

**Twenty-eight session  
New York, 28 April – 2 May 2014**

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**Item 9 of the Provisional Agenda**

**Activities relating to the Working Group on  
Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers**

**Collection of Marine Geographical Names  
in the Republic of Korea \***

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## Collection of Marine Geographical Names in the Republic of Korea<sup>†</sup>

### SUMMARY

The Korea Committee on Geographical Names (KCGN) registered a total of 340 marine geographical names in *Kwanbo*, the Korean government official gazette since 2012. In 2012-2013, the Korea Hydrographic and Oceanographic Administration (KHOA) proposed a total of eight undersea feature names in the Yellow Sea, the Eastern Pacific Ocean and the Southern Ocean. The eight undersea feature names were all approved by the Sub-committee on Undersea Feature Names (SCUFN) and registered with the GEBCO gazetteer. In particular, KHOA published a book titled “Oceans and Marine Geographical Names” in 2013. It is a collection of comprehensive information on the total 882 marine geographic names registered in the Korean government official gazette. This publication is available both in hard and soft copies and the latter can be found online on the KHOA website, providing easy access to the general public and thereby contributing to the use of standardized marine geographical names. In addition, KHOA launched a website designated for marine geographical names. Users can search the registered names on the online map and view them by generic term. KHOA will continue to provide user-oriented services on marine geographical names.

The Republic of Korea has been putting constant efforts in exploring and naming new marine geographical features. It has also conducted effective management of all the marine geographical names registered both domestically and internationally. To provide the general public with easy access to marine geographical names, KHOA published a book covering detailed information on all marine geographical names in both hard and soft copies. It also launched a website on marine geographical names with search and view functions.

### 1. New Marine Geographical Names Since 2012

Following extensive field research for two years in the period of 2012-2013, the KCGN registered 344 new marine geographical names in southern Yellow Sea and the jurisdictional sea areas. In particular, the KCGN(Korean Committee on Geographical Names) registered a total of eight undersea feature names with the GEBCO Gazetteer, including the Ongjin Basin, Byeongpung Escarpment, Maetdol Knoll, and Bongsudae Knoll in 2012 and Dolgorae Hills, Gamasot Knoll, Kkotsin Knoll, and Jeolla Sand Ridge Province in 2013(Table 1). Among these undersea features, Ongjin Basin, Byeongpung Escarpment, and Jeolla Sand Ridge Province are located in the Yellow Sea, Maetdol Knoll, Bongsudae Knoll, and Gamasot Knoll are located in the Eastern Pacific Ocean, and Dolgorae Hills and Kkotsin Knoll are located in the Southern Ocean.

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<sup>†</sup>This working paper pertains to the UNCSGN resolutions I/4 E (National gazetteers), and VI/8 (Information from countries regarding changes in geographical names).

**Table 1. Undersea Feature Names Approved by SCUFN (2012-2013)**

Year	Undersea feature names approved by SCUFN	Total
2012	Ongjin Basin, Byeongpung Escarpment, Maetdol Knoll, Bongsudae Knoll	4
2013	Dolgorae Hills, Gamasot Knoll, Kkotsin Knoll, Jeolla Sand Ridge Province	4
TOTAL		8

The basic undersea feature information, including three dimensional data, has been extensively collected by several organizations including the Korea Hydrographic and Oceanographic Administration (KHOA) of the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries (MOF), Korea Institute of Ocean Science and Technology (KIOST) and Korea Polar Research Institute (KOPRI).

Among the names given by KHOA, 340 new marine geographical names designated by the KCGN were officially registered in 2012-2013 in *Kwanbo*, the Korean government official gazette, with details such as the name, location, characteristics of the geographical feature and a historical background to the name. 340 new marine geographical names consist of 285 sea surface names including bays, channels, rocks, and creeks as well as 55 undersea feature names including sand ridges, sand ridge provinces, reefs, banks, guyots, seamounts, hills, knolls, basins, escarpments, and holes pursuant to the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of B-6(Standardization of Undersea Feature Names) published by the International Hydrographic Bureau.

