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**Item 15 of the provisional agenda**

**Activities relating to the Working Group on Exonyms**

## **List of Finnish Names of Foreign Places\***

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## Summary

### List of Finnish names of foreign places

The Research Institute for the Languages of Finland (RILF)<sup>1</sup> will publish – probably in 2010 – in digital and book form a list of standardized Finnish exonyms, or more exactly a list of the most important Finnish names of places located outside of the traditional Finnish language area. In the list Finnish names are accompanied by corresponding local names (endonyms), their English equivalents and (for most entries) their equivalents in some other languages, mainly French and German.

The list will consist of about two thousand Finnish names and name variants. Of exonyms which contain both a specific element and a generic element (a term) only those names are included in which the specific element has been translated or modified. About half of the listed exonyms contain both a specific element and a term, e.g. *Kamerunvuori* (mont Cameroun, Mount Cameroon). The other half consists of termless names, either simplex, such as *Tukholma* (Stockholm), or composite, such as *Uusi-Seelanti* (New Zealand) or *Pohjois-Dakota* (North Dakota).

One page of the list is attached to the report.

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<sup>1</sup> In Finnish: Kotimaisten kielten tutkimuskeskus (Kotus).

## List of Finnish names of foreign places

The Research Institute for the Languages of Finland (RILF)<sup>1</sup> will publish – probably in 2010 – in digital and book form a list of standardized Finnish exonyms, or more exactly a list of the most important Finnish names of places located outside of the traditional Finnish language area. In the list Finnish names are accompanied by corresponding local names (endonyms), their English equivalents and (for most entries) their equivalents in some other languages, mainly French and German.

The list will contain about two thousand Finnish names and name variants. It is based on an older and much smaller list of exonyms – or “conventional names” as they used to be called. Compilation of the old list, published in 1969, was inspired by the first UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (1967). Its names were picked mainly from encyclopaedias and old (pre-20th-century) books in the Finnish Names Archives (now part of the RILF). Their orthography was standardized by a group of linguists so that it would be as far as possible in line with the spelling of standardized names of Finnish places. For example composite names with a common generic element (a generic occurring in a great number of place names) were written more often than before as one word: *Punainenmeri*, not *Punainen meri* (Red Sea), or *Kamerunvuori*, not *Kamerun-vuori* (Mount Cameroon). The 1969 basic principles have been applied to the spelling of Finnish exonyms since then.<sup>2</sup>

In the new RILF list almost all names are from areas outside of the historical sphere of the Finnish language. This sphere consists of Finland itself (excluding the Swedish-speaking Åland Islands), the territories ceded to the Soviet Union after World War I, Russian Karelia (which overlaps the ceded territories), Ingria (a historical region around St Petersburg), northernmost Norway (which has experienced early Finnish immigration) and the northeastern corner of Sweden (roughly east of Kalix River). Of these historically Finnish-speaking areas only a few names have been chosen.

About half of the listed exonyms contain both a specific element and a generic element (a term), e.g. *Kamerunvuori*. The other half consists of termless names, either simplex, such as *Tukholma* (Stockholm), or composite, such as *Uusi-Seelanti* (New Zealand) or *Pohjois-Dakota* (North Dakota).

Termless exonyms are a fairly small group of names. Exonyms in which only the generic term has been translated or modified (“termy exonyms”?) are, on the contrary, much more numerous,<sup>3</sup> in fact they are potentially innumerable. That is why we have taken in

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<sup>1</sup> In Finnish: Kotimaisten kielten tutkimuskeskus (Kotus).

<sup>2</sup> The old list was published in *Terra*, journal of the Geographical Society of Finland, vol. 81 (1969), pp. 60–93. The new list is based on names published in an unofficially standardized form in Kerkko Hakulinen’s books *Maailman paikannimet: oikeinkirjoitusopas* [World place names: orthographic guide] (Helsinki: Otava, 1983, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. 1996) and *Paikannimet* [Place names] (Helsinki: WSOY, 2006).

<sup>3</sup> See for example the Estonian world atlas *Suur maailma atlas* (Tallinn 2005) in which most terms have been translated into Estonian.

our list only those termy exonyms in which the specific element has been translated or modified. For example *Yläjärvi* (Lake Superior) is included but *Michiganjärvi* (Lake Michigan) and *Baffininsaari* (Baffin Island, *Baffinin* is Finnish genetive case) are not.

As to names of undersea features and the Antarctic a practical solution has been adopted: we have treated well-established English names of these features as endonyms and proceeded then in the same way as with continental names and names of oceans and seas.

