

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

**Item 8 of the Provisional Agenda :
Activities relating to the Working Group on Toponymic
Data Files and Gazetteers**

**China Actively Developing the Management and Service of Informationization
on Geographical Names**

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Gazetteers.**

China Actively Developing the Management and Service of Informationization on Geographical Names

Chinese government paid great attention to the work of Geographical name Informationlization. We take it as an important composing part of our national construction of information, and as the key point of Public Service Project of Geographical Names. We have been forwarding it mainly from two aspects:

1st, Perfecting the database of geographical names. In 2003, Chinese government suggests to set up our national, provincial, municipal and county level, four leveled database of geographical names. For the reason of technology and standardization, we have not finished their composing yet. At the moment, We have built up 10 provincial leveled database (which takes 32 percent of all the provincia l administration division); 121city leveled database (takes 36% of all the administration division); 913 county leveled one (takes 31% of all the administration divisions).Chinese government stressed on the building up of whole national-wide net of geographical name database which of detailed information, standard, up to date, advanced proceeding system .And we also need to establish a system of regular renewed and reported data, to realize the mobile management and maintenance. China Institute of Toponymy has developed the software of the service and management system of geographical names. China are making use of it to establish their own local database of geographical names. Chinese government plans to complete the establishment of whole nation's database of geographical names, to realize the informationlization management all over china to support basic data.

2nd, The product service of digital geographical name products. Chinese government is making great efforts to set up a sort of providing mechanism of geographical name informationlization products, which is mainly guided by the government, cooperated by all the departments, attended by the whole society, controlled by the markets. Our government is taking all sort of efforts to mobilize the enthusiasm of all departments to contribute diversified information service to the public civilian. They are including:

- A) Guiding hotline: The toponymy institute and companies of Shenyang, and Liaoyang of Liaoning Province, Nanjin of Jiangsu Province etc, have explored the service mode of guiding hotline. Up till now, there are 127 cities have set up their guiding hotline service. People are still feeling inconvenient brought by the phone number disunion among cities. So using the consistent national phone number has confirmed by Chinese government since 2005, to set up geographical name Inquiry hotline. More and more cities started using this consistent numbers.
- B) Geographical name website: we have established 48 geographical names websites. Among which, the Chinese Geographical Name Website is heading them all as a national leveled website, under it are governmental leveled, city leveled and county leveled ones. They provide not only the inquiry of geographical names, traffic, life information services, but also the naming and renaming of geographical names, applying for them and announcement of them. It is one of the contents and ways of Chinese developing electronic governmental services.

- C) Electronic maps: paper-texture maps could not satisfy the fast, convenient, concise, diversified inquiry of geographical names in the new era, so there are 375 cities have developed their own electronic maps and published on net. They have met the social demands. Now it is under developing within more and more cities.
- D) The touching screen inquiry of geographical names: There are about 200 touching screen inquiry of geographical names sets setting up in 32 cities including Beijing, Chongqing and some other cities. They have provided convenient way for people inquiring on the street. China is of vast area. Social economic development in each area is imbalance. Chinese government guides all parts of it to develop the work according to their own conditions. We choose 10 better conditioned cities on economical and social situation. As our national model cities on their digital geographical name service of which are: Shijiazhuang of Hebei province, Chaoyang of Liaoning, Harbing of Heilongjiang province, Nanjing of Jiangsu province, hangzhou and huzhou of Zhejiang Province, Jinan of Shandong, changsha of Hunan Province, Guangzhou of Guangdong and Chongqing etc. We hope that we could push forward our national development on geographical names through their experiences

Chinese government believes that the Informationlization Is the work direction of geographical names. It is an very important work after the standardization of geographical names. China will devote every effort on the construction of informationlization of geographical names.