

Youth Participation in Geographical Names Policy: A Legislative Breakthrough

Republic of Korea

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**United Nations Group of Experts
on Geographical Names (UNGEGN)**

1. New Legal Amendment (September 2024)

- Revised the *Enforcement Decree of the Act on the Establishment and Management of Spatial Data*.
- Officially includes youth (ages 19-34) as members of the Korea Committee on Geographical Names (KCGN).
- First youth member appointed in February 2025.

2. Why It Matters

- Promotes intergenerational dialogue and inclusive decision-making.
- Aligns with the UNGEGN Strategic Plan (2021–2029).
 - ✓ Fosters inclusiveness and cultural awareness.
 - ✓ Enhances effective governance and communication.
- Supports UN SDG 16 (*Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions*)
 - ✓ Target 16.7: *Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory, and representative decision-making at all levels.*

3. Key Impacts

- Empowers the next generation of naming professionals.
- Opens pathways for academic and civic engagement in toponymy.
- Sets a precedent for youth-inclusive policy in the region



The Korea Committee on Geographical Names (KCGN)
<https://www.ngii.go.kr/eng/main.do>

