

**Ninth United Nations Conference on the
Standardization of Geographical Names**
New York, 21 - 30 August 2007
Item 16 (a) of the provisional agenda*
Writing systems: Romanization

**Report on the Work for Unifying the “Romanization of
Geographical Names of Korea”**

Submitted by the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea **

* E/CONF.98/1.

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As recommended by the 8th United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, the specialists and scholars of linguistics and geographical names from the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) and the Republic of Korea (ROK) held the working level talks on July 31, 2007 in Kaesong City to draw up an unified romanization of geographical names of Korea.

At the talks were submitted the draft “unified romanization of geographical names of the north and south of Korea” prepared by the DPRK and the “revised romanization of Korean” of July 7, 2007 by the ROK.

The both singled out, among other things, the differences in romanizing Korean alphabets and tried to reach an agreement through the process of linguistic and geographical analysis, but have not yet come to the consensus.

Therefore, regretfully, it has not been able to come up with a single proposal, thus failing to meet the expectation of the conference.

However, the both sides agreed to continue the consultations with a view to unifying the romanization of geographical names of the north and south of Korea.

The Democratic People’s Republic of Korea will do its utmost to formulate a common proposal, thus fulfilling its obligation assumed in the field of standardization of geographical names.

In the meantime, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea makes it clear that the “Romanization of Korean language” will continue to be effective in linguistic and other social life in the country.