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WRITING SYSTEMS AND GUIDES TO PRONUNCIATION:
ROMANIZATION

**Updated Rules for the Application of the Romanization
System for the Cyrillic Alphabet in Russia**

Paper submitted by Russia**

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UPDATED RULES FOR THE APPLICATION OF THE ROMANIZATION SYSTEM FOR THE CYRILLIC ALPHABET IN RUSSIA

SUMMARY

The Fifth UN Conference on the standardization of geographical names (Montreal, 1987) adopted for international use the system of transliteration of the Cyrillic characters by the characters of the Roman alphabet (GOST-83) developed in the USSR. In response to the experience gained in its application, and recent changes, in 1997, the updated edition of The Rules for the Romanization of geographical names in the Russian Federation, and the Russian names of Antarctica and the World Ocean in official documents, cartographic and other products issued in the foreign languages using the Roman script, was prepared and adopted by the Interdepartmental Committee on geographical names.

The report provides the main statements of the updated edition of the Rules, transliteration table, and examples of their application.

UPDATED RULES FOR THE APPLICATION OF THE ROMANIZATION SYSTEM FOR THE CYRILLIC ALPHABET IN RUSSIA

The Fifth UN Conference on the standardization of geographical names (Montreal, 1987) adopted for international use the system of transliteration of the Cyrillic characters by the characters of the Roman alphabet (GOST-83) developed in the USSR. For more than ten years period of employing this system to make maps for international use both in the USSR and in Russia, a considerable experience was gained. Its analysis has revealed that the system completely complies with the requirements imposed on the systems of that kind. However, considerable changes took place during this period, which caused the necessity to revise the application of this transliteration system.

In 1997 CNIIGAiK prepared the updated edition of “The Rules for the Romanization of geographical names in the Russian Federation”, that was considered and adopted at the sixth meeting of the Interdepartmental Committee on geographical names.

The new edition of “The Rules” confines GOST-83 application to the names of geographical features located in the Russian Federation only, and to the Russian names in Antarctica and the World Ocean, whereas earlier this standard was employed to render the geographical names of all the USSR republics, except for those using the Roman script.

“The Rules” provide that the given standard could be also used when rendering into the Roman script the spelled in Russian place-names of Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and the Ukraine, till these states develop the systems of Romanization for their national languages, and these systems are adopted by the UN Conference for international use.

GOST-83 application is based on the following main statements:

Statement 1

GOST-83 system is aimed at international use when rendering (transliterating) geographical names of the Russian Federation and the Russian names of Antarctica and the World Ocean in official documents, cartographic and other products issued in the foreign languages using the Roman script.

Statement 2

For transliteration of place-names of the Russian Federation and the Russian names in Antarctica and the World Ocean in official documents, cartographic and other products issued in the foreign languages with the Roman script, the following Roman characters are used - **a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, j, k, l, m, n, o, p, r, s, t, u, v, y, z**, and some characters with diacritics - **č, ě, è, š, ž** and the symbols - ‘, “.

Statement 3

Transliteration of geographical names of the Russian Federation and the Russian names in Antarctica and the World Ocean is of conventional graphical character, and is performed in accordance with the following table from the standardized spelling in Russian, regardless of the local languages of the peoples in Russia, a name might belong to.

Cyrillic Character	Roman Character	Examples	
		in Russian	in the Romanization System
1	2	3	4
А а	A a	Абакан	Abakan
Б б	B b	Бабушкин	Babuškin
В в	V v	Вавилово	Vavilovo
Г г	G g	Гагарин	Gagarin
Д д	D d	Дудинка	Dudinka
Е е	E e	Елисеевка	Eliseevka
Ё ё	Ë ë	Ёлкино	Ëlkino
		Псёл	Pšël
Ж ж	Ž ž	Жижца	Žižica
З з	Z z	Звёздный	Zvezdnyj
И и	I i	Идрица	Idrica
Й й	J j	Йошкар-Ола	Joškar-Ola
К к	K k	Кокуй	Kokuj
Л л	L l	Ляскеля	Ljaskelja
М м	M m	Мама	Mama
Н н	N n	Ногинск	Noginsk
О о	O o	Омолон	Omolon
П п	P p	Попова	Popova
Р р	R r	Ребриха	Rebriha
С с	s s	Сасово	Sasovo
Т т	T t	Татта	taita
У у	u u	Ужур	Užur
Ф ф	F f	Фофаново	Fofanovo
Х х	H h	Хохлома	Hohloma
Ц ц	Ç ç	Цаца	Çaca
Ч ч	Č č	Чучково	Čučkovo
Ш ш	Š š	Шешма	Šešma
Щ щ	Šč šč	Щигры	Ščigry
Ъ ъ	”	Подъячево	Pod” jačevo
Ы ы	Y y	Ыгыатта	Ygyatta
Ь ь	,	Параньга	Paran'ga
Э э	E e	Эльтон	El'ton
Ю ю	Ju ju	Юрюзань	Jurjuzan'
Я я	Ja ja	Ягыльях	Jagyl'jah

Statement 4

Use of small and capital letters in the Roman rendering of geographical names should correspond to that in the standardized spelling of these names in Russian:

Карское море	-	Karskoe more
Красная Горка	-	Krasnaja Gorka
Ростов-на-Дону	-	Rostov-na-Donu

Statement 5

Generic terms preceding or following the place-names in full or abbreviated forms are romanized in accordance with their usage in Russian:

Белое море	-	Beloemore
море Лаптевых	-	more Laptevyh
Баргузинский хребет	-	Barguzinskij hrebet
хр. Менделеева	-	hr. Mendeleeva
м. Челюскин	-	m. Čeljuskin
о-ва Долгие	-	o-va Dolgie
бол. Чистый Мох	-	bol. Čistyj Moh

Statement 6

Compound and complex names spelt in Russian either in one word, or with a hyphen, or separately are rendered in the Romanization system the same way respectively, in one word, with a hyphen or separately:

Новомосковск	-	Novomoskovsk
Верхнеуральск	-	Verhneural'sk
Усть-Ордынск	-	Ust-Or-dynsk
Орехово-Зуево	-	Orehovo-Zuevo
Струги Красные	-	Strugi-Krasnye
Камень-на-Оби	-	Kamen'-na-Obi
Белая Калитва	-	Belaja Kalitva

Statement 7

The romanized names are alphabetized according to the following character sequence: **a, b, c, č, d, e, e', f, g, h, I, j, k, l, m, n, o, p, r, s, š, t, u, v, y, z, ž**. Thus, the Roman characters accompanied by symbols ' and - denoting the Russian characters ъ and а follow the basic characters without these symbols.