

Korea Committee on Geographical Names

Achievements and Challenges

ICC pre-conference workshop
“Role and structure of national place-name boards”
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Sungjae Choo
Kyung Hee University
sjchoo@khu.ac.kr

Hyo Hyun Sung
Ewha Womans University
hhsung@ewha.ac.kr

Standardization of geographical names in Korea

- natural features ⇒ NGII, local authorities
 - maritime features ⇒ KHOA
 - man-made features (a part of) ⇒ NGII, local authorities
 - administrative divisions & streets ⇒ MOIS
local authorities
 - other man-made features ⇒ individual authorities
- ✓ NGII: National Geographic Information Institute (國土地理情報院)
 - ✓ KHOA: Korea Hydrographic and Oceanographic Agency (國立海洋調查院)
 - ✓ MOIS: Ministry of the Interior and Safety (行政安全部)
 - ✓ KCGN: Korea Committee on Geographical Names (國家地名委員會)

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KCGN's involvement
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Korea Committee on Geographical Names (國家地名委員會)

- Merging two committees in 2010
 - Central Geographical Names Committee
(中央地名委員會) (1958~2009)
 - Marine Geographical Names Committee
(海洋地名委員會) (2002~2009)
- Act on the Establishment and Management of Spatial Information (*formerly*, Act on Measurement, Hydrographic Survey and Land Registration)
(空間情報의 構築 및 管理 等에 關한 法律)

Korea Committee on Geographical Names (國家地名委員會)

- composed of 30 members
 - 11 government, 19 non-government
- two sub-committees & two secretariats
 - natural/man-made features: NGII
 - maritime features: KHOA
- examine proposals and make final decisions on the names standardization

Tasks of national names authorities

- Setting principles and procedures of standardization
- Standardization: proposal, approval, announcement (including checking on errors and corrections)
 - 152,850 natural/man-made feature names by NGII (by 2018)
 - 1,091 marine feature names by KHOA (by 2018)
- Managing toponymic databases and gazetteers
- Toponymic research and publication



국토정보플랫폼



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지명검색



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남산

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남산

본 서비스를 통해 제공되는 지명정보는 국토지리정보원에서 고시한 고시지명에 한하여 제공합니다.

관련문의 : 031-210-2708

서울특별시 용산구 용산동2가

지도선택



남산(Namsan)

남산(Namsan)

