# Geographic Names Standardization Policy
# for Japan

United States Board on Geographic Names
Foreign Names Committee

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# 1. Introduction

This geographic names standardization policy has been prepared as an aid to those geographic names experts who are the working staff for the United States Board on Geographic Names (BGN) in the standardization of the geographic names of Japan for United States Government use. The BGN and its staff work to effect consistent treatment of geographic name spellings in US Government databases, publications, maps, and charts. The country policies are intended to satisfy, in part, the statutory requirements levied upon the BGN in Public Law USC 80-242 to develop principles, policies and procedures for geographic names standardization, and to promulgate decisions with respect to the principles of geographic nomenclature and orthography.

# 2. Languages and Language Policy

## a. Demographics

Japan is the world's tenth most populous nation. Almost 99 percent of its 127.1 million people are ethnic Japanese, with minority populations of Chinese, Koreans, Filipinos, Brazilians, Peruvians, and other ethnic groups from around the globe.  Japan has an indigenous minority group from Hokkaido and Russia called the Ainu. Most minorities in Japan speak Japanese as their first language.

## b. Languages

Japanese is the national language and de facto official language of Japan. Although several dialects of Japanese are spoken throughout the country, including 津軽弁 (Tsugaru Ben), 鹿児島弁 (Kagoshima Ben), 広島弁 (Hiroshima Ben), 博多弁 (Hakata Ben), 大阪弁 (Ōsaka Ben), 京都弁 (Kyōto Ben), and 名古屋弁 (Nagoya Ben), a standard dialect is in common usage in the media and educational system. A few dialects differ enough linguistically to be considered separate languages; these include 八丈語 (Hachijō Go),  奄美語 (Amami Go), 国頭語 (Kunigami Go), 沖縄語 (Okinawa Go), 宮古語 (Miyako Go), 八重山語 (Yaeyama Go), and 与那国語 (Yonaguni Go).

Japanese has a long history of incorporating words and phrases borrowed from foreign languages—Chinese, Portuguese, Dutch, German, and English, to name a few—to express concepts not existing in Japanese.

## c. Geographic Names Standardization

The two organizations responsible for standardizing geographic names in Japan are the Geographic Information Authority of Japan (GSI), which falls under the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, and the Hydrographic and Oceanographic Department of the Japan Coast Guard. These organizations established the Joint Committee on the

Standardization of Geographical Names in 1960 to coordinate their efforts, and it is still active today. These organizations do not address names that have already been standardized by other national government organizations or prefectural governments.

GSI periodically provides reports to the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names. In 2007, GSI submitted the third edition of a working paper titled "Toponymic guidelines for map editors and other editors, Japan."

# 3. Toponymic Policies

## a. Script and Orthography

Japanese is written with a mixture of three different scripts: Kanji (漢字), Hiragana (ひらがな), and Katakana (カタカナ). Running text is usually written in Kanji with Hiragana and Katakana interspersed and there are no spaces between words except when placing a comma. The Roman alphabet is also used in some contexts.

Kanji are logographic characters, originally borrowed from Chinese, that convey the meaning of a word or part of a word. A Kanji character may have multiple pronunciations. For example, the 石 character means 'rock' but has at least ten pronunciations, with six used for names. It can sometimes be difficult to determine which pronunciation is intended, especially when reading geographic names.

Examples of multiple pronunciations for a single kanji (生) in geographic names:

| Names in Kanji | Romanized | Pronunciation of 生 |
|---|---|---|
| 壬生町 | Mibumachi | bu |
| 生駒市 | Ikoma Shi | I |
| 生坂村 | Ikusaka Mura | Iku |
| 蒲生町 | Gamō Chō | ō |
| 羽生市 | Hanyū Shi | nyū |
| 麻生区 | Asao Ku | o |
| 相生市 | Aioi Shi | oi |
| 桐生市 | Kiryū Shi | ū |
| 福生市 | Fussa Shi | sa |
| 越生町 | Ogose Machi | se |
| 長生村 | Chōsei Mura | sei |
| 丹生郡 | Nyū Gun | ū |

Hiragana and Katakana are often referred to by the collective word "kana." They are both syllabic symbols, meaning the symbols represent the syllables of the language. Both syllabic symbols were originally derived from Chinese characters.

Kanji, Hiragana, and Katakana are typically used to represent different categories of language. Kanji is used for such words as nouns, verbs, and modifiers (e.g. adverbs, adjectives, etc.). Geographic names are usually written with Kanji. Hiragana is used to write grammatical particles or Japanese words that have no Kanji. It is also used in early education in Japan, and in Japanese-language instruction for foreigners, to teach Kanji pronunciation. Katakana is reserved for rendering foreign words, foreign names, onomatopoeia, interjections, and words that require special emphasis. It is also sometimes used, as is the case with the Japan postal service, to show pronunciation of Japanese names.

Geographic names in Japan are to be collected in Kanji, Hiragana, and Katakana whenever possible. Each native script name will be linked to the Romanized, BGN-approved name. Japanese geographic names follow the standard name-ranking procedures. Most approved names have Kanji script which is labeled as rank 2, Hiragana as rank 3, and Katakana as rank 4. However, some approved names only have Hiragana or Katakana names. When Hiragana only or Katakana only names are the approved names, they will take the higher rank than the regular rank order.

Examples of geographic names shown in GNDB:

1. First-order administrative division
   - Approved name (rank 1): Tōkyō
   - Approved name (rank 2): Tōkyō To
   - Native script (rank 3): 東京都
   - Native script (rank 4): とうきょうと
   - Native script (rank 5): トウキョウト

2. Second-order administrative division
   - Approved name (rank 1): Minamiawaji Shi
   - Native script (rank2): 南あわじ市
   - Native script (rank 3): みなみあわじし
   - Native script (rank 4): ミナミアワジシ

3. Ski resort
   - Approved name (rank 1): Uenono Ski Jō
   - Native script (rank 2): 上野々スキー場
   - Native script (rank 3): うえののすきーじょう
   - Native script (rank 4): ウエノノスキージョウ

## b. Romanization

In Japan, mainly two systems are used to romanize Japanese: the Hepburn system (also known as the Hebon-shiki), and Kunreishiki.

The Hepburn system was developed by the Society for the Romanization of the Japanese Alphabet in the late 1800s and popularized by James Curtis Hepburn, an American missionary and lexicographer, who used the system in the third edition of his Japanese-English Dictionary, published in 1886. The Hepburn system has gone through several revisions since it was first designed. The BGN/PCGN 1976 Agreement currently used is referred to as the modified Hepburn system. The Geographic Information Authority of Japan shifted from the Kunreishiki romanization system to Modified Hepburn in 2000.

Kunreishiki was promulgated by the government of Japan in the 1930s. Even though Kunreishiki was introduced as the official romanization system for International Standards Organization in 1989 (ISO3602), it has never been fully accepted as the sole system within Japan. Geographic names are usually romanized with the Hepburn or Modified Hepburn system within Japan.

The modified Hepburn system has been in use by the US Board on Geographic Names and the UK Permanent Committee on Geographical Names since the 1930s and has been used extensively in the romanization of Japanese geographic names. The system is well adapted to the general needs of English speakers, and is a widely used system for Japanese Romanization by Japan's Foreign Ministry, Meteorological Agency, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, and most local authorities.

See Appendix C for guidance on Romanization System for Japanese Kana.

## c. Diacritics

The modified Hepburn system uses a macron to mark long vowels. The following diacritical marks are encountered in the romanized forms of geographic names in Japan:

| Character | Unicode Value |
|:---:|:---:|
| ā | 0101 |
| Ā | 0100 |
| ē | 0113 |
| Ē | 0112 |
| ī | 012B |
| Ī | 012A |
| ō | 014D |
| Ō | 014C |
| ū | 016B |
| Ū | 016A |

### d. Generic Terms

Japanese geographic names dictionaries, such as the Sanseido Concise Geographic Names Dictionary,[1] use hyphens to separate specific terms and generic terms. Generic terms in the Japan file in the GNDB are separated from their specific term by a hyphen, and are not capitalized. For example, the BGN-approved name for Tokyo Bay is written as Tōkyō-wan, not Tōkyō Wan. The hyphen with the generic term (-wan) is also carried over to the generic field. However, the use of a space to separate the two elements is commonly found in most other countries' database files and is the practice stated in a working paper Japan prepared for the 23rd session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names held in 2006.

