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STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES IN JAPAN
(PART TWO) */

Paper submitted by the Government of Japan

*/PART ONE: E/CONF.61/L.44

LON.72-95

STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES IN JAPAN

1. Systems of spelling used in Romanization

At present, there are two systems usually used in romanizing Japanese geographical names, namely, the 'Kunreisiki' System and the modified Hepburnian System.

The 'Kunreisiki' is a system the Government established by the Cabinet Instructions dated September 21, 1937. It was worked out by modifying a part of the 'Nihonsiki' which had been devised by Japanese scholars on the basis of the nature of the Japanese language. The modified Hepburnian is a system worked out by modifying a part of the Hepburnian System which the American missionary J. C. Hepburn had devised when he compiled a Japanese-English dictionary early in the Meiji era.

2. Present status of standardization

It was for the purpose of standardizing the system of romanizing the Japanese language that the Government established the 'Kunreisiki', but subsequently several systems came into popular use again, causing confusion. Under such circumstances on December 9, 1954 the Government issued the Cabinet Notification, including Table 1 (Kunreisiki) and Table 2 (modified Hepburnian and other systems), and the Cabinet Instructions annexed hereto as a further step for promoting the standardization.

3. Present situation of use

The principal instances of use of the 'Kunreisiki' and of the modified Hepburnian System are as follows:

	<u>System used</u>
International map of the world on the millionth scale (produced by Geographical Survey Institute, Ministry of Construction)	Kunreisiki
Marine charts (produced by Hydrography Department, Maritime Safety Agency)	Kunreisiki

System used

International aerial navigation charts (produced by Hydrography Department, Maritime Safety Agency)	Modified Hepburnian
United Nations population statistics (reported by Statistics Bureau through Administrative Management Agency)	Modified Hepburnian
List of post offices, Universal Postal Union (reported by Postal Bureau, Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications)	Modified Hepburnian
Aerial navigation information (issued by Civil Aviation Bureau, Ministry of Transport)	Modified Hepburnian
Weather report (Meteorological Agency)	Modified Hepburnian
Elementary school education (Agency for Cultural Affairs)	Kunreisiki

CABINET NOTIFICATION NO. 1 OF 1954 (Translation)

The system of transcribing Japanese in the Latin alphabet is hereby fixed as given below.

Sigeru Yosida
Prime Minister

December 9, 1954

System of Transcribing Japanese in the Latin Alphabet

INTRODUCTION

1. The spelling system given in Table 1 shall generally be followed in transcribing Japanese in the Latin alphabet.
2. Only in cases where it is difficult for the present to change the spelling internationally or traditionally established, the spelling system given in Table 2 may be followed.
3. In both cases of the preceding two paragraphs, the rules given in POSTSCRIPT shall apply.

Table 1.

a	i	u	e	o			
ka	ki	ku	ke	ko	kya	kyu	kyo
sa	si	su	se	so	sya	syu	syo
ta	ti	tu	te	to	tya	tyu	tyo
na	ni	nu	ne	no	nya	nyu	nyo
ha	hi	hu	he	ho	hya	hyu	hyo
ma	mi	mu	me	mo	mya	myu	myo
ya	(i)	yu	(e)	yo			
ra	ri	ru	re	ro	rya	ryu	ryo
wa	(i)	(u)	(e)	(o)			
ga	gi	gu	ge	go	gya	gyu	gyo
za	zi	zu	ze	zo	zya	zyu	zyo
da	(zi)	(zu)	de	do	(zya)	(zyu)	(zyo)
ba	bi	bu	be	bo	bya	byu	byo
pa	pi	pu	pe	po	pya	pyu	pyo

Translator's Note: Kana Table transcribed in the Latin alphabet according to the Kunreisiki System. The sound units in () are previously given in another line.

Table 2.

sha	shi	shu	sho
		tsu	
cha	chi	chu	cho
		fu	
ja	ji	ju	jo
di	du	dya	dya
			dya
kwa			
gwa			
			wo

Translator's Note: Part of the Kana Table transcribed according to the modified Hepburnian and other systems. In this part the spellings differ from those given in Table 1. In the remaining part, they are the same as those given in Table 1.

A Japanese consonant except syllabic 'n' is always followed by a vowel or 'y' (j)* plus a vowel.

(* Symbols in [] are international phonetic signs given in "An English Pronouncing Dictionary" by Daniel Jones.) Any of the Japanese sound units (except those pronounced 'a', 'i', 'u', 'e', 'o', and 'n' respectively) is combination either of a consonant and a vowel or of a consonant, 'y' [j] and a vowel.)