**Table 2. Marine Geographical Names approved by KCGN**

Marine Geographical Names		2012	2013	Total
Sea Surface Names	Bay	5	-	5
	Creek	14	-	14
	Channel	8	-	8
	Rock	258	-	258
Undersea Feature Names	Sand Ridge	2	-	2
	Bank	1	-	1
	Reef	29	-	29
	Guyot	-	5	5
	Seamount	-	2	2
	Hill	-	3	3
	Knoll	-	10	10
	Basin	1	-	1
	Escarpment	1	-	1
	Hole	1	-	1
Total		320	20	340

## 2. Publication of Collection of Marine Geographical Names

Since the Korea Committee on Marine Geographical Names (KCMGN) was established in 2002 with the aim of enhancing the standardization of domestic marine geographical names as well as promoting international cooperation, a total of 882 marine geographical names have been officially registered. In 2013, a book titled “Oceans and Marine Geographical Names” was published by KHOA containing information on the total 882 marine geographical names registered in the Korean government official gazette. This approximately 550-page publication is also available in the PDF format, and users can easily download it from the KHOA website ([http://www.khoa.go.kr/app/geo\\_name/np\\_book.asp?sgrp=A01&siteCmsCd=CM0892&topCmsCd=CM1090&cmsCd=CM1237&pnum=2&num=13](http://www.khoa.go.kr/app/geo_name/np_book.asp?sgrp=A01&siteCmsCd=CM0892&topCmsCd=CM1090&cmsCd=CM1237&pnum=2&num=13)).

The first part of this book explains about the importance of marine geographical names, the procedures related to the standardization of marine geographical names, definitions of various generic terms, registration and notification. It then provides an index map by region and lists both the marine surface names and undersea feature names by region. This book has been designed to help the readers better understand the marine geographical names (Figure 1-3).