GSI modified the geographic names policy in 2007 by replacing a hyphen with a space. Recent romanization and word segmentation policy changes in Japanese geographic names mostly match the segmentation style that the GSI implemented in 2007, except for hyphen usage. For a glossary of generic terms, see Appendix A: Glossary of Generic Terms.

### e. Capitalization and Hyphenation

Capitalization conventions are applied to romanized forms. In modified Hepburn spellings, names that contain both a specific and a generic term have a space separating the two elements, and the initial letter of both the specific term and the generic term are capitalized. Hyphens are used only for long geographic names, mostly Populated Place Names (PPL), to separate two or more proper nouns which are made into one long compound name. For examples, see Appendix B: Japanese Word Segmentation Policy.

### f. Long and Short Forms

Short forms are provided for approved names of administrative divisions, country name, and railroad stations.

### g. Numbers

Cardinal and ordinal numerals are not found in geographic names in Japan.

### h. Abbreviations

All abbreviations in both English and Japanese shall be spelled out. Examples:

| Abbreviated Names | Long Form | Furigana |
|---|---|---|
| CC | Country Club | カントリークラブ |
| 短大 | 短期大学 | たんきだいがく |
| 米軍 | 米国軍 | べいこくぐん |
| (医) | 医学部 | いがくぶ |

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[1] Concise Geographic Names Dictionary, fifth edition, Sanseidō Co., Ltd , Tokyo, Japan.2007.
ISBN: 978-4-385-16051-1

# 4. Political Geography Policy

## a. Country Name

The English conventional name for Japan comes from the early modern era name, Giapan. This was first recorded in the West by Marco Polo as Cipangu. The official Japanese name is 日本国, pronounced Nihon Koku. The last character, which means 'country' is used mainly in formal, official communications. The other two respectively mean 'sun' and 'origin' which, together, mean 'origin of the sun,' 'the East,' or 'Land of the Rising Sun.'

Conventional:                          Japan
Approved long form:              Nihon Koku
Japanese  long Kanji form:     日本国
Japanese Hiragana form:        にほんこく
Japanese Katakana form:        ニホンコク
Japanese short form:              Nihon
Japanese short form/Native Script: 日本
Japanese short Hiragana form:      にほん、にっぽん
Japanese short Katakana form:      ニホン、ニッポン

## b. Capital Name

Conventional:            Tokyo
Approved:                 Tōkyō
Japanese Kanji:         東京
Japanese Hiragana:   とうきょう
Japanese Katakana:   トウキョウ

## c. First-Order Administrative Divisions

Japan is divided into forty-seven (47) prefectures, including one (1) metropolitan district (Tōkyō), two (2) urban prefectures (Kyōto and Ōsaka), one (1) Dō prefecture (Hokkaidō), and forty-three (43) Ken prefectures.

| Name | Kanji (Kana) | Generic | GEC | GENC | Seat |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Aichi Ken | 愛知県（あいちけん） | Ken（県、けん） | JA01 | JP-23 | Nagoya （名古屋、なごや） |
| Akita Ken | 秋田県（あきたけん） | Ken（県、けん） | JA02 | JP-05 | Akita （秋田、あきた） |
| Aomori Ken | 青森県（あおもりけん） | Ken（県、けん） | JA03 | JP-02 | Aomori （青森、あおもり） |
| Chiba Ken | 千葉県（ちばけん） | Ken（県、けん） | JA04 | JP-12 | Chiba （千葉、ちば） |
| Ehime Ken | 愛媛県（えひめけん） | Ken（県、けん） | JA05 | JP-38 | Matsuyama （松山、まつやま） |
| Fukui Ken | 福井県（ふくいけん） | Ken（県、けん） | JA06 | JP-18 | Fukui （福井、ふくい） |
| Fukuoka Ken | 福岡県（ふくおかけん） | Ken（県、けん） | JA07 | JP-40 | Fukuoka （福岡、ふくおか） |
| Fukushima Ken | 福島県（ふくしまけん） | Ken（県、けん） | JA08 | JP-07 | Fukushima （福島、ふくしま） |
| Gifu Ken | 岐阜県（ぎふけん） | Ken（県、けん） | JA09 | JP-21 | Gifu （岐阜、ぎふ） |

| Name | Kanji (Kana) | Generic | GEC | GENC | Seat |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Gunma Ken | 群馬県 （ぐんまけん） | Ken（県、けん） | JA10 | JP-10 | Maebashi （前橋、まえばし） |
| Hiroshima Ken | 広島県 （ひろしまけん） | Ken（県、けん） | JA11 | JP-34 | Hiroshima （広島、ひろしま） |
| Hokkaidō | 北海道 （ほっかいどう） | Do（道、どう） | JA12 | JP-01 | Sapporo （札幌、さっぽろ） |
| Hyōgo Ken | 兵庫県 （ひょうごけん） | Ken（県、けん） | JA13 | JP-28 | Kōbe （神戸、こうべ） |
| Ibaraki Ken | 茨城県 （いばらきけん） | Ken（県、けん） | JA14 | JP-08 | Mito （水戸、みと） |
| Ishikawa Ken | 石川県 （いしかわけん） | Ken（県、けん） | JA15 | JP-17 | Kanazawa （金沢、かなざわ） |
| Iwate Ken | 岩手県 （いわてけん） | Ken（県、けん） | JA16 | JP-03 | Morioka （盛岡、もりおか） |
| Kagawa Ken | 香川県 （かがわけん） | Ken（県、けん） | JA17 | JP-37 | Takamatsu （高松、たかまつ） |
| Kagoshima Ken | 鹿児島県 （かごしまけん） | Ken（県、けん） | JA18 | JP-46 | Kagoshima （鹿児島、かごしま） |
| Kanagawa Ken | 神奈川県 （かながわけん） | Ken（県、けん） | JA19 | JP-14 | Yokohama （横浜、よこはま） |
| Kōchi Ken | 高知県 （こうちけん） | Ken（県、けん） | JA20 | JP-39 | Kōchi （高知、こうち） |
| Kumamoto Ken | 熊本県 （くまもとけん） | Ken（県、けん） | JA21 | JP-43 | Kumamoto （熊本、くまもと） |
| Kyōto Fu | 京都府 （きょうとふ） | Fu（府、ふ） | JA22 | JP-26 | Kyōto （京都、きょうと） |
| Mie Ken | 三重県 （みえけん） | Ken（県、けん） | JA23 | JP-24 | Tsu （津、つ） |
| Miyagi Ken | 宮城県 （みやぎけん） | Ken（県、けん） | JA24 | JP-04 | Sendai （仙台、せんだい） |
| Miyazaki Ken | 宮崎県 （みやざきけん） | Ken（県、けん） | JA25 | JP-45 | Miyazaki （宮崎、みやざき） |
| Nagano Ken | 長野県 （ながのけん） | Ken（県、けん） | JA26 | JP-20 | Nagano （長野、ながの） |
| Nagasaki Ken | 長崎県 （ながさきけん） | Ken（県、けん） | JA27 | JP-42 | Nagasaki （長崎、ながさき） |
| Nara Ken | 奈良県 （ならけん） | Ken（県、けん） | JA28 | JP-29 | Nara （奈良、なら） |
| Niigata Ken | 新潟県 （にいがたけん） | Ken（県、けん） | JA29 | JP-15 | Niigata （新潟、にいがた） |
| Ōita Ken | 大分県 （おおいたけん） | Ken（県、けん） | JA30 | JP-44 | Ōita （大分、おおいた） |
| Okayama Ken | 岡山県 （おかやまけん） | Ken（県、けん） | JA31 | JP-33 | Okayama （岡山、おかやま） |
| Okinawa Ken | 沖縄県 （おきなわけん） | Ken（県、けん） | JA47 | JP-47 | Naha（那覇、なは） |
| Ōsaka Fu | 大阪府 （おおさかふ） | Fu（府、ふ） | JA32 | JP-27 | Ōsaka （大阪、おおさか） |
| Saga Ken | 佐賀県 （さがけん） | Ken（県、けん） | JA33 | JP-41 | Saga （佐賀、さが） |
| Saitama Ken | 埼玉県 （さいたまけん） | Ken（県、けん） | JA34 | JP-11 | Saitama（埼玉、さいたま） |
| Shiga Ken | 滋賀県 （しがけん） | Ken（県、けん） | JA35 | JP-25 | Ōtsu （大津、おおつ） |
| Shimane Ken | 島根県 （しまねけん） | Ken（県、けん） | JA36 | JP-32 | Matsue（松江、まつえ） |
| Shizuoka Ken | 静岡県 （しずおかけん） | Ken（県、けん） | JA37 | JP-22 | Shizuoka （静岡、しずおか） |
| Tochigi Ken | 栃木県 （とちぎけん） | Ken（県、けん） | JA38 | JP-09 | Utsunomiya （宇都宮、うつのみや） |
| Tokushima Ken | 徳島県 （とくしまけん） | Ken（県、けん） | JA39 | JP-36 | Tokushima （徳島、とくしま） |
| Tōkyō To | 東京都 （とうきょうと） | To（都、と） | JA40 | JP-13 | Tokyō （東京、とうきょう） |
| Tottori Ken | 鳥取県 （とっとりけん） | Ken（県、けん） | JA41 | JP-31 | Tottori （鳥取、とっとり） |
| Toyama Ken | 富山県 （とやまけん） | Ken（県、けん） | JA42 | JP-16 | Toyama （富山、とやま） |
| Wakayama Ken | 和歌山県 （わかやまけん） | Ken（県、けん） | JA43 | JP-30 | Wakayama （和歌山、わかやま） |
| Yamagata Ken | 山形県 （やまがたけん）） | Ken（県、けん） | JA44 | JP-06 | Yamagata（山形、やまがた） |
| Yamaguchi Ken | 山口県 （やまぐちけん） | Ken（県、けん） | JA45 | JP-35 | Yamaguchi （山口、やまぐち） |
| Yamanashi Ken | 山梨県 （やまなしけん） | Ken（県、けん） | JA46 | JP-19 | Kōfu （甲府、こうふ） |