[분류] 자연지명 > 산 > 산지

[한글주소] 서울특별시 중구 예장동 8-1 / [한문주소] 中區

해양지명현황

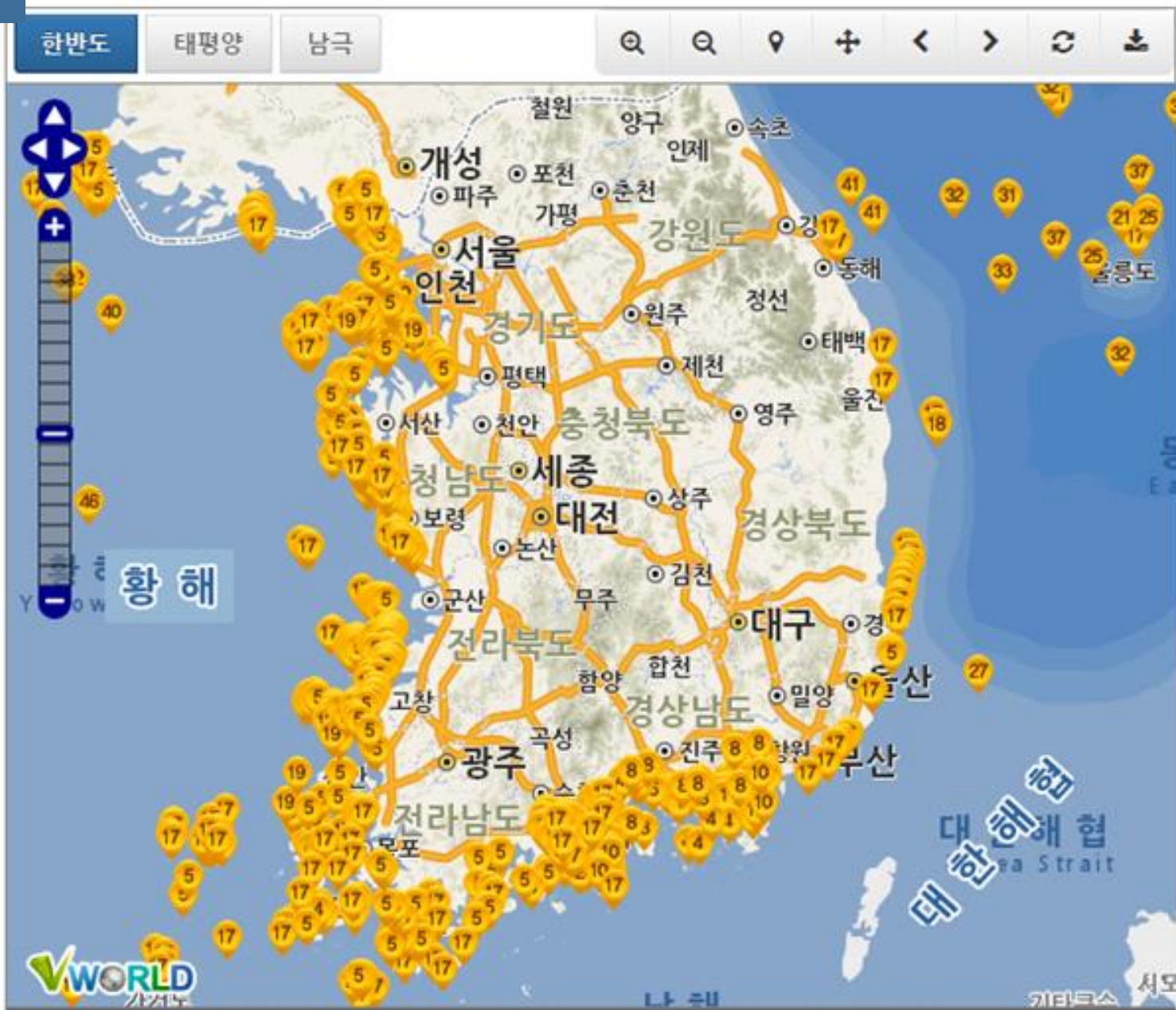
한반도

태평양

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지명 표준화 편람

제3판

2018. 12.



*Guidelines for the Standardization of
Geographical Names (3rd ed., 2018)*
地名標準化便覽 第3版

발간등록번호
11-1192136-000210-01

해양지명 표준화 편람

The Guideline for Standardization of
Marine Geographical Names

제2판
Second Edition

2016년 12월
December 2016



*Guidelines for the Standardization of
marine Geographical Names (2nd ed.,
2016)* 海洋地名標準化便覽 第2版



