

Twentieth Session
New York, 17-28 January, 2000

Item 9 of the agenda

WORKING GROUP ON TOPONYMIC DATABASES
AND GAZETEERS

Status Report on Development of Russia's State Catalogue
of Geographical Names

The Russian State Catalogue of Geographical Names will be permanently updated, state-of-the-art systematic depository of geographical names and the associated information. The Catalogue is aimed at providing unified and stable use of place-names in the Russian Federation and at timely satisfying a wide range of needs in geographical names for state and local administrations, transportation, communication and statistics departments, publishing houses, mass media, a wide community of the users engaged in different branches of economy, science and culture, organisations, and individuals.

The standardized geographical names included in the Catalogue are mandatory for use in normative legislative documents, official correspondence, publications and mass media.

The Catalogue is development and maintained by the Russia's Federal Service on Geodesy and Cartography on the basis of official documents, cartographic and reference materials, international and national databases on place-names and other sources.

To provide for storing, updating, handling and outputting information on geographical names at users' requests, the Automated Information System is being developed now.

The Catalogue is developed in the Russian language. It will comprise two portions – the Catalogue of geographical names of the Russian Federation and the Catalogue of geographical names of foreign countries, World Ocean and Antarctica.

The Catalogue structure, contents, its development stages as well as the maintenance instructions are developed and considered by the Russia's Federal Service on Geodesy and Cartography, with all the suggestions of the appropriate federal departments being accounted for.

The Catalogue will comprise the available names of geographical features, political and administrative features (states, administrative units, populated places) and other man-made geographical objects. The contents of the Catalogue will be constantly updated and extended.

The Automated Information System supporting the Catalogue functionality will provide responding to the users' inquiries.

The Automated Information System is designed with account of:

- planned increase in geographical names array and volume of linguistic, geographical, historical and any other data on names, their origin and renaming;
- exchange of information on geographical names with other information and retrieval systems and data arrays;
- increase in outputting data at users inquiries including sound tracks and digital cartographic information.

The Catalogue includes the following information on geographical names:

- state registration number for the names of the Russian Federation or identification number for other names together with the date of registration;
- standardized geographical name in Russian with a source and date of its determination. Foreign names are accompanied with their forms in the original language;
- generics together with their sources and dates of determination. For names of populated places, a type of a settlement and its administrative status are indicated.

- geographical and administrative reference for a feature together with a source and date;
- geographical coordinates for a feature (latitude, longitude). In addition to the above mentioned mandatory information, other subsidiary data are input into the Catalogue.

The information for the Catalogue is picked up in various sources and put into registration forms. Preliminary design of such form is attached as Appendix 1.

In 2000 the Automated Information System for the Russian State Catalogue of Geographic Names will be developed and tested. Since 2001 test performance of the automated system for maintaining the Catalogue will be started.

State Catalogue of Geographical Names of Russia

REGISTRATION FORM

1. Mandatory information:

Standardized name registration number	7 characters	Registration date:	10 ch.
Standardized name	50 ch.		
Standardized name determination source	255 ch.		
Standardized name determination date	10 ch.		
Generic term	11 ch.	Feature status tag	6 ch.
Generic term determination source	255 ch.		
Generic term determination date	10 ch.	Administrative status of populated place	12 ch.

Administrative reference for geographical feature

Name of the Russian Federation subject	Source for determination of name of the Russian Federation subject	Date of determination of the Russian Federation subject name
50 ch.	255 ch.	10 ch.
Administrative region name	Source for determination of administrative region name	Date of determination of administrative region name
50 ch.	255 ch.	10 ch.
Geographical coordinates of feature: 1:100 000 map sheet identifier	Latitude	Longitude
	10 ch.	11 ch.
Reference to other geographical features	255 ch.	

2. Subsidiary information

Name versions	Name version determination source	Date of name version determination	Date of change in standardized name
50 ch.	255 ch.	10 ch.	10 ch.
Generic versions	Source for generic version determination	Date of generic version determination	
13 ch.	255 ch.	10 ch.	

Comments

500 ch.

Employee _____ Date _____