# UNITED
# NATIONS

**E**

## Economic and Social Council

FIFTH UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE
  STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES
Montreal, 18-31 August 1987
Item 4, of the agenda
    11(a)

REPORTS BY DIVISIONS AND GOVERNMENTS ON THE SITUATION IN THEIR

REGIONS AND COUNTRIES AND ON PROGRESS IN THE STANDARDIZATION

OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES SINCE THE FOURTH CONFERENCE

WRITING SYSTEMS AND GUIDES TO PRONUNCIATION

ROMANIZATION

Report on the State of Standardization of
Geographical Names and Romanization in Korea

Paper submitted by the Republic of Korea

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Standardization of Geographical Names and Romanization in Korea

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For the uniform romanization of Korean the
Government of the Republic of Korea adopted guidelines
in 1959, but since that adoption we did not still have
a uniform transcription and transliteration of Korean
into Roman alphabets in writing Korean geographical names.
This of course brought out inconveniences and discrepancies
in geographical names related business, especially for
foreigners involved one.

To solve this problem the Government, under
the direction of the Ministry of Education, established
in 1978 the Committee of Romanization of Korean, consisted
of expert group of scholars and journalists. The Committee,
after a research of several years, finally worked out in
1984 a Gazetteer containing 7,000 geographical names of
administrative units, sightseeing places, railroad stations
etc... in Korea. This achievement in response to resolutions
of the previous U.N. Conferences on Standardization of
Geographical Names is a milestone in Korean geographical
names work that is expected to develop with more vigor
in future.

At the same time, the Committee adopted the
new Guidelines for the Romanization of Korean. The new
Guidelines was prepared for the sole purpose of uniform
romanization of Korean that may be transcribed or trans-
literated in different ways. This Guidelines distributed
as Working Paper 47 to the participants of 11th Group of
Experts meeting in Geneva is reproduced in following pages.

# Guidelines for the Romanization of Korean

## 1. Basic Principles for Transcription

(1) Romanization is based on standard Korean pronunciation.

(2) No symbols except Roman letters are used, so far as possible.

(3) Romanization follows the principle of 'one letter (or set of letters) per phoneme.'

## 2. Summary of the Transcription System

(1) Vowels are transcribed as follows:

simple vowels

| ㅏ | ㅓ | ㅗ | ㅜ | ㅡ | ㅣ | ㅐ | ㅔ | ㅚ |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| a | ŏ | o | u | ŭ | i | ae | e | oe |

diphthongs

| ㅑ | ㅕ | ㅛ | ㅠ | ㅒ | ㅖ | ㅢ | ㅘ | ㅝ | ㅙ | ㅞ | ㅟ |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| ya | yŏ | yo | yu | yae | ye | ŭi | wa | wo | wae | we | wi |

[Note] Long vowels are not marked in transcription.

(2) Consonants are transcribed as follows:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| plosives(stops) | ㄱ | ㄲ | ㅋ |
| | k, g | kk | k' |
| | ㄷ | ㄸ | ㅌ |
| | t, d | tt | t' |
| | ㅂ | ㅃ | ㅍ |
| | p, b | pp | p' |
| affricates | ㅈ | ㅉ | ㅊ |
| | ch, j | tch | ch' |
| fricatives | ㅅ | ㅆ | ㅎ |
| | s, sh | ss | h |
| nasals | ㅁ | ㄴ | ㅇ |
| | m | n | ng |
| liquids | ㄹ | | |
| | r, l | | |

【Note 1】 ㄱ, ㄷ, ㅂ and ㅈ are transcribed respectively as *g, d, b* and *j*, between vowels; or between ㄴ, ㄹ, ㅁ, or ㅇ and a vowel; otherwise they are transcribed as *k, t, p*, and *ch*.

e.g.　가구　kagu　　　바둑　paduk　　　갈비　kalbi
　　　제주　Cheju　　　담배　tambae　　　받침　patch'im

【Note 2】 ㅅ is transcribed as *s* except in the case of 시, when it is transcribed as *sh*.

e.g.　시루　shiru　　　신안　Shinan　　　신촌　Shinch'on
　　　부산　Pusan　　　상표　sangp'yo　　황소　hwangso

【Note 3】 ㄹ is transcribed as *r* before a vowel, and as *l* before a consonant or at the end of a word : ㄹㄹ is transcribed as *ll*.

e.g.　사랑　sarang　　　물건　mulgŏn　　　발　pal
　　　진달래　chindallae

## 3. Special Provisions for Transcription

(1) When Korean sound values change as in the following cases, the results of those changes are transcribed as follows:

1. The case of assimilation of adjacent consonants

e.g.　냇물　naenmul　　　부엌문　puŏngmun
　　　낡는다　nangnŭnda　　단는다　tannŭnda
　　　갚는다　kamnŭnda　　진리　chilli
　　　심리　shimni　　　압력　amnyŏk
　　　독립　tongnip

