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NATIONAL STANDARDIZATION: FIELD COLLECTION OF NAMES

Korea National Standardization: Field Collection of Names

(Submitted by Republic of Korea)**

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** Prepared by Young Hwan Kim, Director, National Geographic Institute

0135745 (E) 290501

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Korea National Standardization

Summary

In 1959, Korea carried out its first modern-day re-arrangement of geographical names, which include about 20,000 administrative unit names, 100,000 natural place names and some marine geographical names.

These geographical names are entered into the database and renewed annually by the National Geography Institute, which provides related on-line services through its homepage. The related on-line services are provided in such a way as makes it possible for users to see three-dimensional topography surrounding these names, using the map provided.

The geographical names are marked on the maps distributed in the market. An unchangeable principle is that they are supposed to reflect the actual names used in specific areas though there may be slight differences in basic principles among the maps employing various reduced scales. Some maps adopt both an official name and one used in each specific area in rare cases.

Administrative geographical names are in the charge of the Ministry of Government Administration and Local Autonomy, while natural and marine names the Ministry of Construction and Transportation and the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, respectively. There is mutually close coordination and cooperation among the ministries concerning related matters.

Field collection of names

Background

The nation's first modern-day re-arrangement of geographical names was an attempt made by the Ministry of Defense in 1958, a few years after the Korean War (1950-1953). Under the Defense Ministry Order No. 103, the Central Geographical Names Committee was established in the Geographical Institute (which was later replaced by the National Geography Institute under the Ministry

of Construction and Transportation) in the Ministry, with local geographical names committees established in local autonomous bodies.

Thus, the Central Geographical Names Committee finalized and put on public notice 124,000 names (contained in a total of 194 volumes of registers) after field checks of them in April 1961 in the nation's first modern-day attempt to overhaul geographical names. In 1998, a second modern-day attempt was made to overhaul the geographical names (contained in a total of 179 volumes of registers) to update them in reflection of the realistic changes made.

Ongoing Status

The National Geography Institute has put on public notice 146,328 natural geographical names by 2002 through deliberations by the Central Geographical Names Committee. It will continue such a work for other unnamed areas.

The geographical names thus overhauled are marked in the National Basic Map designed for the people's everyday use of them, and the basic principle here is that the actual names used by local residents are adopted. Checks of the names are done through cooperation from local autonomous bodies or collection of names attached to specific areas or on-the-spot surveys. Local residents' requests for marking a name to, or changing a name of, a specific area are also taken into account in the process of deliberations by the Central Geographical Names Committee.

< Table 1 > Ongoing Status of Overhauling of Geographical Names

Year of Public Notice	Number of Geographical Names on Public Notice	Relevant Areas
1961	124,000	Nationwide
1983	10	Chungbuk and Gyeonggi
1984	2	Jeonbuk and Gyeonggi
1985	2	Gyeonggi and Gyeongnam
1987	2,761	Seoul, Chungbuk, Chungnam, Jeonnam
1989	4,380	Incheon, Gyeonggi, Gangwon, Jeonbuk, Gyeongbuk, Gyeongnam and Jeju
1991	478	Gyeonggi, Gangwon, Chungbuk, Chungnam, Jeonbuk, Jeonnam, Gyeongbuk and Gyeongnam
1994	1,952	Seoul, Gwangju, Gyeonggi, Gangwon and Jeonnam
1995	35	Seoul, Busan, Gyeonggi, Gyeongbuk and Jeonnam
1997	1	Jeonnam
1998	4,324	Chungbuk, Chungnam and Busan
1999	758	Chungbuk, Chungnam and Daegu
2000	5,507	Jeonbuk, Gyeongnam, Gyeonggi and Jeju
2001	2,112	Incheon, Gyeongnam and Gyeongnam
2002	6	Busan
Total	146,328	Nationwide