

28 June 2017

Original: Chinese

**11th United Nations Conference on the Standardization
of Geographical Names**

New York, 8 -17 August 2017

Item 6 of the provisional agenda*

**Reports on the work of the United Nations Group of Experts
on Geographical Names, its divisions, working groups and
task teams since the Tenth Conference**

Report of China Division

Submitted by China Division **

* E/CONF.105/1

** Prepared by China

Eleventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names

New York, 8-17 August 2017

Item 6 of the provisional agenda

Reports on the work of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, its divisions, working groups and task teams since the Tenth Conference

Report of China Division

Submitted by China

Summary: China has carried out the Second National Survey of Geographical Names and has made progress in the fields of toponymic cultural heritages, toponymic public services, and toponymic publications, since the Tenth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names.

China has actively implemented the United Nations resolutions to promote the standardization of geographical names and the construction of toponymic culture, since the Tenth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names. Progress has been mainly made in the following areas:

I. Carry out the National Survey of Geographical Names

At the beginning of 2014, the Chinese government decided to conduct the Second National Survey of Geographical Names from July 2014 to June 2018, to focus on identifying the basic situation of the geographical names nationwide, collecting the basic data of the geographical names, improving the standardization of geographical names, strengthening the IT-based toponymic service, providing comprehensive and accurate information about geographical names to the public. Since the start of the survey, good progress has been made in the work. The following tasks have been completed: the governments at all levels have set up the leading group for the survey of geographical names, established the consultative committee of experts on geographical names, organized and held the work conference on the survey of geographical names to move forward with mobilization and deployment comprehensively; developed the implementation plan, work procedures, quality evaluation system, acceptance practices, file management practices, results transformation planning and other documents for the Second National Survey of Geographical Names; drafted *Guidance for the Survey of Geographical Names*, *Answers to 100 Questions about the Survey of Geographical Names*, *Compilation of Cases in the Survey of Geographical Names*, *Strengthening Preservation of Toponymic Culture as well as Cleaning up and Standardizing Non-standard Geographical Names* and other training materials, held 27 training classes on national survey of geographical names, with local survey authorities at all levels also holding a number of survey-specific training courses; carried out such special tasks as preservation of toponymic culture while cleaning up and standardizing non-standard geographical names, survey of transboundary natural, geographic entity names, establishment of the pilot demonstration library of geographical names and addresses; planned and initialed the compilation of maps, records, dictionaries, and annals of standard geographical names of the People's Republic of China; launched the national website of survey of geographical names and the official WeChat platform of survey of geographical names, designed survey logos and publicity slogans, produced promotional videos and posters, organized and carried out a wide range of survey publicity activities such as "Survey of Geographical Names—New Media Promotion Month" and "In Search of the Best Stories about Geographical Names". At present, the work is progressing in an orderly manner. All the survey counties (cities, districts) have completed the field investigation and data collation, and more than 20 million geographical names have

been investigated.

II. Promote the Construction of Toponymic Culture

Since 2012, China has intensified the efforts for the construction of toponymic culture, issued the guidance on strengthening the construction of toponymic culture, the industrial standards for *Identification of Toponymic Cultural Heritage*, and the implementation plan for the preservation of toponymic cultural heritages nationwide, held the work conference on the construction of national toponymic culture to draw up specific action plans. The key tasks are the preservation of toponymic cultural heritages, as well as the identification and preservation of eight categories of toponymic cultural heritages, namely, thousand-year-old cities (capitals), thousand-year-old counties, thousand-year-old towns, thousand-year-old villages, geographical names in oracle bone inscriptions and bronze inscriptions, minority names, geographical names of famous mountains and rivers, and important toponymic culture and heritage in modern and contemporary China.