### d. Second-Order Administrative Divisions (ADM2)

1. **Special Wards** (of Tokyo) are twenty-three (23) municipalities which belonged to the city of Tokyo until 1943. When the city of Tokyo was abolished, they were placed directly under the prefecture, and in 2000 the National Diet designated the special wards as local public entities, the same legal status as the cities. Special Wards are second-order administrative divisions (ADM2).

2. **Cities** are divided into four levels and are considered ADM2s. To become **Designated Cities**, **Core Cities**, or **Special Case Cities**, they have to be designated by cabinet order and satisfy the population requirement. All cities that do not qualify to be considered in any of those three categories may be grouped together as **Other Cities**. Designated cities are authorized to administer the same level of government jurisdiction as prefectures in nineteen policy areas including social welfare, public health, and urban planning. However, in 2014, the law was changed to abolish Special Case Cities and to integrate the existing Special Case Cities as Core Cities if designated as such by April 2020.

### e. Third-Order Administrative Divisions (ADM3)

1. **Towns** and **Villages** are considered ADM3s. When a municipality does not qualify to be a city (populations over 50,000 people) or town (each prefecture has its own law, and villages have to pass the requirements to become towns), it is considered a village.

2. Designated cities (ADM2) are further divided into administrative subdivisions called **wards**, which are third-order administrative divisions (ADM3).

### f. Undifferentiated Administrative Divisions (ADMD)

1. The District (Gun) was an administrative unit in use in Japan until 1921 (under prefectures and above cities), equivalent to a county in the United States. Currently, cities belong to prefectures directly, and towns and villages which are too small to become cities belong to the districts. Districts still keep their geographical boundaries; however, they do not have any administrative authority or offices.

2. The **Shichō (subprefecture)** is under the jurisdiction of a prefectural government. Normally, the area of a subprefecture consists of a few to a dozen cities, towns, and/or villages. Subprefectures provide services for the prefectural government in geographically remote areas like Hokkaidō and the remote islands. Shichō were originally created to support functions of the District (Gun) offices, especially in Hokkaidō. There are offices equivalent to Shichō called **Sōgō Jimusho** (総合事務所), **Shinkō Jimusho** (振興事務所), **Shinkōkyoku** (振興局), and **Kenminkyoku** (県民局) throughout Japan.

<table>
<tr><td colspan="5"><strong>Administrative Divisions of Japan<br>as of April 2015</strong></td></tr>
<tr><th>Code</th><th>Level</th><th>Type</th><th>Generic</th><th>Count</th></tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ADM1</strong></td>
<td>Prefecture<br>都道府県</td>
<td>• Prefectures<br>• Urban Prefecture<br>• Metropolitan Prefecture<br>• Prefecture</td>
<td>Ken (県)<br>Fu (府)<br>To (都)<br>Dō (道)</td>
<td>43<br>2<br>1<br>1</td>
</tr>
<tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>ADM1 =</td><td>47</td></tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ADM2</strong></td>
<td>City or Equivalent<br>市、<br>東京２３区</td>
<td>• Special Wards (Tokyo)<br>• Designated Cities<br>• Core Cities<br>• Special Case Cities<br>• Other Cities</td>
<td>Ku (特別区)<br>Shi (政令指定都市)<br>Shi (中核市)<br>Shi (施工時特例市)<br>Shi (その他の市)</td>
<td>23<br>20<br>43<br>39<br>687</td>
</tr>
<tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>ADM2 =</td><td>812</td></tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ADM3</strong></td>
<td>Township or Equivalent<br>町, 村,<br>行政区</td>
<td>• Towns*<br>• Villages*<br>• Designated City Wards</td>
<td>Machi, Chō (町)<br>Mura, Son (村)<br>Ku (区)</td>
<td>745<br>183<br>175</td>
</tr>
<tr><td></td><td></td><td colspan="2">* includes island towns and villages in Tokyo (島嶼部)    ADM3 =</td><td>1103</td></tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ADMD</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Areas Pending Assignment<br>• Districts (Counties)<br>• Subprefectures</td>
<td>Kizoku Miteichi (帰属未定地)<br>Gun (郡)<br>Shichō (支庁)</td>
<td><br>(372)<br></td>
</tr>
<tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Total Administrative Entities =</td><td>1962</td></tr>
</table>

## g. Conventional and Anglicized Names

<u>Conventional Names</u>

| Name | UFI | UNI | Designation Code |
|---|---|---|---|
| Nemuro Strait | -2963974 | -4152292 | strait (STRT) |
| Habomai Islands | -2913654 | -4079453 | islands (ISLS) |
| Etorofu Strait | -2906076 | -4068799 | strait (STRT) |
| Ryukyu Islands | -238449 | -359373 | islands (ISLS) |
| Tokyo | -246227 | 9170026 | capital of a political entity (PPLC) |
| Bonin Islands | -239807 | -4152292 | islands (ISLS) |
| Mount Suribachi | -244557 | -371821 | volcano (VLC) |
| Japanese Alps | -238701 | -359855 | mountains (MTS) |
| Okinawa | -240263 | -362997 | island (ISL) |
| Japan | -231230 | -344910 | independent political entity (PCLI) |
| Hokkaido | -229622 | -341525 | island (ISL) |
| Fujiyama | -227215 | -336761 | mountain (MT) |

| Name | UFI | UNI | Designation Code |
|------|-----|-----|------------------|
| Volcano Islands | -233225 | -348993 | islands (ISLS) |
| La Perouse Strait | -235440 | -353507 | strait (STRT) |
| Kyushu | -235436 | -353498 | island (ISL) |
| Iwo Jima | -230590 | -344693 | island (ISL) |

Anglicized Variant Names

There are no anglicized variant names in Japan.

