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SEVENTH UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE
ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF
GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES
New York, 13-22 January 1998
Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

REPORTS BY DIVISIONS AND GOVERNMENTS ON THE SITUATION IN THEIR
REGIONS AND COUNTRIES AND ON THE PROGRESS MADE IN THE
STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES SINCE THE
SIXTH CONFERENCE

National Report of the Republic of Korea

(Submitted by The Republic of Korea)

National Report of The Republic of Korea

Summary

This report includes the following: a brief introduction to the organization of Korean National Geographical Name Authority, a short recounting of major changes of geographical names since 1961, an introduction of the new small scale maps of Korea and the administrative boundary map, and the highlights of national and international meetings of geographical names held in Seoul since 1992.

1. The Organization of Korean National Geographical Name Authority

The official government authority on place names was established in 1981 based on a surveying law for the purpose of recognizing, changing, creating, and recording names officially. For sharing naming responsibilities, there are three layers of hierarchical organization operating: the first layer is the Central Committee of Geographical Names, a second layer consisting of the Special City, the Metropolitan City, the Provincial Committee of Geographical Names, and a third layer consisting of the City, the District(*Gu*), and the County(*Gun*)Committee of Geographical Names. Currently, the higher authority resides in the Central Committee, which consists of 15 or fewer members, including six government people, one historian and seven toponymic experts. Members of the Central Committee belong to the National Geography Institute, a organizational unit of the Ministry of Construction and Transportation. The lower level of authority resides in second and third layer of the hierarchical organization, which consist of ten or fewer members, belongings to local governments. (See Agenda 5(b) Korea Working Paper)

According to the government recordings since 1961, there have been officially over 133,000 place names recognized and changed throughout the nation(Table 1). Especially, since 1987 the government and local authority have changed many place names which had been imposed on Korea by the Japanese government during the colonial period between 1910 and 1945. For an example, in 1995 the city name Iri was changed to it's new name - Iksan.

Table 1. The Number of Official Notification on Place Names, 1961-1997

1961	124,000	1989	4,380
1983	10	1991	478
1984	2	1994	1,952
1985	2	1995	36
1987	2,761	1997	1

Source: Documents from National Geography Institute, Ministry of Construction and Transportation.

2. New Publication of the Small Scale Maps

Since 1992, in order to provide the guidelines for map editors and related publishing editors, three different kinds of small scale maps were published. Two maps, the six sheets of *the New International Map of the World*, on the scale of one to million, published by the National Geography Institute of the Republic of Korea in 1995 and the *Map of Korea*, on the scale of one to 1,250,000, published by Sung Ji Mun Hwa Sa, Seoul, were distributed during the meeting of the 18th Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names. These two maps comprise major changes of city names made during 1995 and 1996, just after the alteration of local administrative boundaries and its status(see WP 11 of 18th UNGEGN).

In 1997, the National Geography Institute published a map of *Korea and Vicinity* on the scale of one to three million. The map includes a major part of China, the far eastern part of the Russian Federation, Japan, and Korea. Also, the map was distributed by the Korean Oversea Information Service of the Ministry of Information (*available by individual request*). The map's layout is designed to provide the basic information of spatial dimension and locational relation of the water body surrounding Korea, Japan, and the Russia Federation,

As a reference source for toponomic guidelines for map and other editors, a map of *The Republic of Korea Administrative Boundaries, 1997* attached was produced. The map indicates all 78 city boundaries and names including six major Metropolitan Cities(M.C.). Each of the six Metropolitan Cities have a population over one million and practice the same level of provincial status as an independent local autonomy unit. Ulsan Metropolitan City became the sixth Metropolitan City last year after Ulsan city and Ulsan county combined into one administrative unit. Thus, the Korean Metropolitan City maintains functionally both the urban and rural characteristics of that of an American Metropolitan Area.

3. International Meetings

Since the 6th UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names held in New York, 1992, "the Korean Geographical Association" and "The Society for East Sea" have held eight different special seminars and conferences. At the Agenda item 17(d) International Names Meetings, a working paper on valuable and significant result from these seminars will be submitted.

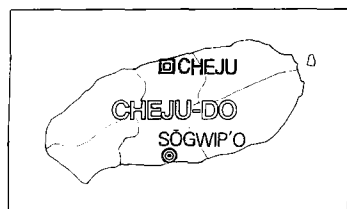
The Republic of Korea Administrative Boundaries, 1997

1. TONGDUCH'ON
2. UJONGBU
3. KOYANG
4. PUCH'ON
5. KWANGMYONG
6. SHIHUNG
7. ANSAN
8. ANYANG
9. KUNP'O
10. KWACH'ON
11. UWANG
12. SONGNAM
13. HANAM
14. KURI
15. OSAN



YELLOW SEA

EAST SEA



- ▣ National Capital
- ▣ Metropolitan City or Seat of Do(Province)
- ⊙ Shi(City)
- Metropolitan City or Do(Province) Boundary
- Shi(City) and Gun(County) Boundary

0 30km