

18 March 2019

English

**United Nations Group of Experts on
Geographical Names
2019 session**

New York, 29 April–3 May 2019

Item 7 (a) of the provisional
agenda*

**National and international standardization of geographical names:
names collection, office treatment, national authorities, features beyond
a single sovereignty and international cooperation**

**China has Completed the Second National Survey of
Geographical Names**

Submitted by China**

*GEGN.2/2019/1

**Prepared by China

United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

2019 session

New York, 29 April–3 May 2019

Item 7 (a) of the provisional agenda

National and international standardization of geographical names: names collection, office treatment, national authorities, features beyond a single sovereignty and international cooperation

China Completes the Second National Survey of Geographical Names

Submitted by China

Summary: China conducted the Second National Survey of Geographical Names from July 2014 to June 2018. Through the organizing of professional survey teams, strengthening quality management, arranging training and conducting publicity work, China has comprehensively and successfully completed the survey on time.

From January 2014, the Chinese government began to conduct the Second National Survey of Geographical Names. Since then, survey agencies at all levels have made scientific plans and coordinated arrangements, and all survey workers have implemented the survey to a high standard. They have comprehensively completed their tasks and made highly successful achievements.

1. Achievements of the survey.

A total of more than 13 million geographical names have been collected nationwide, more than 24,000 maps of geographical names have been revised and mapped, and more than 12,000 trans-provincial geographical entities have been surveyed. Nearly 80,000 non-standard geographical names have been standardized, further enhancing the standardization level of geographical names in China. More than 680,000 new or updated geographical names signs have been set up, and new signs with two-dimensional codes and intelligent chips have been installed to provide more convenient geographical names sign-oriented services for the society. The system of geographical names signs in urban and rural areas has been further improved. A national, provincial, city and county-level geographical names information database has been established, and data from the survey have been put into the database and graphics have been decorated .The National Database for Geographical Names with unified standards and comprehensive contents covering the whole country has been established, as well as thematic databases on boundary stakes, signs, multimedia and historical geographical names. The government administration platform and social service platform of geographical names have been developed, and various forms of geographical names services, such as electronic maps and navigation, have been launched. A number of reference books such as

standard geographical names maps, catalogues, gazetteers and books on geographical names culture have been compiled and published. *Geographical names in China* (7 volumes in total), *Map of Fujian Province*, *Gazetteer of geographical names in Guangxi*, and other books of geographical names have been published. More than 100 theoretical researches have been made in the fields of the geographical names survey, management, service and cultural construction. The achievements of the Second National Survey of Geographical Names play an important role in serving the people's production and life and promoting economic and social development.

2. Experiences and approaches.

The Second National Survey of Geographical Names is an important national survey characterized by a long time span, heavy tasks and numerous technical difficulties. China has gained some valuable experiences through this survey.

First, strengthen organization and coordination. The Chinese government has formed a leading group for the survey comprising personnel from 25 ministries and commissions, while corresponding institutions have been set up in all provinces (autonomous regions, municipalities), cities and counties. A total of 12 national conferences, including the launching and deployment conference, experience exchanging conference and work

promotion conference, have been held. All government departments involved have been working closely together to promote the implementation and safeguarding of the survey. Local survey agencies at all levels have strengthened their communication and resource sharing, and coordinated the implementation of various tasks. The public has shown keen interest and actively participated in the survey. A good atmosphere of the Civil Affairs Ministry leading , other government departments cooperating and people participating, has come into being throughout the country.

Second, improve the system norms and strengthen quality management. With a focus on top-level design, 20 institutional norms have been formulated, including the implementation plan, working rules, fund management, quality management, inspection, supervision, confidential management, acceptance of achievements and file management. More than 200 documents have been formulated in provinces (autonomous regions, municipalities), and a set of comprehensive, effective survey system has been formed. The system of quality management, acceptance and storage check of the survey has been developed. Professional personnel have been organized to carry out on-site supervision and quality assessment in more than 300 cities, counties and districts. The data collected from all over the country is fully checked and revised in a timely manner. More than 10,000

rounds of supervision and acceptance inspection have been carried out, effectively ensuring the quality of the achievements of the Survey.

Third, strengthen training and improve professional qualification. A team of more than 800,000 survey staff has been formulated, an advisory committee of experts has been set up, training materials have been compiled and 30 national training courses have been held. Over 30,000 training sessions have been held in various localities, and over 3.5 million survey staff has been trained and the survey team's capability has been effectively enhanced. Through various ways such as compiling a working manual, writing bulletin reports, establishing online working groups, holding communication meetings and providing personnel to provide field guidance, operational guidance has been strengthened and inspection supervised. The survey personnel went into urban and rural communities and villages to carry out investigations, went to remote areas such as deserts and high mountains, stayed up late and worked overtime to ensure the information was correct. Braving severe coldness or hotness, they recorded each geographical name with hard work and sweat. Their hard work and devotion have ensured the successful completion of the survey.

Fourth, carry out extensive publicity to ensure the success of the survey. Funds of more than 6 billion yuan have been allocated, and more than 50,000 sets of specialized equipment such as GPS, cameras and servers have

been deployed, providing material and technical guarantee for the smooth conduct of the survey. A special website has been set up, signs and slogans were produced, more than 10 nationwide publicity activities, including selection of *the Most Beautiful Geographical Names, Toponymic Culture and Chinese Dream Micro-Films Collection*, have been held. More than 130,000 publicity activities have been held all over the country in order to create a good atmosphere for the survey.

3. Next steps.

Next, the Chinese government will further strengthen the management, service and cultural construction of geographical names, and thoroughly implement *Plan for the Transformation of the Achievements of the Second National Survey of Geographical Names (2015-2020)*. China will accelerate the compilation and publication of standard maps, catalogues, gazetteers and books on geographical names culture, enhance information sharing, and use modern information technologies such as cloud computing, big data analysis and Internet to build the national geographical names information database. We will strengthen the setting and management of geographical names signs in urban and rural areas, with the rural areas as the focus, and comprehensively raise the scientific, legal and standardized level of geographical names work. We will make full use of the cultural data of geographical names formed in the survey, establish a cultural resource

database of geographical names in China, and establish a list of cultural heritage protection of geographical names by classification and in batches, in order to form a scientific and effective protection mechanism, further deepen the theoretical research, strengthen the publicity and promote the prosperity of geographical names culture in China.