## h. Unique geopolitical situations (disputed territories and undesignated sovereignty, etc.)

1. Kuril Islands (Japan, Russia)

   The islands at the southern end of the Kuril island chain, listed below, are disputed between Japan and Russia. The Soviet Union occupied them in 1945, and currently Russia administers them, but the United States Government recognizes Japanese sovereignty for each.

| Conventional | Japanese Kanji | Romanized Japanese | Russian | Romanized Russian |
|--------------|----------------|--------------------|---------|-------------------|
| Kuril Islands | 北方領土 | Hoppō Ryōdo | Острова Курильские | Kuril'skiye Ostrova |
| | 粗舞諸島 | Habomai Shotō | Малая Курильская Гряда | Malaya Kuril'skaya Gryada |
| | 国後島 | Kunashiri Tō | Остров Кунашир | Ostrov Kunashir |
| | 択捉島 | Etorofu Tō | Остров Итуруп | Ostrov Iturup |
| | 色丹島 | Shikotan Tō | Остров Шикотан | Ostrov Shikotan |
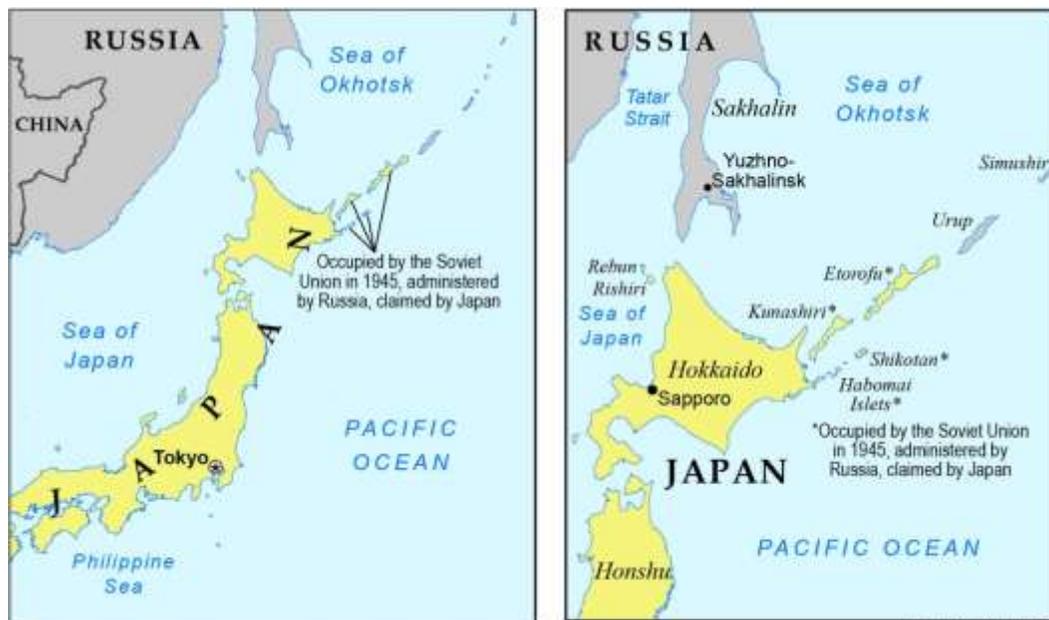


Map source: US Department of State

2. Liancourt Rocks[2] (Japan: 竹島, Take Shima; Korea: 獨島, 독도, Dokdo)
   Sovereignty over the islets called the Liancourt Rocks is disputed between Japan and South Korea. Japan assigns Takeshima to Okinoshima Chō (隠岐の島町) in Shimane prefecture.



3. Senkaku Shotō[3](Japan: 尖閣諸島, Senkaku Shotō; China: 釣魚島, Diaoyu Dao, Taiwan: 釣魚臺列嶼, Diaoyutai Lieyu)
   The Japanese government annexed the islands in 1895. However, since the discovery in the late 1970s of rich natural resources in the area, China and Taiwan started to claim the Japanese-administered Senkaku Islands. Japan assigns the Senkaku Islands to Ishigaki Shi (石垣市), located about 170 kilometers away in Okinawa Prefecture. In 2012 Japan purchased three of the disputed islands from their Japanese private owners, causing more conflicts between Japan and China.

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[2] Map source: http://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/area/takeshima/index.html, modified 06/2015
[3] Maps source: http://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/area/senkaku/pdfs/senkaku_pamphlet.pdf, modified 06/2015

The graphics below show the Senkaku Islands' locations and distances from both Ishigaki Shi and the mainland Okinawa.

Note: For the latest country specific boundary dispute information, visit the US Department of State Boundaries and Sovereignty Encyclopedia, or B.A.S.E., at http://base.us-state.osis.gov/.


# 5. Source Material

Following is a list of authoritative geographic data sources. They are listed in order of preference based on their utility.

a. **Geographic names**
-Geographical Information Authority of Japan
http://www.gsi.go.jp/
-United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, 23rd session, Working Paper #57, Toponymic Guidelines for Map Editors and other Edidtors
http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/docs/23-gegn/wp/gegn23wp57.pdf
-The Gazetteer of Japan, 2007
http://www.gsi.go.jp/common/000042053.pdf
- Hydrographic and Oceanographic Department of the Japan Coast Guard
http://www1.kaiho.mlit.go.jp/
-Japan Postal Service (for how to read geographic names)
http://www.post.japanpost.jp/zipcode
-Japan National Tourism Organization (for how to read geographic names)
http://www.jnto.go.jp/map/eng_map/

b. **Administrative divisions/boundaries**
-Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, National and Regional Planning Bureau, Administrative Districts, 20 March 2009,
http://nlftp.mlit.go.jp/ksj/jpgis/datalist/KsjTmplt-N03.html (ADM boundary)
-Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, data from 2014,
http://www.soumu.go.jp/main_content/000283332.pdf (number of ADMs)
-Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan,
http://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/territory/index.html (territorial disputes)
-Boundaries and Sovereignty Encyclopedia (B.A.S.E)
http://base.us-state.osis.gov/
-CIA World Factbook- Japan
https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ja.html
-Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet
http://www.kantei.go.jp/

# Appendix A: Glossary of Generic Terms

## Part 1: Natural Features

| Generic | Native Script | Feature Designation | Designation Code |
|---|---|---|---|
| Bonchi | 盆地（ぼんち） | Depression, Valley | VAL, DPR |
| Daichi | 台地（だいち） | Upland | UPLD |
| Dō | 洞（どう） | Cave(s) | CAVE |
| Fuchi, Buchi | 淵（ふち、ぶち） | Stream | STM, STMS |
| Fuji | 富士（ふじ） | Mountain, Peak | MT, PK |
| Guntō | 群島（ぐんとう） | Islands | ISLS |
| Hae, Bae | 磻（はえ） | Rocks | RK(S) |
| Hama | 浜（はま） | Beach, Coast | BCH, CST |
| Hana, Bana | 鼻（はな、ばな） | Cape, Point | PT, CAPE |
| Hanare | 離（はなれ、はなり） | Island(s), Rock(s) | RK(S), ISL(s) |
| Hantō | 半島（はんとう） | Cape, Peninsula | PEN, CAPE |
| Hara | 原（はら） | Field | FLD, UPLD |
| Hayashi, Rin | 林（はやし、りん） | Forest (smaller scale) | FRST |
| Heiya | 平野（へいや） | Plain | PLN |
| Ike | 池（いけ） | Pond | PND |
| Iso | 磯（いそ） | Rock(s), Shoal | RK, SHOL |
| Iwa | 岩（いわ） | Rock(s) | RK, RKS |
| Kaigan | 海岸（かいがん） | Beach, Coast | BCH, CST |
| Kaikyō | 海峡（かいきょう） | Channel, Strait | STRT, CHN |
| Kakō | 火口（かこう） | Cone | CONE |
| Kata, Gata | 潟（かた、がた） | Lake, Lagoon | LK,LGN |
| Kawa, Gawa | 河（かわ、がわ） | River | STM, STMS |
| Kawa, Gawa | 川（かわ、がわ） | River, Stream | STM, STMS |
| Koe, Goe | 越　（こえ、ごえ） | Pass | PASS |
| Kōgen | 高原（こうげん） | Upland | UPLD |
| Kubi | 首（くび） | Cape, Point | CAPE, PT |
| Kuchi | 口（くち） | Bank, Channel | CHN, BNK |
| Kutsu | 窟（くつ） | Cave(s) | CAVE |
| Kyōkoku | 峡谷、峡（きょうこく、きょう） | Canyon | CNYN, |
| Kyūryō | 丘陵（きゅうりょう） | Hills | HLLS |
| Mine | 峰（みね） | Mountain, Peak | MT,PK |
| Mio | 澪（みお） | Channel | CHN |
| Misaki | 岬（みさき） | Cape, Point | CAPE, PT |
| Mizūmi, Ko | 湖（みずうみ、こ） | Lake, Reservoir | LK, RSV |
| Mori | 森（もり、しん） | Forest, Mountain | FRST, MT |
| Nada | 灘（なだ） | Gulf, Open sea | GULF, SEA |