The Kana Table contains all the Kana sounds (sound units expressed in signs peculiar to the Japanese language). In the Kana Table, the Kana are arranged in such a way that all the Kana elements of one and the same vowel are arranged in a vertical column and the five Kana elements of the same or similar consonants are put in a horizontal line. Japanese words and sentences can always be written by combination of about 70 'Kana' given in the Kana Table although in usual practice Chinese characters are mixed with them. Table 1 is a Latin-alphabet transcription of the Kana Table according to the Kunreisiki System which the Government established in 1937 chiefly on the basis of the 'Nihonsiki' System. You will find that in this Table the arrangement is very regular. For instance, the letter that denotes the consonant of the sound units of the third line is invariably 's'. The Kunreisiki System (Table 1) is superior to the modified Hepburnian and other systems in simplicity and regularity from the viewpoint of writing. As far as reading is concerned, however, it is somewhat misleading. As a matter of fact, 's' in 'si' according to the Kunreisiki should be pronounced { } ('sh' in English 'ship') and not [s] ('s' in English 'see').

For your information a transcription of the Kana Table in international phonetic signs is given below.

Kana Table Transcribed by Use of the
International Phonetic Signs

a	i	u	e	o				
ka	ki	ku	ke	ko	kja	kju	kjo	
sa	{i	su	se	so	{a	{u	{o	
ta	t{i	tsu	te	to	t{a	t{u	t{o	
na	ni*	nu	ne	no	nja	nju	njo	
ha	hi*	hu*	he	ho	hja	hju	hjo	
ma	mi	mu	me	mo	mja	mju	mjo	
ja	i	ju	je	jo				
ra	ri	ru	re	ro	rja	rju	rjo	
wa	i	u	e	o				
ga	gi	gu	ge	go	gja	gju	gjo	
za	(d)zi	(d)zu	ze	zo	dza	dzu	dzo	
da	(d)zi	(d)zu	de	do				
ba	bi	bu	be	bo	bja	bju	bjo	
pa	pi	pu	pe	po	pja	pju	pjo	

Strictly speaking, some of the transcriptions given above ----- especially those with *----- are not exact. However, they will suffice for the general purpose.

POSTSCRIPT

In addition to the prescriptions given in the tables above, the rules given in the following paragraphs shall be followed:

1. Sound $\overline{[n]}$ (including sound $\overline{[m]}$ before sound $\overline{[p]}$, $\overline{[b]}$ or $\overline{[m]}$) is invariably transcribed 'n'.

Denpô (not Dempo)
Tanba (not Tamba)
Gunma (not Gumma)

2. When 'n' is pronounced separately from a vowel or a 'y' plus a vowel following the 'n', is added after 'n'.

Shin'osaka
San'in
San'yo

3. An assimilated sound is expressed by the first consonant of the syllable that follows it.

Yokkaichi
Sapporo

4. A long vowel is expressed by adding ^ above the vowel concerned.

Akô
Kôbe
Tenryû

When the vowel concerned or the whole word is written in capital letter or letters, the system of repeating the vowel may be used instead of the first method.

Oosaka or OOSAKA

5. Whatever system convenient to the writer may be used for expressing a special sound (e.g. a foreign word).
6. A capital letter shall be used for the first letter of the first word in a sentence and for the first letter of a proper noun.

Tôkyô
Kore wa mati desu.

Capital letters may also be used for the first letters of nouns other than proper nouns.

Tizu (map)
Sinsetu (kindness)

(Examples were added by the translator.)

Cabinet Instructions No. 1

To: The Ministries and Other Government Agencies

Instructions concerning the Systems of
Writing Japanese in the Latin Alphabet

With respect to the systems of writing Japanese in the Latin alphabet, Cabinet Instructions No. 3 dated September 21, 1937 was issued for the purpose of unifying the various systems. There were indications that the Government-recommended system would increasingly become popular. Subsequently, however, several systems came to be used again. This caused various inconveniences in the business disposition in the Government offices etc, and in the social life of people as well as in the fields of education and science. We believe that unification of the various systems into a single system will add greatly to improving the efficiency of clerical work and educational activities and promoting the progress of science.

Therefore, the Government has adopted the recommendation of the Advisory Commission for Research in the Japanese Language and published the system of transcribing Japanese in the Latin alphabet by means of Cabinet Notification No. 1. It is desired that all the government offices employ this system in transcribing Japanese in the Latin alphabet and that they recommend employment of this system to the circles concerned in an effort to attain the object of establishment of the system.

Cabinet Instructions No. 3 dated September 21, 1937 is hereby abolished.

Sigeru Yosida
Prime Minister

December 9, 1954