The list contains at the moment also a few endonyms. They fall into three groups: (1) endonyms which are recommended as alternatives of exonyms, e.g. *Svalbard* (exonym: *Huippuvuoret*), (2) names of features which cross the border of Finland or the Finnish language area and which would be exonyms if they were located entirely outside of the border, e.g. *Itämeri* (Baltic Sea) and *Euraasia* (Eurasia), (3) names of features designated by more than one endonym, one of which is chosen for the Finnish language as the principal name, e.g. *Amur* (Russian endonym), not *Heilong Jiang* (Chinese endonym). The names of the last group could perhaps be called “half exonyms” or “partial exonyms”.

Romanized endonyms in the list are written usually without diacritics. Non-romanized endonyms are always written with diacritics.

## List of Finnish exonyms

Eksonyymi (exonym)	Paikan laji (feature type)	Paikan sijainti (location)	Maa(t) (ISO) (country)	Endonyymi(t) (endonym/s)	Nimi englanniksi (name in English)	Lisätietoja (additions; some other languages)
<b>Aasia</b>	maanosa			<i>Asia en in kr,</i> <i>Ásia po, Asya</i> <i>tu, Azi mo, Azija</i> <i>ve, Ya Zhou ki</i>	Asia	Ranskaksi <i>Asie</i> , saksaksi <i>Asien</i> , viroksi <i>Aasia</i>
<b>Aataminhuippu</b>	vuori	Sri Lanka	LK	<i>Samanala</i> <i>Kanda</i> (‘perhosvuori’) <i>si</i>	Adam's Peak	Sanskritiksi <i>Sri</i> <i>Pada</i> (‘pyhä jalka’, viittaus ylärinteessä näkyvään Buddhan, Šivan tai Adamin jalanjälkeen)
<b>Aataminsilta</b>	särkkäjono	Intia – Sri Lanka	IN LK	<i>Atham Palam</i> <i>tm</i>	Adam's Bridge	
<b>Abhasia</b>	alue (hallinto-)	Georgia	GE	<i>Aphhazethi ge,</i> <i>Abhazija ve,</i> <i>Aphsny ab</i>	Abkhazia	Ranskaksi <i>Abkhazie</i> , saksaksi <i>Abchasien</i>
<b>Abqaiq</b>	öljykenttä	Saudi-Arabia	SA	<i>Buqayq ar</i>	Abqaiq	Ranskaksi ja saksaksi <i>Abqaiq</i>
<b>Abu Simbel</b>	rauniotemppli	Egypti	EG	<i>Abu Sunbul ar</i>	Abu Simbel	Ranskaksi <i>Abou</i> <i>Simbel</i> , saksaksi <i>Abu Simbel</i>
<b>Adamauan ylänkö</b>	ylänkö	Nigeria – Kamerun – Keski-Afrikan tasavalta	CF CM NG	<i>Adamawa</i> <i>Plateau en,</i> <i>plateau</i> <i>Adamaoua ra</i>	Adamawa Plateau	Ranskaksi <i>plateau</i> <i>Adamaoua</i> , saksaksi <i>Hochland von</i> <i>Adamaua</i>
<b>Addis Abeba</b>	kaupunki (pää-)	Etiopia	ET	<i>Adis Abeba am</i>	Addis Ababa	Ranskaksi <i>Addis-Abeba</i> , saksaksi <i>Addis</i> <i>Abeba</i>
<b>Aden</b>	kaupunki	Jemen	YE	<i>Adan ar</i>	Aden	Ranskaksi ja saksaksi <i>Aden</i>
<b>Adeninlahti</b>	merialue (lahti)	Intian valtameri (Jemen – Djibouti – Somalia)	DJ SO YE	<i>Khaleejka</i> <i>Cadan so, Khalij</i> <i>Adan ar</i>	Gulf of Aden	Ranskaksi <i>golfe</i> <i>d'Aden</i> , saksaksi <i>Golf von Aden</i>
<b>Adlergebirge</b>	vuoristo	Puola – Tšekki	CZ PL	<i>Góry Orlickie</i> <i>pu, Orlické hory</i> <i>tš</i>	Orlice Mountains	Saksaksi <i>Adlergebirge</i>
<b>Adrianmeri</b>	merialue	Välimeri	AL HR IT ME SI	<i>Adriatico it,</i> <i>Adriatik al,</i> <i>Jadransko more</i> <i>kt mn,</i> <i>Jadransko</i> <i>morje sl</i>	Adriatic Sea	Ranskaksi <i>mer</i> <i>Adriatique</i> , saksaksi <i>Adriatisches</i> <i>Meer</i>