| Generic | Native Script | Feature Designation | Designation Code |
|---|---|---|---|
| Numa | 沼（ぬま） | Pond | PND |
| Oka | 丘（おか） | Hill | HLL |
| Onsen | 温泉（おんせん） | Hot spring | SPNT |
| Rettō | 列島（れっとう） | Islands | ISLS |
| Saki, Zaki | 崎（さき、ざき） | Cape, Point | CAPE, PT |
| Sakyū | 砂丘（さきゅう） | Desert | DSRT |
| Sanchi | 山地（さんち） | Mountains | MTS |
| Sanmyaku | 山脈（さんみゃく） | Mountain range | MTS |
| Sawa, Zawa | 沢（さわ、ざわ） | Stream, Valley | STMH, STM, VAL |
| Seto | 瀬戸（せと） | Channel, Strait | STRT, CHN |
| Shima, Jima, Tō | 島（しま、じま、とう） | Island | ISL(S) |
| Shitchi | 湿地（しっち） | Wetland | WTLD |
| Shitsugen | 湿原（しつげん） | Swamp | WTLD |
| Shōnyūdō | 鍾乳洞（しょうにゅうどう） | Cave(s) | CAVE |
| Shotō | 諸島（しょとう） | Islands | ISLS |
| Suidō | 水道（すいどう） | Channel, Strait | STRT, CHN |
| Susono | 裾野（すその） | Slope | SLP |
| Tai, Taira | 平（たい、たいら） | Upland | UPLD |
| Tai, Taira | 平（たい、たいら） | Upland | UPLD |
| Take, Dake | 岳（たけ、だけ） | Mountain, Peak | PK, MT |
| Taki | 滝（たき） | Waterfall | FLLS |
| Tōge | 峠（とうげ） | Pass | PASS |
| Tsutsumi | 堤（つつみ） | Enbankment, Reservoir | RSV |
| Tsuka, Zuka | 塚（つか、づか） | Flank volcano, lateral volcano, Cone | CONE |
| Umi, Kai | 海（うみ、かい） | Sea | SEA |
| Ura | 浦（うら） | Bay, Cove, Inlet | COVE, INLT, BAY |
| Wan | 湾（わん） | Bay | BAY, COVE |
| Yama, San, Zan | 山（やま、さん、ざん） | Mountain, Hill, Volcanic cone | MT, HLL, CONE |
| Yu | 湯（ゆ） | Hot spring | SPNT |

## *Part 2: Manmade Features*

| Generic | Native Script | Feature Designation | Designation Code |
|---|---|---|---|
| Arena | アリーナ（ありーな） | Arena | STDM |
| Ato | 跡（あと） | Place of historical importance | HSTS, ANS |
| Bessō | 別荘（べっそう） | Vacation home | HSE |
| Bijutsukan | 美術館（びじゅつかん） | Art museum | MUS |
| Bochi | 墓地（ぼち） | Cemetery, Graveyard | CMTY, GRVE |

| Generic | Native Script | Feature Designation | Designation Code |
|---|---|---|---|
| Bokujō, Makiba | 牧場（ぼくじょう、まきば） | Ranch | RNCH |
| Bokusōchi | 牧草地（ぼくそうち） | Meadow | MDW |
| Bokuya | 牧野（ぼくや） | Ranch | RNCH |
| Budōen | ぶどう園（ぶどうえん） | Vineyard | VIN |
| Bungakukan | 文学館（ぶんがくかん） | Literature museum | MUS |
| Byōchi | 錨地（びょうち） | Anchorage | ANCH |
| Byōin | 病院（びょういん） | Hospital | HSP |
| Camp Jō | キャンプ場（きゃんぷじょう） | Camp site | CMP |
| Center | センター（せんたー） | Center | FCL |
| Chosuichi | 貯水池（ちょすいち） | Reservoir | RSV |
| Chūgakkō | 中学校（ちゅうがっこう） | Middle school | SCH |
| Chūshajō | 駐車場（ちゅうしゃじょう） | Parking lot | PKLT |
| Chūtonchi | 駐屯地（ちゅうとんち） | Army post | MILB |
| Country Club | カントリークラブ | Country club | RSRT |
| Daigaku byōin | 大学病院（だいがくびょういん） | University Hospital | CTRM |
| Damu | ダム（だむ） | Dam | DAM |
| Danchi | 団地（だんち） | Apartment building(s) | DEVH |
| Dōbutsuen | 動物園（どうぶつえん） | Zoo | ZOO |
| Eki | 駅（えき） | Station | RSTN |
| Enshūjō | 演習場（えんしゅうじょう） | Military exercise area | INSM |
| Fu | 府（ふ） | First-order administrative division | ADM1 |
| Funadamari | 船溜（ふなだまり） | Anchorage | ANCH |
| Genshiryoku Hatsudensho | 原子力発電所（げんしりょくはつでんしょ） | Nuclear power station | PSN |
| Golf Club, Golf Jō | GC, ゴルフクラブ, ゴルフ場（ごるふくらぶ、ごるふじょう） | Golf course | RECG |
| Gomi Shorijō | ごみ処理場（ごみしょりじょう） | Landfill | LNDF |
| Gun | 郡（ぐん） | A subdivision of a first-order administrative division | ADM2, ADM3 |
| Hachimangū | 八幡宮（はちまんぐう） | Shrine | SHRN |
| Haka | 墓（はか） | Grave | GRVE |
| Hakubutsukan | 博物館（はくぶつかん） | Museum | MUS |
| Hakuchi | 泊地（はくち） | Anchorage | ANCH |
| Hanashi | 放水（はなれ） | Canal, Drainage canal | CNL, CNLI, CNLD, CNLX |
| Hashi, Bashi, Kyō | 橋（はし、ばし、きょう） | Bridge | BDG |
| Hatoba, Sanbashi, Futō | 波止場、桟橋、埠頭（はとば、さんばし、ふとう） | Dock | DCK |
| Hatsudensho | 発電所（はつでんしょ） | Power station | PS |
| Hendensho | 変電所（へんでんしょ） | Electric transformer station | PS |

| Generic | Native Script | Feature Designation | Designation Code |
|---|---|---|---|
| Hi | 碑（ひ） | Monument, grave | MNMT, GRVE |
| Hikōjō | 飛行場（ひこうじょう） | Airfield | AIRF |
| Hōbokuchi | 放牧地（ほうぼくち） | Ranch | RNCH |
| Hōsuiro | 放水路（ほうすいろ） | Canal, Crainage canal | CNL, CNLI, CNLD, CNLX |
| Hotel | ホテル（ほてる） | Hotel | HTL |
| Ichiba | 市場（いちば） | Market | MKT |
| Iin | 医院（いいん）＊ | Clinic | HSPC |
| Iseki | 遺跡（いせき） | Ancient site, Monument | ANS, MNMT |
| Jieitai Kichi | 自衛隊基地（じえいたいきち） | Military base | INSM |
| Jikkenjo | 実験所（じっけんじょ） | Research institute | ITTR |
| Jōsuijō | 浄水場（じょうすいじょう） | Waterworks | WTRW |
| Jūtaku | 住宅（じゅうたく） | Housing area | DEVH |
| Kagakukan | 科学館（かがくかん） | Science museum | MUS |
| Kaijōhoansho | 海上保安署（かいじょうほあんしょ） | Coast guard station | STNC |
| Kaikon | 開墾（かいこん） | Cultivated area reclamation | RESA |
| Kaitaku | 開拓（かいたく） | Populated place | PPL, PPLL |
| Kaizuka | 貝塚（かいづか） | Ancient site | ANS |
| Kajuen | 果樹園（かじゅえん） | Orchard | OCH |
| Kanbetsusho | 鑑別所（かんべつしょ） | Juvenile corrective institution | PRNJ |
| Kansokujō | 観測所（かんそくじょ） | Observatory | OBS |
| Keimusho | 刑務所（けいむしょ） | Prison | PRN |
| Keisatsusho | 警察署（けいさつしょ） | Police station | PP |
| Ken | 県（けん） | First-order administrative division | ADM1 |
| Kenkyūsho | 研究所（けんきゅうしょ） | Research institute | ITTR |
| Kenminkyoku | 県民局（けんみんきょく） | Office related to Shichō | ADMF |
| Kinenkan | 記念館（きねんかん） | Memorial museum | MUS |
| Kōban | 交番（こうばん） | Patrol post | PSTP |
| Kōen | 公園（こうえん） | Park | PRK |
| Kofun | 古墳（こふん） | Tomb | TMB |
| Kōgyō Danchi | 工業団地（こうぎょうだんち） | Industrial park | INDS |
| Kōjō | 工場（こうじょう） | Factory | MFG |
| Kōminkan | 公民館（こうみんかん） | Community center | CTRCM |
| Kōtō Gakkō, Kōkō | 高等学校、高校（こうとうがっこう、こうこう） | High school | SCH |
| Kōzan | 鉱山（こうざん） | Mine | MN |
| Ku | 区（く） | A subdivision of a first- or second-order administrative division | ADM2, ADM3 |

