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EXONYMS

Outline of Exonyms in Korea

(Submitted by Republic of Korea)\*\*

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## Outline of Exonyms in Korea

### Summary

Korea, China and Japan have influenced on each other in naming geographical names as in other matters due to their geographical proximity. Geographical names of Korea were changed after those of China (then Tang) during the reign of King Gyeongduk in the Silla dynasty or after those of Japan during imperial Japan's colonial rule. During the Japanese rule, administrative geographical names were changed so that they might be easy for Japanese to understand and pronounce. Overall, the names were changed to the Japanese style - e.g. the word east, west, south or north or an Arabic number was added to geographical names, Chinese characters difficult to understand were replaced by easier ones and combined forms of names were adopted etc. Even today, there are administrative geographical names made in the Japanese or Chinese style remaining, though most of them were restored to their original names on two occasions, i.e. in 1987 and 1995 with the on-the-spot surveys by local autonomous bodies.

Gyeongbokgung (景福宮) [an olden palace]

Location : Sejong-ro, Jongro-gu, Seoul

Origin : King Lee Sung-gye (also called Taejo), the founder and first king of Joseon Dynasty, moved the capital of his dynasty to what is now Seoul as part of his ambitious plan for the future in October 1394, two years after the foundation of the dynasty.

On December 3 1394, he let his plan to build the palace and the Royal Ancestors' Shrine be known to the god governing mountains and streams in an official ritual. The toil was completed in September the next year. The new royal palace Gyeongbokgung (literally meaning great blessing) was named by Chung Do-jeon, one of King Lee Seong-gye's loyal aides, after words contained in the lyric lines evoking blessings for the king in the famous Chinese book, the Book of Odes.

Waegwan (倭館) [a village]

Location: Gyeongbuk

Origin : During the reign of King Sejong in the Joseon Dynasty, three harbor towns (called "*Sampo*" collectively) were built for the Japanese as part of conciliatory gestures toward them amid ravaging plunders by Japanese pirates called *waegu*.

In 1510 (the fifth year of the reign of King Joongjong of the Joseon Dynasty), a measure was taken by the provincial government in Busan to limit the number of Japanese residing in Busan, in addition to another measure taken by the provincial government in Woongcheon to block Japanese from doing business in its area of jurisdiction. In response to such measures against them, about 300 Japanese soldiers from Tsushima in the Korean Strait made an armed invasion, killing a high-ranking official in Busan and occupying Woongcheon. It is called the "Japanese Disturbance in Sampo." The central government of the Joseon Dynasty eventually drove them out of the occupied land and closed the three harbor towns built for the Japanese.

Afterwards, the Joseon Dynasty central government partially accepted the Japanese request to reopen the three harbors by re-opening only one harbor Jepo to them in 1512. The name Waegwan, literally meaning Japan Town, named at that time still remains.

Pagoda Park [a park]

Pagoda Park, the nation's first one, was designed by J. M Brown, a British advisor to the Korean government, in 1897. The park located in Jongro 2-ga in Seoul is also called the site of Wongak Temple or *Tapgol* Park. *Tapgol* is the name of the area in Nakwon-dong where the park is located. The name originated from the 13-story tower in Wongak Temple which used to be located there. The village name was also called *tap-dong* in the Chinese style.

It is the historic site where spiritual leaders of Korea gathered on March 1, 1919 to declare the nation's independence from the Japanese rule. The **park** has many cultural properties and mementos including the Octagonal Pavilion where the historic declaration of independence was made. In 1992, the olden name *Tapgol* Park was restored.

Teheran-ro [a street]

It is the 3.7 km-long, 40 m-wide street traversing the Gangnam district of Seoul. It extends from Seocho-dong through Samreung Park to Samseong Bridge. In October 1975, a new *gu* (ward) was made on the south side of the Han River in Seoul and the street was named Teheran-ro as a symbol of the burgeoning friendly relations between Korea and Iran.