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Item 4 of the Provisional Agenda

Report of the Divisions

Report of the China Division

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Item 4 of the provisional agenda
Reports of the divisions.

Report of the China Division

Submitted by China

Prepared by Chen Deyu and Zhang Wei

Summary

Since the 28th United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, the China Division has actively carried out the Second National Survey of Geographical Names, and has made progress in the cultural heritage, the public services and the publications etc. of geographical names.

Since the 28th United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, the China Division has actively promoted the standardization and culture construction of geographical names according to the resolutions of the United Nations, and progresses have been made in the following fields:

1. The Second National Survey of Geographical Names

In early 2014, Chinese government decided to carry out the Second National Survey of Geographical Names during July 2014 to June 2018.

The progress achieved since the start of the survey includes: leading groups and offices for the survey are set up at governments of various levels; Expert Advisory Committee for the Second National Survey of Geographical Names was established; working conference for a comprehensive mobilization and deployment for the work was held; files concerning the execution program, working procedures, quality evaluation system and achievements transformation of the Second National Survey of Geographical Names were formulated; training materials such as *Guidebook - Survey of Geographical Names*, *Hundred Questions & Answers about the Second National Survey of Geographical Names*, *Cases Collections - Survey of Geographical Names* etc. were compiled; 10 national training courses for the Second National Survey of Geographical Names were held, a series of special training courses were held by local survey agencies; The website and official Wechat platform of the Second National Survey of Geographical Names were opened; the logo & slogans for the survey were designed; videos & posters for the survey were produced and a publicity for the survey was widely conducted. Up till now, 40% of the counties (cities, districts) have completed field investigation tasks.

2. Promoting the Cultural Construction of Geographical Names

Since 2014, China steadily promotes the protection of geographical names as cultural heritage and proceeds with the accreditation of Ancient

Counties of Thousand Years' History. Up to now, 71 counties have been accredited as ancient counties of thousand years' history. Together with China Photographers Association, Ministry of Civil Affairs launched in 2014 the activity of Soaring Hand in Hand — National Provincial Boundaries Geographical Names Cultural Pictures Collection and received over ten thousand pieces of pictures of geographical names. In 2015, China held photographic exhibition of the Belt and Road geographical names culture, collected 26 thousand pieces of photos. Together with Guangming Daily, Ministry of Civil Affairs launched series of reports with the title *Stories of Geographical Names - History and Homesickness*; a national seminar on cultural construction of geographical names was held; Searching for the most Beautiful Geographical Name was carried out and nearly 2000 pieces of works were received. The Office of the Second National Survey of Geographical Names organized a video (or micro film) collection activity of the survey, titled Geographical Names' Love, Chinese Dream, and collected stories happened during the survey work and cultural stories of geographical names etc., more than 700 pieces of works were collected and 66 of them were on the list of awarded. In 2014, China organized the national geographical names knowledge prize competition and national geographical names cultural theory writing activities, collected works of geographical names cultural theory were compiled and printed. Publicity

film *Chinese Geographical Names* and multimedia brochures *The Culture of Chinese Geographical Names* and other Geographical names cultural products were produced. As a result, the culture of geographical names has been effectively publicized.

3. Deepen the Public Services of Geographical Names

China further promotes the public service construction of geographical names and improves the related public service system. China further standardizes the naming and renaming of the geographical names. Standardized geographical names are being publicized and popularized through various media. China continues to promoting geographical names signs setting in urban and rural areas to make a perfect geographical names sign system. China continues to perform the planning of the geographical names and compiled a book named *A Selection of National Outstanding Geographical Names Planning*. Geographical naming planning is available in most cities. China conducts the establishment of pilot area of the national database of geographical names and addresses, 39 cities (counties) are determined as pilot areas to carry forward the innovation of the administration of geographical names & addresses. The construction of cultural resources platform of geographical names was started up. The platform contains 5 special subject databases: basic geographical names database of the four-level administrative regions (province, city, county and township); the database for specific Chinese

characters of geographical names; the geographical names database for Ancient Counties with Thousand Years' History; the database for canal geographical names and Explanation of Counties' Name database. These databases possess six major functions: creating new data, creating new thematic library, query and display, time axis display and map editing. Up to now, the project has passed the acceptance check. The research of the intelligent guidance system of geographical names was launched and the feasibility report has been completed.

4. Undersea Feature Names and Lunar Names

State Oceanic Administration of China made public 124 International Undersea Feature Names investigated and named by China in 2015, 101 of them are in the Pacific Ocean, 15 in the Indian Ocean and 8 in the Atlantic Ocean, which are mainly named after *Shi Jing* (*an ancient book of poems*) and famous person's names in ancient China, embodied traditional Chinese culture. On the 27th and 28th conference of the Sub-Committee on Undersea Feature Names (SCUFN), 27 undersea feature names proposed by China were all approved. In 2015, the International Astronomical Union (IAU) approved 4 lunar names proposed by China, i.e. "Guanghangong", "Ziwei", "Tianshi" and "Taiwei".

5. Geographical Names Publications

China edited and published some books, such as *Antarctic Generic Terms*

Dictionary, German Antarctic Geographical Names Gazetteer, Chinese Antarctic Geographical Names Atlas. Considering the Belt and Road construction, China edited and published *Local Records of the nations along the Belt and Road* and *A Hundred Questions and Answers about the Belt and Road*, to identify and record the local geographical names culture of the nations along the Belt and Road. To commemorate the 70th anniversary of the World Anti-Fascist War, China published *Imprint: WWII Major Geographical Names Gazetteer* which collects 120 significant geographical names and the major events occurred around them.