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**GUIDELINE FOR THE ROMANIZATION OF KOREAN**

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Submitted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea



( Translation )

GUIDELINE  
FOR THE ROMANIZATION OF KOREAN

Submitted by the Democratic  
People's Republic of Korea

Pyongyang, 1992



The guideline for the Romanization of geographical names has been worked out in keeping with the specific features of geographical names and with the principles of phonetics. It is simple and easy to transcribe Korean into Roman alphabets. It is guided by a principle that the common long-standing transcriptions are used as they are.



# GUIDELINE FOR THE ROMANIZATION OF KOREAN

Romanization is mainly based on standard Korean pronunciation. This writing system is applied to geographical and personal names. The pronunciation of transcribed Roman letters are based on international practices.

1. Korean letters are transcribed as follows :

## 1) Vowels

### (1) Single vowels

ㅏ	ㅑ	ㅓ	ㅕ	ㅡ	ㅣ	ㅞ	ㅟ	ㅛ	ㅜ
a	ǒ	o	u	ǔ	i	ae	e	oe	wi

### (2) Diphthongs

ㅕ	ㅖ	ㅗ	ㅛ	ㅜ	ㅠ	ㅝ	ㅞ	ㅟ	ㅛ	ㅜ
ya	yǒ	yo	yu	yae	ye	wa	wǒ	wae	we	ǔi

## 2) Consonants

### (1) Plosives

ㄱ -k	ㅋ -kh	ㆁ -kk
ㄷ -t	ㅌ -th	ㅌ -tt
ㅍ -p	ㅍ -ph	ㅍ -pp

### (2) Affricates

ㅈ -j	ㅊ -ch	ㅉ -jj
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### (3) Pricatives

ㅅ -s	ㅆ -ss	ㅎ -h
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(4) Resonant sounds

ㅁ - m      ㄴ - n      ㅇ - ng      ㄹ - r

2. The change of phonemes are transcribed as follows :

1) The soft voiceless consonants between vowels 《ㄱ, ㄷ, ㅂ》 and those between resonant sounds and vowels are transcribed as 《g, d, b》

e. g.      교구동      Kyogu-dong      초도      Chodo  
         고비리      Kobi - ri      강동      Kangdong  
         금교      Kūngyo      칠보산      Chilbosan

2) At the end of syllable or before a consonant except resonant sound, 《ㄱ, ㅋ》 are transcribed as 《k》, 《ㅂ, ㅍ》 as 《p》 and 《ㄷ, ㄸ, ㅌ, ㅊ, ㅍ, ㅍ》 as 《t》.

e. g.      곡산      Koksan      갑산      Kapsan  
         앞산      Apsan      삿갓봉      Satkatbong

3) 《ㄹ》 is transcribed as 《l》 before a consonant or at the end of a word.

e. g.      울산      Ulsan      은를      Ūnryul

4) Double consonants in the end of a word or in front of a consonant, only one of them is written.

e. g.      탁섬      Taksŏm      물곶      Mulkol

But in the case before a vowel, both consonants are written.



e. g. 붉은바위 Pulgŭnbawi      얇은바위 Anjŭnbawi

3. Korean sound values change as in the follows :

1) 《ㄱ, ㅋ, ㆁ》, 《ㅂ, ㅃ》 and 《ㄷ, ㄸ, ㅌ, ㅍ, ㅍ, ㅍ》

are mainly transcribed respectively as 《ng》, and as 《m》, 《n》. If necessary, they may be written as their original phoneme.

e. g. 백마산 Paengmasan      꽃마을 Kkonmaŭl  
압록강 Amrokgang

2) Before 《ㄹ》 and 《ㄴ》, 《ㄴ》 is transcribed as 《ll》 only when it is considered to be long-standing.

e. g. 천리마 Chŏllima      한나산 Hallasan  
전라도 Jŏlla-do

3) When the first element of the joined word ends with a vowel, and its second element begins with a consonant except the resonant sound, the first sound of the second element is transcribed in strong sound, and 《ㄴ》 is transcribed as 《n》 when the second element begins with the resonant sound.

e. g. 기대산 Kittaesan      새별음 Saeppeŏl-ŭp  
뒤문 Twinmun

4. Special provisions for transcription

1) When there is a need for segmentation or when there is a possibility of confusion in pronunciation, a hyphen 《-》

may be used.

e. g. 앞언덕 Ap-öndök      부엌안골 Puök-angol  
판교 Phan-gyo      방어동 Pang-ö-dong

2) The first letter of all geographical names is capitalized.

e. g. 평안남도 평성시 Phyöngannam-do Phyöngsöng-si

3) In the transcription of geographical features and other proper nouns the first letter is written by a voiced consonant and in the case of administrative units a hyphen «-» may be inserted between proper noun and unit.

(1) 산 San      거리 göri      고개 gogae      대 dae  
    봉 bong      교 gyo      골 gol      각 gak  
    벌 böi      관 gwan      곳 got      강 gang

(2) 도 -do      시 -si      군 -gun      면 -myön  
    리 -ri      동 -dong      구 -gu      구역 -guyök

4) In the transcription of geographical names combined with figures, Arabic numerals are mainly used. In some cases they may be transliterated or translated.

e. g. 3.1동 3.1-dong or Samil-dong

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5) Personal names are written by family name first, followed by a space and then the given names with the first

letter capitalized. Each letter of the name of Chinese character origin is written separately. In spite of the voiced consonant in the first letter of the second syllable, it is transcribed by a voiceless consonant.

e. g.    김꽃분이    Kim Kkotpuni  
          박동구        Pak Tong Gu  
          안복철        An Pok Chŏl

6) Some proper names which cannot be abruptly changed in view of international practices and long-standing transcriptions, may remain intact.

e. g.    평양        Pyongyang