

**Twenty-fifth session
Nairobi, 5–12 May 2009**

Item 5 of the provisional agenda

Reports of the divisions

Report of the Asia East Division (other than China)*

* Prepared by Ki-Suk Lee (Republic of Korea), Chair, Asia East Division (other than China).

Report of the Asia East Division (other than China)

ABSTRACT

Although the Asia East Division (other than China) has not held any formal meeting since the 23rd Session of UNGEGN in Vienna, 2006, it is expected that the Division experts can share databases of geographical names, provide experiences of toponymic works, and discuss issues which will be of common interest to all. This cooperation can include unifying the Romanization system of Korean geographical names between Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Republic of Korea.

The Asia East Division (other than China), which includes Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), Japan and Republic of Korea (ROK), has not held any formal meeting since the 23rd Session of UNGEGN in Vienna, 2006, where the delegates of Japan and ROK met to discuss and explore issues related to the future agenda of the Division.

Although each of the three countries has its own distinct system of toponymic management, the Division experts can share databases of geographical names, provide experiences of toponymic works, and discuss issues which will be of common interest to all. This cooperation could be initiated by organizing a conference in which geographical names experts of the member countries participate.

DPRK and ROK, in which Korean is spoken as the official language, can resume talks on unifying the Romanization system of Korean for their geographical names. Experts of the two parties had a constructive working level meeting to discuss this issue in a North Korean city, Gaeseong (Kaesong), in July 2007, as reported in a working paper E/CONF.98/CRP.90, submitted by DPRK.