2. The case of the epenthetic ㄴ and ㄹ

e.g.　가랑잎　karangnip　　낮일　nannil
　　　담요　tamnyo　　　홑이불　honnibul
　　　풀잎　p'ullip　　　물약　mullyak

3. The case of palatalization

   e.g.　군 이　kuji　　　해돋이　haedoji

   　　　갇 이　kach'i

4. The case when ㄱ, ㄷ, ㅂ, and ㅈ are adjacent to ㅎ

   e.g.　국 화·　kuk'wa　　　낳다　nat'a

   　　　밟히다　palp'ida　·　맞히다　mach'ida

[Note]　The tense (or glottalized) sounds,which occur in cases when morphemes are compounded as in the examples below,are transcribed by voiceless consonants.

   e.g.　장기(長枝)　changki　　　사 건　sakŏn

   　　　냇 가　naetka　　　작 두　chaktu

   　　　신 다　shinta　　　산 불　sanpul

(2) When there is a possibility of confusion in pronunciation,or a need for segmentation, a hyphen ‘ - ’ may be used.

   e.g.　장 이　chang-i　　　잔기(殘期)　chan-gi

   　　　물가에　mulka-e　　　종로에　Chongno-e

[Note]　In the transcription of personal names and names of administrative units,assimilated sound changes before or after a hyphen are not transcribed.

   e.g.　김복남　Kim Pok-nam　　　사북면　Sabuk-myŏn

(3) The first letter. is capitalized in proper names.

   e.g.　인 천　Inch'ŏn　　　대 구　Taegu

   　　　세 종　Sejong

(4) Personal names are written by family name first,followed by a space and then the given name. A hyphen will separate given names,except that non-Sino-Korean given names may be joined without a hyphen.

   e.g.　김성호　　　Kim Chŏng-ho

   　　　남궁 동자　　　Namgung Tong-cha

| 손 미희자 | Son Mi-hŭi-cha |
|---|---|
| 정 마리아 | Chŏng Maria |
| 한 하나 | Han Hana |

(5)  In spite of the Note to(2) above, administrative units such as 도, 시, 군, 구, 읍, 면, 리, 동 and 가 are transcribed respectively as *do,shi,gun,gu, ŭp,myŏn,ri,dong,* and *ga* and are preceded by a hyphen.

| | e.g. | 충청북도 | Ch'ungch'ŏngbuk-do |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | 제 주 도 | Cheju-do |
| | | 의정부시 | Ŭijŏngbu-shi |
| | | 파 주 군 | P'aju-gun |
| | | 도 봉 구 | Tobong-gu |
| | | 신 창 읍 | Shinch'ang-ŭp |
| | | 주 내 면 | Chunae-myŏn |
| | | 인 왕 리 | Inwang-ri |
| | | 당 산 동 | Tangsan-dong |
| | | 봉천 2동 | Pongch'ŏn 2-dong |
| | | 종로 2가 | Chongno 2-ga |
| | | 퇴계로 5가 | T'oegyero 5-ga |

[Note]  Terms for administrative units such as 특별시, 직할시, 시, 군, 읍 and so on may be omitted.

e.g.  부산직할시  Pusan          신창읍  Shinch'ang

(6)  Names of geographic features, cultural properties, and man-made structures may be written without hyphens.

| | e.g. | 남 산 | Namsan | 속 리 산 | Songnisan |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 금 강 | Kŭmgang | 독 도 | Tokto |
| | | 해 운 대 | Haeundae | 경 복 궁 | Kyŏngbokkung |
| | | 도산서원 | Tosansŏwon | 불 국 사 | Pulguksa |
| | | 헌 충 사 | Hyŏnch'ungsa | 독 립 문 | Tongnimmun |
| | | 오 죽 헌 | Ojuk'ŏn | 촉 석 루 | Ch'oksŏngnu |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 종 묘 | Chongmyo | 다 보 탑 | Tabot'ap |
| 무량수전 | Muryangsujŏn | 연 화 교 | Yŏnhwagyo |
| 극 락 전 | Kŭngnakchŏn | 석 굴 암 | Sŏkkuram |
| 안 압 지 | Anapchi | 남한산성 | Namhansansŏng |

[Note ]  Hyphens may be inserted in words of five syllables or more.
e.g.  금동 미륵보살 반가상   Kŭmdong-mirŭkposal-pan-gasang

(7) Some proper names, which cannot be abruptly changed in view of international practices and common longstanding transcriptions, may be written as follows:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| e.g. | 서 울   Seoul | 이순신 | Yi Sun-shin |
| | 이승만   Syngman Rhee | 연 세 | Yonsei |
| | 이 화   Ewha | | |

(8) When they are difficult to print or to typewrite, the breve ' ˘ ' in ŏ, ŭ, yŏ, and ŭi, and the apostrophe ' ' ' in k', t', p', and ch', may be omitted as long as there is no confusion in meaning.