

**Twenty-third Session
Vienna, 28 March – 4 April 2006**

**Item 10 of the Provisional Agenda:
Activities relating to the Working Group on
Romanization Systems**

Application of the transliteration system of the Cyrillic Alphabet with the roman characters (gost-83) in the Russian Federation

Prepared by Working Group on Romanization Systems, Russian Federation.

Application of the transliteration system of the Cyrillic Alphabet with the roman characters (gost-83) in the Russian Federation

The UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names recommended to use for international circulation geographical names standardized at a national level. Names in the Roman writing languages are used in their national forms, their graphic images and specific characters and diacritics being fully retained. For non-Roman languages, international Romanization systems shall be based on appropriate national Romanization systems.

Already at the First UN Conference, a resolution was adopted that recommended that each non-Roman writing country should develop a Romanization system. Later on, the following basic principles of a Romanization system were stated - reversibility and generic character, i.e., capability to circulate in all domains of international communication.

Geographical names standardized at a national level and then romanized in accordance with a Romanization system adopted in a given country are basically official equivalents of national names to be used in such a form in documents intended for international circulation.

A single spelling of a Romanized name guarantees its unambiguous identification. However, any Romanization system is essentially conventional and, thus it is unable to provide a full phonetic conformity of a name.

The Romanization System for the Cyrillic characters was recommended for international circulation by the Fifth UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names in 1987 (Montreal) and was then titled "GOST – 83".

Since an official adoption of the Romanization system "GOST-83", it was applied first in the USSR and then in Russia to issue geographical and administrative map of the Soviet Union at scale 1:8,000,000, plans of Moscow and other major Russian cities, Atlas of the World (3rd edition), and the 1st volume of the National Atlas of Russia (under publication now). This Romanization system was applied to render the geographical names in the Gazetteer of Antarctica, Reference-book States and territories of the World, Gazetteer of hydrographic objects of Russia and the other CIS countries.

The "GOST-83" system was also used in official documents, cartographic and other products issued in the Roman writing languages to render the names on the territory of Russia as well as the names given to the geographical objects in the open seas or Antarctica discovered or determined by the Russian explorers.

The following Roman characters are used for transliteration of geographical names in the "GOST-83" system - a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, j, k, l, m, n, o, p, r, s, t, u, v, y, z, as well as some characters with diacritics - č, è, ě, š, ž and the symbols- ', " .

Transliteration key

Russian character	Roman character	Examples	
		Russian	Romanized
А а	A a	Абакан	Abakan
Б б	B b	Бабушкин	Babuskin
В в	V v	Вавилово	Vavilovo
Г г	G g	Гагарин	Gagarin
Д д	D d	Дудинка	Dudinka
Е е	E e	Елисеевка	Eliseevka
Ё ё	Ė ė	Ёлкино	Ėlkinо
		Псёл	Psël
Ж ж	Ž ž	Жижица	Žižica
З з	Z z	Звёздный	Z vězdnyj
И и	I i	Идрица	Idrica
Й й	J j	Йошкар-Ола	Joškar-Ola
К к	K k	Кокуй	Kokuj
Л л	L l	Ляскеля	Ljaskelja
М м	M m	Мама	Mama
Н н	N n	Ногинск	Noginsk
О о	O o	Омолон	Omolon
П п	P p	Попова	Popova
Р р	R r	Ребриха	Rebriha
С с	S s	Сасово	Sasovo
Т т	T t	Татта	Tatta
У у	U u	Ужур	Užur
Ф ф	F f	Фофаново	Fofanovo
Х х	H h	Хохлома	Hohloma
Ц ц	C c	Цаца	Caca
Ч ч	Č č	Чучково	Čučkovo
Ш ш	Š š	Шешма	Šešma
Щ щ	Šč šč	Щигры	Ščigry
Ъ ъ	"	Подъячево	Pod"jacevo
Ы ы	Y y	Ыгыатта	Ygyatta
Ь ь	'	Параньга	Poran'ga
Э э	Ė ė	Эльтон	Ėl'ton
Ю ю	Ju ju	Юрюзань	Jurjuzan'
Я я	Ja ja	Ягыльях	Jagyl"jah

The "GOST-83" system is used to transliterate current standardized geographical names in Russian irrespective of their belonging to any language of the peoples in the Russian Federation.

Capital and small letters' use in a romanized name corresponds to their use in a standardized Russian name. Examples:

*GOST 2000 interstate standards for all texts, except cartography
Different system for personal names.*

Карское море	-	Karskoe more
Красная Горка	-	Krasnaja Gorka
Ростов-на-Дону	-	Rostov-na-Donu

Generic terms in a full or short form preceding or following a geographical name are rendered in the "GOST-83" system in accordance with their use in an original Russian name. Examples:

Белое море	-	Beloe more
море Лаптевых	-	more Laptevyh
Баргузинский хребет	-	Barguzinskij hrebet
хр. Менделеева	-	hr. Mendeleeva
м. Челюскин	-	m. Čeljuskin
о-ва Долгие	-	o-va Dolgie
бол. Чистый Мох	-	bol. Čistyj Moh

Derivative and compound names which are written in Russian in one word or with a hyphen or separately are transliterated in the Roman script accordingly. Examples:

Новомосковск	-	Novomoskovsk
Верхнеуральск	-	Verhneural'sk
Усть-Ордынск	-	Ust'-Ordynsk
Орехово-Зуево	-	Orehovo-Zuevo
Струги-Красные	-	Strugi-Krasnye
Камень-на-Оби	-	Kamen'-na-Obi
Белая Калитва	-	Belaja Kalitva

Romanized names are put in the following alphabetic order: - **a, b, c, č, d, e, è, ë, f, g, h, i, j, k, l, m, n, o, p, r, s, š, t, u, v, y, z, ž**. The Roman characters followed by symbols ' and " which correspond to the Russian characters ь and ъ should follow the same characters devoid of these symbols.