Romanization of Korean

1. Basic Principles for Transcription

(1) Romanization is based on standard Korean pronunciation.

(2) No symbols except Roman letters are used so far as possible.

2. Summary of the Transcription System

(1) Vowels are transcribed as follows:

•simple vowels

ㅏ	ㅓ	ㅗ	ㅜ	ㅡ	ㅣ	ㅐ	ㅔ	ㅚ	ㅟ
a	eo	o	u	eu	i	ae	e	oe	wi

•diphthongs

ㅑ	ㅕ	ㅛ	ㅠ	ㅒ	ㅖ	ㅘ	ㅙ	ㅝ	ㅞ	ㅢ
ya	yeo	yo	yu	yae	ye	wa	wae	wo	we	ui

Note 1: 'ㅢ' is transcribed as 'ui', although being pronounced as 'ㅣ'.

Note 2: Long vowels are not reflected in transcription.

(2) Consonants are transcribed as follows:

•plosives(stops)

ㄱ	ㄲ	ㅋ	ㄷ	ㄸ	ㅌ	ㅂ	ㅃ	ㅍ
g, k	kk	k	d, t	tt	t	b, p	pp	p

•affricates

ㅈ	ㅉ	ㅊ
j	jj	ch

•fricatives

ㅅ	ㅆ	ㅎ
s	ss	h

•nasals

ㄴ	ㅁ	ㅇ
n	m	ng

•liquids

ㄹ
r, l

Note 1 : The sounds ㄱ, ㄷ, and ㅂ are transcribed respectively as *g*, *d*, and *b* before a vowel; they are transcribed as *k*, *t*, and *p* when they appear before another consonant or as the last sound of a word.(They are transcribed as pronunciation in [ ].)

e.g. 구미 Gumi 영동 Yeongdong 백암 Baegam

옥천 Okcheon 합덕 Hapdeok 호법 Hobeop

월곶[월곧] Wolgot 벚꽃[벋꼳] beotkkot

한밭[한받] Hanbat

Note 2 : ㄹ is transcribed as *r* before a vowel, and as *l* before a consonant or at the end of a word: ㄹㄹ is transcribed as *ll*.

e.g. 구리 Guri 설악 Seorak 칠곡 Chilgok

임실 Imsil 울릉 Ulleung

대관령[대괄령] Daegwallyeong

3. Special Provisions for Transcription

(1) When Korean sound values change as in the following cases, the results of those changes are transcribed as follows:

1. The case of assimilation of adjacent consonants

e.g. 백마[뱅마] Baengm 신문로[신문노] Sinmunno

종로[종노] Jongno 왕십리[왕심니] Wangsimni

별내[별내] Byeollae 신라[실라] Silla

2. The case of the epenthetic ㄴ and ㄹ

e.g. 학여울[항녀울] Hangnyeoul   알약[알략] allyak

3. The case of palatalization

e.g. 해돋이 haedoji   같이[가치] gachi
      맞히다[마치다] machida

4. The case when ㄱ, ㄷ, ㅂ, and ㅈ are adjacent to ㅎ

e.g. 좋고[조코] joko   놓다[노타] nota
      잡혀[자펴] japyeo   낳지[나치] nachi

However, aspirated sounds are not transcribed in case of nouns where ㅎ follows ㄱ, ㄷ, and ㅂ, as in the examples below.

e.g. 묵호 Mukho   집현전 Jiphyeonjeon

Note: Tense (or glottalized) sounds are not transcribed in cases where the morphemes are compounded, as in the examples below.

e.g. 압구정 Apgujeong   낙동강 Nakdonggang
      죽변 Jukbyeon   낙성대 Nakseongdae
      합정 Hapjeong   팔당 Paldang
      샛별 saetbyeol   울산 Ulsan

(2) When there is the possibility of confusion in pronunciation, a hyphen '-' may be used.

e.g. 중앙 Jung-ang   반구대 Ban-gudae
      세운 Se-un   해운대 Hae-undae

(3) The first letter is capitalized in proper names.

e.g. 부산 Busan   세종 Sejong

(4) Personal names are written by family name first, followed by a space and the given name. As a rule, syllables in given names are not seperated by hyphen, but it is admitted to use a hyphen

between syllables. (Transcription in ( ) is permitted.)

e.g.   민용하 Min Yongha (Min Yong-ha)

송나리 Song Nari (Song Na-ri)

① Assimilated sound changes between syllables in given names are not transcribed.

e.g.   한복남 Han Boknam (Han Bok-nam)

홍빛나 Hong Bitna (Hong Bit-na)

② Transcriptions of family names will be established additionally.

(5) Administrative units such as 도, 시, 군, 구, 읍, 면, 리, 동, and 가 are transcribed respectively as *do*, *si*, *gun*, *gu*, *eup*, *myeon*, *ri*, *dong*, and *ga,* and are preceded by a hyphen. Assimilated sound changes before and after the hyphen are not transcribed.

e.g.   충청북도 Chungcheongbuk-do   제주도 Jeju-do

의정부시 Uijeongbu-si   양주군 Yangju-gun

도봉구 Dobong-gu   신창읍 Sinchang-eup

삼죽면 Samjuk-myeon   인왕리 Inwang-ri

당산동 Dangsan-dong   봉천1동 Bongcheon 1(il)-dong

종로 2가 Jongno 2(i)-ga

퇴계로 3가 Toegyero 3(sam)-ga

Note: Terms for administrative units such as 시, 군, 읍 may be omitted.

e.g.   청주시 Cheongju   함평군 Hampyeong

순창읍 Sunchang

(6) Names of geographic features, cultural properties, and man-made structures may be written without hyphens.

e.g.   남산 Namsan   속리산 Songnisan

금강 Geumgang   독도 Dokdo

경복궁 Gyeongbokgung   무량수전 Muryangsujeon

연화교 Yeonhwagyo   극락전 Geungnakjeon

안압지 Anapji   남한산성 Namhansanseong

화랑대 Hwarangdae   불국사 Bulguksa

현충사 Hyeonchungsa   독립문 Dongnimmun

오죽헌 Ojukeon   촉석루 Chokseongnu

종묘 Jongmyo   다보탑 Dabotap

(7) Proper names such as personal names and those of companies may be written as they have been so far.