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**United Nations Group of Experts on  
Geographical Names**  
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Item 14 of the provisional agenda\*  
**Geographical names data management**

## **Experiment in continuous update methods for the web map entitled “Japan map in multilingual notation”**

### **Summary\*\***

The Geospatial Information Authority of Japan has been developing various geospatial data on Japan and providing that information in an easy-to-use manner. As part of this effort, the Geospatial Information Authority experimentally released the multilingual web map entitled “Japan map in multilingual notation” on 14 February 2020.

The web map not only displays annotations in Japanese, Romanized Japanese and English, but also automatically converts to display annotations in Chinese, French and Korean.

In addition, the notation rules for geographical names in English established by the Authority are applied in various cases, such as in English references on road signs or citations of the English notation guidelines by many local governments. The guidelines have spread to become standard English notation rules for foreigners. The “Japan map in multilingual notation” is also referred to as a representative example of a web map that fully complies with the English notation rules. Developing annotation vector tiles based on the rules and disseminating them has made a positive contribution to the standardization of the English notation of geographical names in Japan.

In the experiment covered in the report, the Authority aims to continuously update the web map, which serves as a kind of standard for the English notation of geographical names in Japan. The experiment involves a new method to regularly create annotation vector tiles.

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\* [GEGN.2/2023/1](https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/3rd_session_2023/).

\*\* The full report was prepared by the Geospatial Information Authority of Japan. The report will be available at [https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/3rd\\_session\\_2023/](https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/3rd_session_2023/), in the language of submission only, as document GEGN.2/2023/66/CRP.66.