| Generic | Native Script | Feature Designation | Designation Code |
|---|---|---|---|
| Kūkō | 空港（くうこう） | Airport | AIRP |
| Kunrenjō | 訓練場（くんれんじょう） | Maneuver area | MVA |
| Kuyakushō | 区役所（くやくしょ） | Ward office | ADMF |
| Kyo | 渠（きょ） | Canal, Ditch | CNL |
| Kyōgijō | 競技場（きょうぎじょう） | Athletic field | ATHF |
| Kyōkai | 教会（きょうかい） | Church | CH |
| Kyūyu Yusōkan | 給油輸送管（きゅうゆゆそうかん） | Oil pipeline | OILP |
| Machi, Chō | 町（まち、ちょう） | A subdivision of a second-order administrative division | ADM3 |
| Machiyakuba, Chōyakuba | 町役場（まちやくば、ちょうやくば） | Town office | ADMF |
| Marina | マリーナ（まりーな） | Marina | MAR |
| Minato, Kō | 港（みなと、こう） | Harbor | HBR |
| Mon | 門（もん） | Gate | GATE |
| Mura, Son | 村（むら、そん） | A subdivision of a second-order administrative division | ADM3 |
| Murayakuba, Son'yakuba | 村役場（むらやくば、そんやくば） | Village office | ADMF |
| Nōen | 農園（のうえん） | Farm | FRM |
| Nōgyō Gakkō | 農業学校（のうぎょうがっこう） | Agricultural school | SCHA |
| Nōjō | 農場（のうじょう） | Farm | FRM |
| Reien | 霊園（れいえん） | Cemetery | CMTY |
| Rekishikan | 歴史館（れきしかん） | History museum | MUS |
| resort | リゾート（りぞーと） | Resort | RSRT |
| Saibansho | 裁判所（さいばんしょ） | Courthouse | CTHSE |
| Saikōchi | 採鉱地（さいこうち） | Mine | MN |
| Seikan Kojō | 製缶工場（せいかんこうじょう） | Cannery | MFGC |
| Seizōsho | 製造所（せいぞうしょ） | Manufacturing site | MFG |
| Seki, Zeki | 堰（せき、ぜき） | Dam, Drainage canal | CNL, DAM |
| Senmon Gakkō | 専門学校（せんもんがっこう） | Technical school | SCHT |
| Sharyōkichi | 車両基地（しゃりょうきち） | Railroad yard | RYD |
| Shi | 市（し） | A subdivision of a first-order administrative division | ADM2, ADM3 |
| Shichō | 支庁（しちょう） | An administrative division | ADMD |
| Shinkō Jimusho | 振興事務所（しんこうじむしょ） | Office related to Shichō | ADMF |
| Shinkōkyoku | 振興局（しんこうきょく） | Office related to Shichō | ADMF |
| Shiro, Jō | 城（しろ、じょう） | Castle | CSTL, PAL |
| Shiryōkan | 資料館（しりょうかん） | Museum, Resource center | MUS |
| Shiyakushō | 市役所（しやくしょ） | City office | ADMF |
| Shōbōsho | 消防署（しょうぼうしょ） | Fire station | FIRE |

| Generic | Native Script | Feature Designation | Designation Code |
|---|---|---|---|
| Shōgakkō | 小学校（しょうがっこう） | Elementary school | SCH |
| Shōnen'in | 少年院（しょうねんいん） | Juvenile corrective institution | PRNJ |
| Shūdōin | 修道院（しゅうどういん） | Monastery | MSTY |
| Shūmatsu Shorijō | 終末処理場（しゅうまつしょりじょう） | Final disposal plant, Sewer treatment plant | LNDF, SWT |
| Suizokukan | 水族館（すいぞくかん） | Aquaculture facility | AQC |
| Shuzō | 酒造（しゅぞう） | Brewery (for any kind of alchol) | MFGB |
| Ski Jō | スキー場（すきーじょう） | Ski resort | RSRT |
| Sō | 荘（そう） | House, hut | HSE, HUT |
| Sōdensho | 送電所（そうでんしょ） | Electric power substation | PS |
| Sōgō Jimusho | 総合事務所（そうごうじむしょ） | Office related to Shichō | ADMF |
| Sōko | 倉庫（そうこ） | Storehouse, Warehouse | SHSE |
| Sōshajō | 操車場（そうしゃじょう） | Switching yard | RYD |
| Stadium | スタジアム（すたじあむ） | Stadium | STDM |
| Suidōkyoku | 水道局（すいどうきょく） | Water station | PMPW |
| Suiro | 水路（すいろ） | Canal, Irrigation ditch | CNL, DTCH, DTCHI |
| Suisan Jikkenjo | 水産実験所 | Aquaculture facility | AQC |
| Tankō | 炭鉱（たんこう） | Mine | MN |
| Tei | 邸（てい） | House | HSE |
| Teibō | 堤防（ていぼう） | Dike | DIKE |
| Teien | 庭園（ていえん） | Garden | GDN |
| Tenbōdai | 展望台（てんぼうだい） | Observation tower, Scenie overlook | OBPT |
| Tenmondai | 天文台（てんもんだい） | Astronomical observatory | OBS |
| Tera, Ji | 寺（てら、じ） | Temple | TMPL |
| Tō | 塔（とう） | Tower | TOWR |
| Tōdai | 灯台（とうだい） | Lighthouse | LTHSE |
| Tsuka, Zuka | 塚（つか、づか） | Grave, Cone | GRVE, CONE |
| Tsūshinsho | 通信所（つうしんしょ） | Communication center | COMC |
| Tunnel | トンネル（とんねる） | Tunnel | TNL |
| Undō Kōen | 運動公園（うんどうこうえん） | Athletic field | ATHF |
| Undōjō | 運動場（うんどうじょう） | Athletic field | ATHF |
| Unga | 運河（うんが） | Canal | CNL, CNLI, CNLD, CNLX |
| Yōsuiro | 用水路（ようすいろ） | Canal | CNL, CNLI, CNLD, CNLX |
| Yūbinkyoku | 郵便局（ゆうびんきょく） | Post office | PO |
| Yuden | 油田（ゆでん） | Oil field | OILF |
| Yūenchi | 遊園地（ゆうえんち） | Amusement park | PRK |
| Zeikan | 税関（ぜいかん） | Customs checkpoint | CSTM |