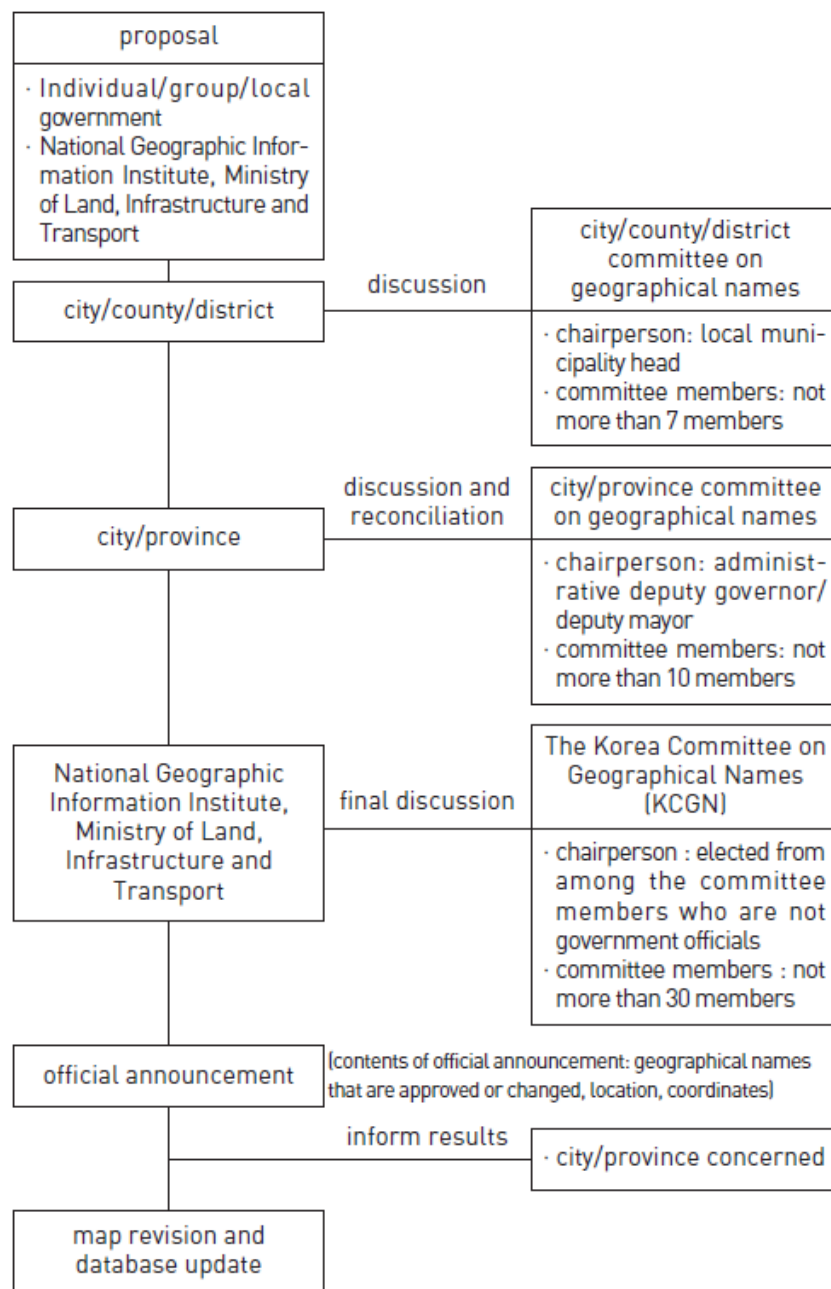
Achievements and Challenges

- Marine geographical names by KHOA (Sung)
- Natural/man-made feature names by NGII (Choo)

Natural/man-made feature names: bottom-up procedures of standardization

- Proposal for naming and renaming by city/county/district committees
- Approval by metropolitan/provincial committees
- Approval and final decision by KCGN, then officially announced through official gazette (官報)

Figure 1. The Flowchart of the Approval and Change of Geographical Names



Source: Toponymic Guidelines for Map and Other Editors For International Use: Republic of Korea (2nd edition, 2015)

Achievements: Standardization

- 152,850 names (1958~2018)
 420 names (2012~2016)
 335 names (2017~2018)

		2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total
natural features	island	10	0	0	49	40	99
	peak	3(1)	0	4(2)	0	8	15(3)
	mountain	2	1(1)	2(2)	3(2)	3(1)	11(6)
	others	3(1)	4(4)	1	0	0	8(5)
artificial features	bridge	3	0	6	29	81	119
	intersection	0	0	0	0	55	55
	park	0	1	0	26	18	45
	others**	3(2)	6(3)	3(2)	24(4)	32	68(11)
Total		24(4)	12(8)	16(6)	131(6)	237(1)	420(25)

* Numbers in the parenthesis represent name changes.

** Others include underpasses, tunnels, eco-bridges, etc.

Achievements: Principles of standardization

- Revision made in 2018 (formerly 2005, 2012)
- Composed of:
 - 3 grand principles,
 - 2 priorities of name choice,
 - 7 types of names to be avoided,
 - 2 rules of commemorative naming and
 - 3 procedural recommendations

Major principles of standardization

- ✓ One name for one feature
- ✓ Current names not be modified or discarded without valid reasons
- ✓ Names currently in local use, names reflecting local identity, history, cultural heritage, or sense of place be prioritized
- ✓ Names with derogative meanings, motivated by the context of commercialization, causing confusion by existing same names, using series of numbers be avoided
- ✓ Names of persons associated with the area and deceased at least ten years may be used, but no living persons.
- ✓ Names of features belonging to the jurisdiction of more than one local municipality shall be decided upon agreement between the relevant municipalities.

Challenges: controversies between municipalities

- Different name proposals for transboundary features
- Bridges, tunnels, mountains
- Agreement made:

Seocheondaegyo (舒川大橋) vs. Gunsandaegyo (群山大橋)

⇒ Dongbaekdaegyo (冬柏大橋)

* Dongbaek(동백, 冬柏) means camellia.

Sinandaegyo (新安大橋) vs. Unnamdaegyo (雲南大橋)

⇒ Kimdaejungdaegyo (金大中大橋)

* Kim Daejung was a president of Korea.

Challenges: controversies between municipalities

- Agreement NOT made, had to put in vote:

Paryeongdaegyo (八影大橋) vs. Jeokgeumdaegyo (積金大橋)

⇒ Paryeongdaegyo (八影大橋)

* Paryeong (八影) is the name of a mountain while Jeokgeum (積金) is the name of an island.

Noryangdaegyo (露梁大橋) vs. 2nd Namhaedaegyo (第2南海大橋)

⇒ Noryangdaegyo (露梁大橋)

* Noryang (露梁) is the name of villages in both sides while Namhae is the name of an island as well as of a local municipality.

Challenges: validity of principles

- All proposed names originated from neighboring features with local use based on cultural heritage
- In case there are common elements with no opposition, agreement is feasible, but otherwise, not.
- Strengthening the validity of principles?

Procedural recommendation

(new clauses in the 2018 edition of the *Guidelines*)

- ✓ Names of features belonging to the jurisdiction of more than one local municipality shall be decided upon agreement between the relevant municipalities.
- ✓ Attempts shall be made to find a name representing elements common to relevant local municipalities
- ✓ Names which can cause disputes by applying local elements exclusively belonging to just one local area shall be avoided
- ✓ In case of artificial features, names used temporarily during the construction period are not admitted as names currently in local use.

Challenges: legal validity of *the Guidelines*

- Currently no legal binding power
- Should be complemented by additional articles in the existing legislative framework or by establishing a new comprehensive law for geographical names
- A grand framework to manage geographical names in general which involves all government agencies should be considered.