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WRITING SYSTEMS:
CONVERSION OF NAMES FROM ONE WRITING SYSTEM INTO ANOTHER:
ROMANIZATION

Romanization in Japan

Paper presented by Japan

* E/CONF.74/1.

The problem concerning the Romanization in Japan has not made any progress since the Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names.

The history of the usage of Roman Spellings concerning the international matters is very long in Japan, and they have been discussed to be changed gradually in process of the change of the Japanese language. The latest Roman spellings were promulgated by Japanese Government as the Cabinet Ordinance in 1954, composed of 107 letters corresponding to the standard Japanese syllables (Kana). This Roman system is the so-called "Kunrei-siki", all spellings of which are shown in the annexed Table.

Beside of the Kunrei-siki, another Roman system, so-called "Hebon-siki" has prevailed among the peoples in Japan, which is used conventionally in many diplomatic documents, scientific reports and others written by foreign language since before the promulgation of the Kunrei Roman system. Therefore, even in the above Cabinet Ordinance, it considers this conventional affairs and some spellings of the Hebon-siki are approved to be applied as exceptions "in case when it is difficult to change immediately the useful convention of international relations and others."

This kind of Roman spellings applied even now and called Modified Hebon-siki occupies 18 letters among 107 ones corresponding to the Japanese modern Kana syllables, which are also shown in the annexed Table with parentheses.

It is very difficult to unite two kinds of Roman spellings into any only one system from the historical background of Japan's use of Roman spellings. However, in Japan's official maps and charts for the international use such as the International Map of the World on the Millionth Scale, the National Atlas, Nautical Charts, Antarctic Maps as well as in the Gazetteer of the Japanese Coast, all geographical names in these publications are romanized by the Kunrei Roman system.

Annex.

TABLE OF JAPANESE ROMAN SPELLINGS

ア あ a	イ い i	ウ う u	エ え e	オ お o				
カ か ka	キ き ki	ク く ku	ケ け ke	コ こ ko	キヤ きや kya	キユ きよ kyu	キョ きょ kyo	
サ さ sa	シ し si (shi)	ス す su	セ せ se	ソ そ so	シヤ しや sha (sha)	シユ しよ shu (shu)	ショ しょ sho (sho)	
チ ち ta	チ ち ti (chi)	ツ つ tu (tsu)	テ て te	ト と to	チヤ ちや tya (cha)	チユ ちよ tyu (chu)	チョ ちょ tyo (cho)	
ナ な na	ニ に ni	ヌ ぬ nu	ネ ね ne	ノ の no	ニヤ にや nya	ニユ によ nyu	ニョ にょ nyo	
ハ は ha	ヒ ひ hi	フ ふ fu (fu)	ヘ へ he	ホ ほ ho	ヒヤ ひや hya	ヒユ ひよ hyu	ヒョ ひょ hyo	
マ ま ma	ミ み mi	ム む mu	メ め me	モ も mo	ミヤ みや mya	ミユ みよ myu	ミョ みょ myo	
ヤ や ya		ユ ゆ yu		ヨ よ yo				
ラ ら ra	リ り ri	ル る ru	レ れ re	ロ ろ ro	リヤ りや rya	リユ りよ ryu	リョ りょ ryo	
ワ わ wa				ヲ を o				
ン ん n								
ガ が ga	ギ ぎ gi	グ ぐ gu	ゲ げ ge	ゴ ご go	ギヤ ぎや gya	ギユ ぎよ gyu	ギョ ぎょ gyo	
ザ ざ za	ジ じ zi (ji)	ズ ず zu	ゼ ぜ ze	ゾ ぞ zo	ジヤ じや zya (ja)	ジユ じよ zyu (ju)	ジョ じょ zyo (jo)	
ダ だ da	ヂ ぢ zi (ji)	ヅ ず zu	デ で de	ド ど do	ヂヤ ぢや zya (ja)	ヂユ ぢよ zyu (ju)	ヂョ ぢょ zyo (jo)	
バ ば ba	ビ び bi	ブ ぶ bu	ベ べ be	ボ ぼ bo	ビヤ びや bya	ビユ びよ byu	ビョ びょ byo	
パ ぱ pa	ピ ぴ pi	プ ぷ pu	ペ ぺ pe	ポ ぽ po	ピヤ ぴや pya	ピユ ぴよ pyu	ピョ ぴょ pyo	

Remarks. 1st line..Katakana. 2nd line..Hirakana.
3rd line..Kunrei-siki. 4th..Modified Hebon-siki.

POSTSCRIPT

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

1. Sound "n" (including sound "m" before sound "p" "b" or "m") is invariably transcribed "n".

Denpô (not Dempô)

Tanba (not Tamba)

Gunma (not Gumma)

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

Sin'ôsaka

San'in

San'yô

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

Yokkaiti

Sapporo

4. A long vowel is expressed by adding the mark ^ 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. foreign words).

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 ga Huzisan desu.

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

Tizu (map)

Sinsetu (kindness)