## Part 3: Undersea Features

| Generic | Native Script | Feature Designation | Designation Code |
|---|---|---|---|
| Anbu | 鞍部（あんぶ） | Saddle | SDLU |
| Apron | エプロン（えぷろん） | Apron | APNU |
| Caldera | カルデラ（かるでら） | Caldera | CLDA |
| Chikeiku | 地形区（ちけいく） | Province | PRVU |
| Chōkoku | 長谷（ちょうこく） | Seachannel | SCNU, SCSU |
| Chūjikukoku | 中軸谷（ちゅうじつこく） | Median valley | MDVU |
| Continental Rise | コンチネンタルライズ | Continental rise | CRSU |
| Danretsutai | 断裂帯（だんれつたい） | Fracture zone | FRZU |
| Guntō apron | 群島エプロン（ぐんとうえぷろん） | Archipelagic apron | APNU |
| Heichō Kaizan | 平頂海山（へいちょうかいざん） | Guyot | TMSU, TMTU |
| Heitanmen | 平坦面（へいたんめん） | Terrace | TERU |
| Kaibō | 海膨（かいぼう） | Rise | RISU |
| Kaibon | 海盆（かいぼん） | Basin | BSNU |
| Kaidai | 海台（かいだい） | Plateau | PLTU |
| Kaien | 海淵（かいえん） | Deep | DEPU |
| Kaiketsu | 海穴（かいけつ） | Hole | HOLU |
| Kaikō | 海溝（かいこう） | Trench | TRNU |
| Kaikoku | 海谷（かいこく） | Scarp | ESCU |
| Kaikyaku | 海脚（かいきゃく） | Spur | SPRU |
| Kaikyū | 海丘（かいきゅう） | Hill, Knoll (500<,<10000) | KNLU, KNSU |
| Kairei | 海嶺（かいれい） | Ridge | RDGU |
| Kairetsu | 海裂（かいれつ） | Gap, Passage | GAPU |
| Kaitei Senjōchi | 海底扇状地（かいていせんじょうち） | Fan | FANU |
| Kaitei Teibō | 海底堤防（かいていていぼう） | Levee | LEVU |
| Kaiteigai | 海底崖（かいていがい） | Escarpment | ESCU |
| Kaiteikoku | 海底谷（かいていこく） | Canyon | CNYU |
| Kaizaki | 海岬（かいざき） | Promontory | SPRU |
| Kaizan | 海山（かいざん） | Seamount | MTU, SMU |
| Kaizanretsu | 海山列（かいざんれつ） | Seamount chain, mountain | MTSU, SMSU |
| Mine | 峰（みね） | Peak | PKSU, PKU |
| Rikudana, Rikuhō | 陸棚（りくだな、りくほう） | Shelf | SHFU |
| Se | 瀬（せ） | Shoal (<20m) | SHLU, SHSU |
| Senshō | 尖礁（せんしょう） | Pinnacle | PNLU |
| Shinkai chōkoku | 深海長谷（しんかいちょうこく） | Deep sea channel, Sea channel | SCNU, SCSU |
| Shinkai heigen | 深海平原（しんかいへいげん） | Abyssal plain | FLTU |
| Shinkai heitanmen | 深海平坦面（しんかいへいたんめん） | Undersea terrace | TERU |

| Shinkaikyū | 深海丘 | Abyssal hill (<500) | HLLU, HLSU |
|---|---|---|---|
| Shō | 礁（しょう） | Reef (<20m) | RFU, RFSU |
| Shōjō Kaibon | 舟状海盆（しょうじょうかいぼん） | Trough | TRGU |
| Shūhen Totsuchi | 周辺凹地（しゅうへんとつち） | Moat | MOTU |
| Sill | シル | Sill | SILU |
| Tai | 堆（たい） | Bank | BNKU |
| Tairiku Kyōkaichi | 大陸境界地（たいりくきょうかいち） | Borderland | BDLU |
| Tairiku shamen | 大陸斜面（たいりくしゃめん） | Slope | SLPU |
| Tairikudana | 大陸棚（たいりくだな） | Continental shelf | SHFU |
| Tairikudana Gaien | 大陸棚外縁（たいりくだながいえん） | Shelf break, Shelf edge | EDGU |

# Appendix B: Japanese Word Segmentation Policy

**UNITED STATES BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES**
**Foreign Geographic Names:**
**Standardization Policy:**
**Word Segmentation of Japanese**

The Board's Foreign Geographic Names Standardization Principles apply to foreign geographic names in general and form the basis for the Board's foreign names decisions. Additional normative regulations must be developed to address specific geographic and linguistic phenomena peculiar to countries or regional areas. Special classes of place-names, such as high seas features, may also require special analysis and treatment. For this reason the Board develops supplementary standardization policy and procedure on a country basis, and to address specific standardization issues.

**Policy: Word Segmentation for Japanese**

**SCOPE**
The following policy applies to all geographic names in Japan. The policy describes how to segment transliterated Japanese geographic names.

**POLICY**

Background:
Romanizing Japanese writing requires analysts to consider issues beyond choice of letters because of the characteristics of the writing system. Japanese writing does not include spaces or hyphens between words, nor does it include capitalization. In order to achieve consistent romanization, this document provides detailed guidance on how to apply such features to romanized Japanese.

Summary of Rules:
The following rules apply to all Japanese geographic names, including those of foreign origin. They follow the conventions used by Japan's official mapping agency—the Geospatial Information Authority of Japan (GSI)—with some modifications to add clarity.

1. When a geographic name consists of a specific term followed by a generic term, the generic term is separated by a space and its initial letter is capitalized.

| Kanji | Hiragana | Romanized |
|---|---|---|
| 埼玉県 | さいたまけん | Saitama Ken (ADM1)[4] |

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[4] Feature designation codes from the Geographic Names Database are shown parenthetically to indicate feature type.

| Kanji | Hiragana | Romanized |
|---|---|---|
| 豊中市 | とよなかし | Toyonaka Shi (ADM2) |
| 淀川 | よどがわ | Yodo Gawa (STM) |
| 富士山 | ふじさん | Fuji San (MT) |
| 新横浜駅 | しんよこはまえき | Shin'yokohama Eki (RSTN)[5] |

2. A noun acting as a modifier in a specific term is separated by a space (1) if it consists of two or more *kanji* characters or (2) if it is a false generic. Otherwise, it is not separated.

| Kanji | Hiragana | Romanized |
|---|---|---|
| 静岡少年鑑別所 | しずおかしょうねんかんべつしょ | Shizuoka Shōnen Kanbetsusho (PRNJ) |
| 和歌山城西之丸庭園 | わかやまじょうにしのまるていえん | Wakayama Jō Nishinomaru Teien (GDN) |
| 東北大学水産 実験所 | とうほくだいがくすいさんじっけんしょ | Tōhoku Daigaku Suisan Jikkensho (ITTR) |
| 金華山 | きんかさん | Kinkasan (ISL) (generic term for island was omitted from the name) |
| 馬毛島岬 港 | まげしまみさきこう | Mageshimamisaki Kō (HBR) |
| 黒杭川ダム | くろくいがわだむ | Kurokuigawa Dam (DAM) |
| 秋田太平山カントリークラブゴルフ場 | あきたたいへいざんかんとりーくらぶごるふじょう | Akita Taiheizan Country Club Golf Jō (RECG) |
| 大ヶ峠トンネル | おおがたおとんねる | Ōgatao Tunnel (TNL) |
| 十和田市駅 | とわだしえき | Towadashi Eki (RSTN) |

3. A modifier within a generic term is not separated. Examples of such words include 大 (romanized *dai* or *ō*) (big), 小 (*shō* or *ko*) (small), 中 (*chū* or *naka*) (middle), 上 (*jō*, *ue*, or *kami*) (upper), 下 (*ge*, *ka*, *shita*, or *shimo*) (lower), and 新 (*shin*) (new).

| Kanji | Hiragana | Romanized |
|---|---|---|
| 奄美大島 | あまみおおしま | Amami Ōshima (ISL) |
| 四条大橋 | しじょうおおはし | Shijō Ōhashi (BDG) |

4. Elements that combine to make a compound name are separated by a hyphen. Following a hyphen, the initial letter of a name is not capitalized.

| Kanji | Hiragana | Romanized |
|---|---|---|
| 会津若松市 | あいづわかまつし | Aizu-wakamatsu Shi (ADM2) |

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[5] See Japanese country policy appendix "Japanese Romanization System for Japanese Kana" for use of apostrophe.

| Kanji | Hiragana | Romanized |
|---|---|---|
| 山陽小野田市 | さんようおのだし | San'yō-onoda Shi (ADM2) |
| 赤岩上羽田 | あかいわかみはだ | Akaiwa-kamihada (PPL) |
| 四条大宮 | しじょうおおみや | Shijō-ōmiya (PPL) |
| 西七条東八反田町 | にししちじょうひがしはったんだちょう | Nishishichijō-higashihattandachō (PPL) |
| 上賀茂烏帽子ヶ垣内町 | かみがもえぼしがかきうちちょう | Kamigamo-eboshiga-kakiuchichō (PPL) |
| 深草大亀谷五郎太町 | ふかくさおおかめだにごろうたちょう | Fukakusa-ōkamedani-gorōtachō (PPL) |