Figure 1. Cover Page of Collection of Marine Geographical Names

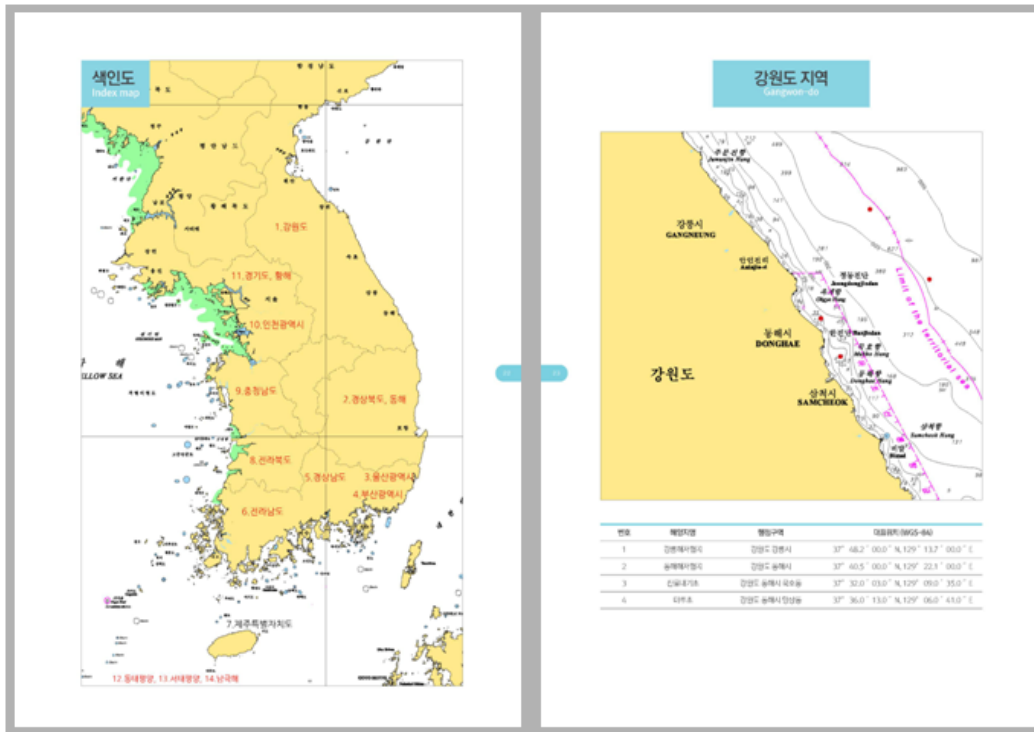


Figure 2. Example of Index Map in the Book

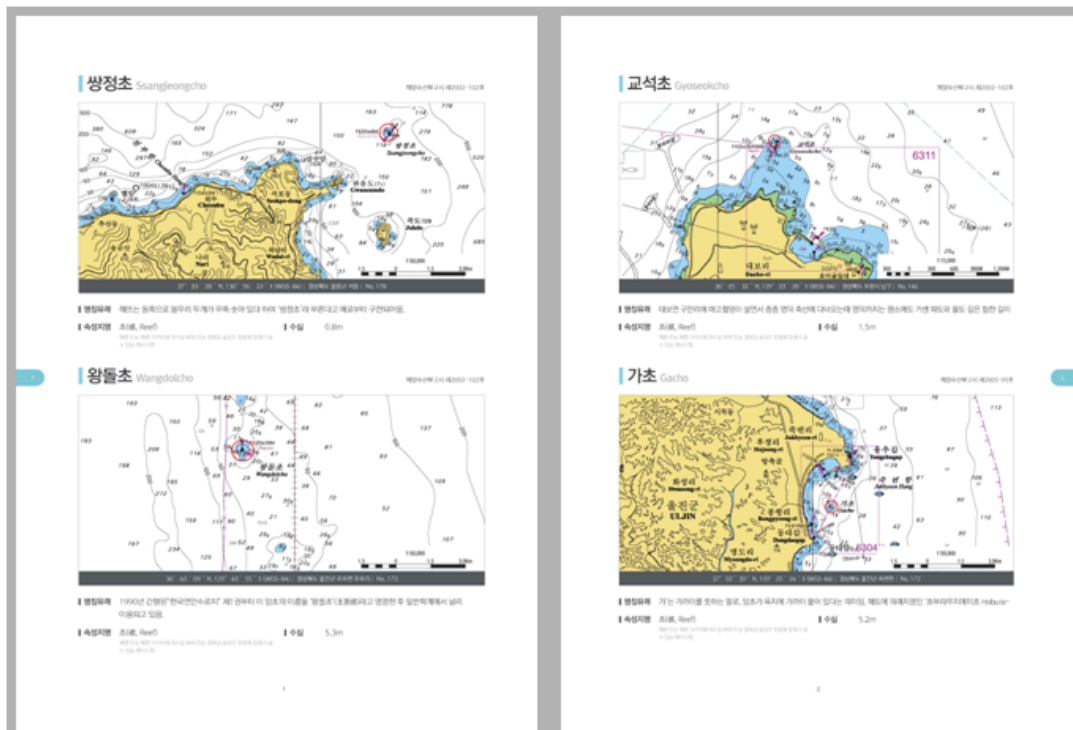


Figure 3. Example of Marine Geographical Names in the Book

### **3. Launch of Website for Marine Geographical Names**

A new portal site for marine geographical names was launched on the KHOA website (<http://www.khoa.go.kr/>). The menu of the website includes an Introduction to Marine Geographical Names, Status of Marine Geographical Names, Standardization of Marine Geographical Names, and the Marine Geographical Name Library. The Marine Geographical Name Library carries the e-book “Oceans and Marine Geographical Names” as well as the standardization handbook. KHOA updates the information on this website on a regular basis. This website is linked with the GIO server to provide GIS-based services. It is also linked with a web hard server to enable the uploading and downloading of training materials associated with marine geographical names, including web cartoons and web games. Users can search marine geographical names using the web-based map available on this website. They can also search names by generic term.

### **4. Future Plans**

KHOA will continue to place efforts into exploring new marine geographical features both domestically and internationally. It will continue to submit new marine geographical names to SCUFN so that the international community can make use of them, contributing to the standardization and wide use of marine geographical names. KHOA will endeavor to provide a wide range of user-oriented contents through the website and regularly update the information on the website. It is also planning to publish the second edition of the Korea Handbook for Standardization of Marine Geographical Names based on IHO Publication B-6 Standardization of Undersea Feature Names. In terms of international cooperation, KHOA will continuously provide financial support to the developing countries and help them participate in UNGEGN meetings.