In order to promote the toponymic culture and create a good social atmosphere, since 2014, the Ministry of Civil Affairs of China, in conjunction with media outlets as *Guangming Daily* and China Photographers Association, has carried out a number of activities, such as “Prosper Hand in Hand” nationwide picture solicitation reflecting toponymic culture at provincial boundaries, “the Belt and Road” toponymic culture photo exhibition, the serial reports featuring “Stories of Geographical Names: History and Nostalgia” in mass media, “Toponymic Culture and Chinese Dream” solicitation of videos (micro-films) about national survey of geographical names, and online solicitation of “In Search of the Best Geographical Names” and “In Search of the Best Stories about Geographical Names”, organized the national toponymic knowledge contest and nationwide solicitation of theoretical papers on toponymic culture, and published a collection of selected theoretical papers on toponymic culture; organized the production of such toponymic culture products as the documentaries *Geographical Names in China* and *Geographical Names on the Divine Land* as well as the multimedia brochure *Chinese Toponymic Culture*, to effectively propagate the toponymic culture.

III. Deepen Toponymic Public Services

China has further moved forward with the construction of toponymic public services and improved the system of toponymic public services; conducted studies and developed such standards as *Standardization of Undersea Feature Names* (GB29432-2012), *Antarctic Geographical Names—Part 1: Generic Terms* (GB/T29633.1-2013), and *Antarctic Geographical Names—Part 2: Classification and Code* (GB/T29633.2-2013); further standardized the naming and renaming practices, promoted standard geographical names through a variety of media; continued to move forward with the establishment of geographical name logos, improved the system of urban and rural geographical names; carried out studies on the smart geographical name guiding system and drafted the feasibility report, with the efforts of Fujian Province and Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region to establish QR-code geographical name logos, giving full play to the guiding role of geographical name logos; continued to carry out the planning work of geographical names, compiled and published the *Selection of Excellent Toponymic Plans Nationwide*, and the majority of cities in China have drafted their toponymic plans. China has also made efforts to establish the pilot demonstration library of geographical names and addresses, identified 39 cities (counties) as pilot cities (counties), and promoted innovation in the management of geographical names and addresses.

IV. Maritime Feature Names and Lunar Names

In 2010, China established the Sub-Committee on Undersea Feature Names (SCUFN), mainly responsible for organization and management of the activities about national undersea feature names, development of technical standards for national undersea feature names, examination and approval of proposals and public release, international exchanges and cooperation. In recent years, China actively tracked the progress of the international undersea feature naming

work, drew on the undersea feature naming experience of other countries, carried out studies on the rules for generic terms and specific elements, translated and published the *Standardization of Undersea Feature Names* (B-6) in Chinese and English upon the authorization of SCUFN, standardized the toponymic proposal flow and the technical requirements for proposal production; established the database of undersea feature names, developed the undersea feature name data management system, which enables a variety of flexible ways of searching the existing undersea feature names and provides toponymic research personnel with sound information query services; built China Undersea Feature Names Network (www.CCUFN.org.cn), published the *Chinese Gazetteer of Undersea Features on the International Seabed (2016)* containing a total of 230 undersea features names from the Pacific, Atlantic, and Indian Ocean. China has also actively participated in international exchanges and cooperation with GEBCO and SCUFN. Since 2010, it has attended all SCUFN conferences and successfully hosted the 24th SCUFN conference in Beijing in 2011. As of October 2016, a total of 72 undersea feature names proposed by China have been considered and adopted by SCUFN. Rapid progress has been made in the naming work of undersea feature names. In respect of the naming work of lunar names, the naming proposals of four geographic entities on the moon (“Guanghangong”, “Ziwei”, “Tianshi”, “Taiwei”) submitted by China were approved by the International Astronomical Union (IAU) in 2015.

V. Toponymic Publications

China has published such books as *Selection of the Stories about Chinese Geographical Names*, *An Introduction to Minority Names*, *Bilingual Handbook of Foreign Geographical Names (With Chinese Translation)*, *Compilation of International Undersea Feature Names Research Materials*, *Terminological Dictionary of Generic Antarctic Feature Terms*, and *Chinese Picture Book of Antarctic Features*. With the development of “the Belt and Road” construction, China published the *100 Questions and Answers about “the Belt and Road”*, *Brief Textual Research on Historical Geographical Names along “the Belt and Road”*, *Chronicles of the Kingdoms along “the Belt and Road”*, to explore and record the toponymic culture along “the Belt and Road”. To commemorate the 70th anniversary of the world anti-fascist war, China published the *Keeping Them in Mind: Catalogue of Important Geographical Names in World War II* containing 120 important geographical names and corresponding important events in World War II.