nomenclature is based on the new transliteration System.

(a) **Cyprus Town Plans - Lefkosia East and Lefkosia West**
   at scale 1:7,500.

(b) **Cyprus Town Plans - Larnaka** at scale 1:7,500.

(c) **A Visitor's Map of Cyprus** at scale 1:400,000.

4.2. It is worth mentioning that the Department of Lands and Surveys has programmed the publication of town plans for the remaining towns in the area under the control of the Republic i.e. Lemesos and Pafos. Needless to mention that Ammochostos and Keryneia, unfortunately under foreign occupation, towns are inaccessible being under the control of the Turkish military forces. In addition to the publication of new maps the Department is burdened with the task of revising the names on the existing editions of maps in order to conform with the accepted new transliteration system.
### Romanization System for the Greek Alphabet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Greek Characters or their combination</th>
<th>Transcription</th>
<th>Transliteration</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A, α</td>
<td>a</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AI, αι</td>
<td>ai</td>
<td>ai</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AY, αυ</td>
<td>av</td>
<td>av</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B, β</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Π, γ</td>
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<td>g</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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<td>ng</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>nch</td>
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</tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
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</tr>
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<td>Greek Characters or their combination</td>
<td>Transcription</td>
<td>Transliteration</td>
<td>Remarks</td>
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<td>mp</td>
<td>(4) (5)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
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<td>T, τ</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>y</td>
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</tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ω, ω</td>
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<td>o</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
(1) Before the consonants β, γ, δ, ζ, λ, μ, ν, ρ and before all vowels

(2) Before the consonants θ, κ, ξ, π, ρ, θ, χ, ψ.

(3) At the beginning of a word

(4) In the middle of a word

(5) At the end of a word.

Other characters of the Greek script are transcribed in the following form:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Character</th>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Transcription</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Περίσπομενι</td>
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</table>

The combination of the characters αυ, ευ, ηυ, which in the Greek script are accented on the second vowel, on transliteration receive the accent on the first character e. g. αυ, ἐφ, ἐφ, ἑυ, ἰφ.
DESCRIPTION TERMS

Acqueduct
Airfield
Airport
Ancient Monument
Bay
Bench Mark
Bridge
Cape
Capital
Castle
Cave
Cemetery
Channel
Church
Cliff
Dam
Forest
Fort
Gulf
Harbour
Hill
Island
Islet
Lake
Mine
Monastery
Mosque
Mountain
Peak
Point

APPENDIX "B"

*Υδραγωγείον
Δευτεροπαύσα
Αεροπλήμην, Αεροδρόμιον
Αρχαιότητας
Ορμος
Υψομετρικά Σημείων
Ωδύρα
Ακρωτήριον
Πρωτεύουσα
Φοινικόν
Σπήλαιον
Νεκροταφείον
Αδίαξ
Ευκλησία
Κρημνάς
Υδατοφόρατης
Αέσος
Οχυρόν
Κάλπος
Λιμήν
Άφος
Νησίος
Νησίδα
Λίμνη
Ορυχείον
Μονοστήριον, Μονή
tέμενος
Βουνόν, "Ορος
Κόρυφη(βουνού)
"Ακρον (μικρόν Ακρωτήριον)
Sag
Sea
Settlement
Sheep Fold
Slope
Spring
Stream
Toponym
Town
Trigonometrical Station
Valley
Village
Waterfall
Well

Ενορία
Οροειριοδ
Περιοχή
Δεξιομενή (Τόστος)
Κορυφογραμμή, Ράχη (Θουνοθ)
Ποταμός
Βράχος
Σέλλωμα (Κορυφογραμμής), Ζυγός
Εδρασσά
Συνοικίσμος
Στάνη, Μάνδρα προβάτων
Πλαγιά
Πηγή
Ρόης
Τοπωνύμιον, Τοποθεσία
Πίθυς
Τριγωνομετρικόν Σημείο
Κοιλάς
Χωριόν
Κοταράμης
Φρέαρ.