Twenty-ninth session
Bangkok, Thailand, 25 – 29 April 2016

Item 4 of the Provisional Agenda

Report of the Divisions

Report of Asia South-West Division (other than Arabic)*

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The Main Activities related to the Standardization of Geographical Names in The Islamic Republic of Iran as a Member of Asia South West Division (Other than Arabic) during 2014-2016

1-standardization of geographical names in databases, Gazetteers, maps and documents

In the past two years, the most important goal that we, as the Iranian Committee for Standardization of geographical names (ICSGN), pursued was the standardization of geographical names in databases, maps and documents. To achieve this target, member organizations of the committee were divided into three categories based on their type of connection to the geographical names which is as following:

<u>Organizations responsible for the naming task</u>

In Iran, According to Law, Ministry of the Interior is responsible for naming geographical features. In the cities, municipalities affiliated to the Ministry of Interior, are responsible for naming streets and urban areas. By applying and promotion of the geonames transcription guidelines, standardization in the naming process will be achieved.

<u>Organizations responsible for collecting and recording of geonames</u>

This category includes organizations that collect and record geonames in their databases such as National Cartographic Center (NCC), the Statistical Center of Iran (SCI), National Geographical Organization (NGO), and Islamic Republic of Iran Post Company. By connecting and linking these databases, geonames in all databases across the country, will be identical and the same as the national Iranian Geographical Names Database (IGNDB). This link is now created between demographic database and IGNDB and the link between IGNDB and Post database is in process.

<u>Geonames User Organizations</u>

By receiving Geonames Web Service from IGNDB, all organizations, institutions and companies can have access and observe the recorded standard geonames of the database on their technical information.

 Other users can refer to IGNDB Web site and search and retrieve their needed information through different ways. The IGNDB web address is: http://gndb.ncc.org.ir

2- Completion of Iranian National Geographical Names Database (IGNDB)

IGNDB is a reference database containing the collected geonames for base maps at the scale of 1: 25,000. Names are being extracted from National Topographic Database (NTDB) are checked and fixed for Persian writing bugs, and after adding phonetic features, are recorded in the IGNDB database. Currently, all the population area names of the country, including villages and

towns (except for villages less than 20 families) have been recorded in the database and more than 85 percent of the other features(Natural & manmade) are imported into the IGNDB.
 Public users can have access to this information by the address: http://gndb.ncc.org.ir

3-Propegation of approved Iranian Romanization system

Iranian Government officially proclaimed The New Transcription procedure to be applied by all organizations in the country. The Statistical Center of Iran, as the first user, used this guideline to transcribe the recorded geonames in the census Database. (Population areas with less than 20 families)

4- Activities related to exonyms

National Geographical organization(NGO), as a member of Iranian Committee for Standardization of Geographical Names(ICSGN) has launched collecting of geonames of the neighboring countries. This product can be introduced as an exonym database if we add some fields such as Persian exonym, transcription and etc. To achieve better result, transcription training courses were held in NGO.

5- Asia South West Division(Other than Arabic)

During the ninth regional meeting in 2011, Iran presented some forms to the member countries to collect basic exonym information to create a regional exonym database for the division. As the required information was not received through Member States, the necessary sample data were collected from the world atlases. The prepared sample is available on the web at the address: Http://217.218.133.169/sw.