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Item 15 of the provisional agenda*

**Toponymic data files and gazetteers (data processing and tools,
database management, data dissemination: products and services)
(Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers)**

National Database for Geographical Names of China

Submitted by China **

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National Database for Geographical Names of China

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Summary: Relying on the achievements of the Second National Survey of Geographical Names, China has basically completed the National Database for Geographical Names, which contains information of more than 13 million geographical names in 11 major categories to provide better services for the public in the use of geographical names. At present, the database has been put into trial operation.

From 2014 to 2018, China organized the construction of National Database for Geographical Names of China, relying on the achievements of the Second National Survey of Geographical Names. After more than four years of hard work, the construction of the database has been basically completed and has been put into trial operation.

1. General information.

The National Database for Geographical Names of China contains information of more than 13 million geographical names, 740,000 signs, 5,500 boundary lines, 28,000 boundary stakes and 890,000 original pronunciations of geographical names, all thanks to the Second National Survey of Geographical Names. The survey covers more than 2,800 county-level administrative regions in China. The 11 categories of geographical names include hydrographic features, land topographies, administrative regions, mass autonomous organizations, non-administrative regions, settlements, transportation facilities, water conservancies, electricity and communication facilities, memorial sites and tourist spots, buildings and work units. Data types include sound, form, meaning, location, category and other attribute information of geographical names. It includes text, photo, voice and other multimedia information, as well as special characters and pronunciation of special information.

2. Characteristics and functions.

On the whole, the National Database for Geographical Names of China is characterized by accurate information, comprehensive content, up to date and high standardization, and can provide the society with better services of information-based geographical names.

First, it is able to meet the needs of society for standard geographical names information. Geographical name is an important tool in people's daily communication. With the rapid development of China's economy and society, the flow of people, goods and information is speeding up. There is a growing demand for geographical names information from all social sectors. The construction of the database is led by the government department in charge of geographical names, with the cooperation of other government departments in charge of transportation, water conservancy, tourism and other specialized fields. More than 800,000 people from all over the country have taken part in the survey. They have collected information, checked and verified geographical names in strict accordance with the standards and norms. The collected information of geographical names has gone through a process of self-examination, verification, acceptance inspection and re-inspection, in order to ensure that the information is complete and accurate. After the database goes online, the dynamic updating of geographical names information through a combination of classification and multiple channels will be realized, in order to meet the needs of the people for geographical names information in the new era, and to provide more convenient services for economic and social development and people's production and life.

Second, it can provide effective support for strengthening the protection of the culture of geographical names, which are important carriers of national culture. In recent years, great changes have taken place in all urban and rural areas in China, with a large number of new geographical names appearing and many old ones gradually dying out. The National Geographical Names Information Database of China contains both current and historical geographical names, that is to say, it contains not only the basic information of geographical names such as sound, form and meaning, but also cultural information such as the meaning and historical evolution of geographical names. The database involves the culture of folklore, dictum, legend, poetry, literature, historical event, local product, folk art and other aspects of cultural information. It is not only a database of the basic information of geographical names, but also a cultural resource information database. It can provide sufficient resources for strengthening the construction and protection of geographical names culture.

Third, it is an important way to realize the effective use of survey achievements. The Second National Survey of Geographical Names has collected data of nearly 100 terabytes, and it can provide support for the construction of national information resource databases, such as national population, legal entity, natural resources, spatial geography and macroeconomic information databases, etc. The database has also set up columns on feedback, research on geographical names and application of geographical names, encouraging all sectors of society to actively participate in the construction of the

database. With a focus on thematic data, it can provide resources to download, share data interface and geographical names information to the society, encourage the society to develop diversified geographical names information products based on the database.

3. Next steps.

Next, by relying on the achievements of the Second National Survey of Geographical Names, China will continue to develop the National Database for Geographical Names, use modern information technologies such as big data analysis and Internet to further improve the quality of the achievements of the survey and perfect geographical names information. China will further update geographical names information and build a dynamically updated national resource system, pay attention to classification, online and offline multi-channel combination of information updating. China will establish a resource-sharing mechanism to provide geographical names information to the society in a timely manner. Through sorting, data mining, using of the achievements, speeding up the compilation and publication of standard geographical names maps, catalogues, gazetteers and other reference books, China will launch diversified, innovative forms of geographical names information services.