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Since the Fourteenth Session of the UNGEGN in 1989, further progress has been made in this field in China. The following are several major aspects:

1. Strengthening the management of place names and doing the work of the standardization of place names further better

To do the work of the standardization of place names well, we must strengthen construction of legal system and administrative management. In recent years, each of provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities under central government formulated the local regulations on the management of place names one after another. In order to make the Regulations on the Management of Geographical Names in China more perfectly, China Committee on Geographical Names is now undertaking the job of revision. In June, a meeting on the work of management of place names in China was held. During the meeting, we summarized the experiences of the management of place names and made arrangements for the future work. The supplementary investigation and material renewal work of place names in China is just now undertaken and many provinces and municipalities have already fulfilled this task. From the stage of the basic work, the work of place names has entered into a new stage taking the management of place names as the main work.

2. Working out the Standardization of the Information System of Chinese Place Names.

The Standardization of the Information System of Chinese Place Names includes general principles, Place names classification and code,

data documents, the establishment of the information system procedure of place names, system disposition and information transmission and the keeping and management of the information system of place names. The Standardization is up to the criterion stipulated by the People's Republic of China and the information system and its branch of place names must conform to it. According to the Standardization China has accomplished the experimental work to set up a data base of place names at the county level and it has gone through the criterion.

3. The study and personnel training of toponymy

Since 1989, five meetings have been held to study and discuss the management of place names, the compilation of gazetteer and the standardization of generic terms of place names and administrative division, and We have received over 200 thesis of place names. Books of the theory, such as Collected Works on Studying Toponymy and Practical Teaching Materials on Toponymy, have been published. More than 160 staffs of place names have been trained in two terms of two weeks duration and the conception of toponymy, the words structure of place names, the standardization of place names, the translation of foreign names, the information system of place names, the compilation of reference books on place names and the management of place names were systematically explained. Moreover the students of the first toponymy class have graduated from Nanjing University this year and they have been assigned to the departments of place names at all levels.

4. Compiling and publishing books on place names

The volumes of Jiangsu, Hubei, Taiwan provinces and Shanghai and Beijing of the Dictionary of Geographical Names of China, were published in succession after the volume of Zhejiang province was

published. The Handbook of Place Names of Villages and Towns in China and the Gazetteer of the U.K. have also been published. The various kinds of reference books of place names were published by the local authorities.

Besides, the name of the Magazine of Place Names was changed to the China Place Names, which is jointly sponsored by China Society of Toponymy and Liaoning Province Society of Toponymy and becomes a magazine of the national level. The China Place Names is issued to home and abroad.

China Committee on Geographical Names