5. A modifier that begins a specific term is not separated by a hyphen. Examples of modifiers include 南 (*nan* or *minami*) (south), 北 (*hoku* or *kita*) (north), 東 (*tō* or *higashi*) (east), 西 (*sei* or *nishi*) (west), 下 (*ge*, *ka*, *shita*, or *shimo*) (lower), 上 (*jō*, *ue*, or *kami*) (upper), 新 (*shin*) (new), and 旧 (*kyū*) (old).

| Kanji | Hiragana | Romanized |
|---|---|---|
| 南魚沼市 | みなみうおぬまし | Minamiuonuma Shi (ADM2) |
| 北広島市 | きたひろしまし | Kitahiroshima Shi (ADM2) |
| 東大阪市 | ひがしおおさかし | Higashiōsaka Shi (ADM2) |
| 西東京市 | にしとうきょうし | Nishitokyō Shi (ADM2) |
| 下諏訪町 | しもすわまち | Shimosuwa Machi (ADM3) |
| 新ひだか町 | しんひだかちょう | Shinhidakachō (PPL) |
| 新温泉町 | しんおんせんちょう | Shin'onsenchō (PPL) |

6. The generic terms 町- (*cho*) (town), 区 (*ku*) (ward), and 村 (*mura*) (village) are not separated from the specific terms for populated places (PPL). However, they are separated for administrative divisions.

| Kanji | Hiragana | Romanized |
|---|---|---|
| 末崎町 | まつさきちょう | Matsusakichō |
| 弁天町 | べんてんちょう | Bentenchō |
| 蛯川村 | えびかわむら | Ebikawamura |
| 南区 | みなみく | Minamiku |

7. The genitive particle の (*no)* and conjunctive particles (e.g., および (*oyobi)*) are separated by spaces and not capitalized.

| Kanji | Hiragana | Romanized |
|---|---|---|
| 西行戻しの松 | さいぎょうもどしのまつ | Saigyo Modoshi no Matsu (TREE) |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 鳶の須崎 | とびのすさき | Tobinosu Saki (PT) |
| 下ノ岬 | しものみさき | Shimono Misaki (PT) |
| 鷲ノ巣沢 | わしのすさわ | Washinosu Sawa (STM) |
| 鬼首の雌釜および雄釜間歇温泉 | おにこうべのめがまおよびおがまかんけつおんせん | Onikōbe no Megama oyobi Ogama Kanketsu Onsen (SPNT) |
| 柿の木台 | かきのきだい | Kakinokidai (PPL) |
| ツバノ鼻 | つばのはな | Tsubano Hana (PT) |
| 門之浜 | かどのはま | Kadonohama (PPL) |

8. An ordinal number is separated with a space unless it is within a populated place (PPL) name, in which case it is separated with a hyphen.

| Kanji | Hiragana | Romanized |
|---|---|---|
| 第二松台 | だいにまつだい | Daini-matsudai (PPL) |
| 栄浦第二遺跡 | さかえうらだいにいせき | Sakaeura Daini Iseki (ANS) |
| 西新宿五丁目駅 | にししんじゅくごちょうめえき | Nishishinjuku Gochōme Eki (RSTN) |
| 第二西日暮里架道橋 | だいににしにっぽうりかどうきょう | Daini Nishinippori Kadōkyō (BDG) |
| 富士見台第三団地 | ふじみだいだいさんだんち | Fujimidai Daisan Danchi (DEVH) |

9. A modifier that begins a specific term may be separated with a hyphen if it prevents the specific term from becoming longer than seven syllables.

| Kanji | Hiragana | Romanized |
|---|---|---|
| 東二十三番町 | ひがしにじゅうさんばんちょう | Higashi-nijūsanbanchō |
| 西十四番町 | にしじゅうよんばんちょう | Nishi-jūyonbanchō |
| 東五番町 | ひがしごばんちょう | Higashi-gobanchō |
| 南白山台 | みなみしろやまだい | Minami-shiroyamadai |

10. All populated place (PPL) names that run longer than seven syllables are hyphenated. In such cases, the hyphen is placed between a modifier and the rest of the name if possible.

| Kanji | Hiragana | Romanized |
|---|---|---|
| 新千里西町 | しんせんりにしまち | Shinsenri-nishimachi |
| 早稲田南町 | わせだみなみちょう | Waseda-minamichō |
| 少林寺町北 | しょうりんじちょうきた | Shōrinjichō-kita |
| 粟生間谷東 | あおまだにひがし | Aomadani-higashi |
| 小野原東 | おのはらひがし | Onohara-higashi |
| 新在家東町 | しんざいけひがしまち | Shinzaike-higashimachi |

| Kanji | Hiragana | Romanized |
|---|---|---|
| 篠原南町 | しのはらみなみまち | Shinohara-minamimachi |
| 第四生内開拓 | だいよんおもないかいたく | Daiyon'omonai-kaitaku (PPLL) |
| 新屋松が丘南町 | あらやまつがおかみなみまち | Araya-matsugaoka-minamimachi |
| 旭川新藤田東町 | あさひかわしんとうだひがしまち | Asahikawa-shintōda-higashimachi |
| 紫竹西野山東町 | しちくにしのやまひがしまち | Shichiku-nishinoyama-higashimachi |
| 七条御所ノ内南町 | しちじょうごしょのうちみなみまち | Shichijō-goshonouchi-minamimachi |

11. Island names sometimes contain multiple modifiers, each belonging to either the specific term or the generic term. If a specific term ends in a directional modifier, the modifier will be separated with a hyphen. Examples of directional modifiers include 南 (romanized *nan* or *minami*) (south), 北 (*hoku* or *kita*) (north), 東 (*tō* or *higashi*) (east), and 西 (*sei* or *nishi*) (west). If a generic term begins with a modifier such as 大 (romanized *dai* or *ō*) (big) or 小 (*shō* or *ko*) (small), the modifier is not separated.

| Kanji | Hiragana | Romanized |
|---|---|---|
| 幌満西小島 | ほろまんにしこじま | Horoman-nishi Kojima |
| 門別鼻南小島 | もんべつはなみなみこじま | Monbetsuhana-minami Kojima |
| エサンベ鼻北小島 | えさんべはなきたこじま | Esanbehana-kita Kojima |
| 東ノ崎東小島 | とうのさきひがしこじま | Tōnosaki-higashi Kojima |
| 三ツ石北西小島 | みついしほくせいこじま | Mitsuishi-hokusei Kojima |

12. The genitive particle ケ is romanized as *ga* instead of *ke*, and it is not separated from the specific term.

| Kanji | Hiragana | Romanized |
|---|---|---|
| 関ヶ原 | せきがはら | Sekigahara (PPL) |
| 釜ヶ崎 | かまがさき | Kamaga Saki (PT) |
| 京ヶ森 | きょうがもり | Kyōga Mori (FRST) |
| 市ヶ尾町 | いちがおちょう | Ichigaochō (PPL) |
| 十種ヶ峰 | とくさがみね | Tokusaga Mine (MT) |
| 調布ヶ丘 | ちょうふがおか | Chōfugaoka (PPL) |

13. The generic term 駅 (e*ki*) (station) is separated by a space. Prepositions in station names are not separated.

| Kanji | Hiragana | Romanized/ |
|---|---|---|
| 周防高森駅 | すおうたかもりえき | Suō-takamori Eki |
| やながわ希望の森公園前駅 | やながわきぼうのもりこうえんまええき | Yanagawa Kibō no Mori Kōenmae Eki |
| 小樽築港駅 | おたるちっこうえき | Otaru-chikkō Eki |
| 本輪西駅 | もとわにしえき | Motowanishi Eki |
| 西戸崎駅 | さいとざきえき | Saitozaki Eki |
| 安芸阿賀駅 | あきあがえき | Aki-aga Eki |
| 浮間舟渡駅 | うきまふなどえき | Ukima-funado Eki |
| 長者ヶ浜潮騒はまなす公園前駅 | ちょうじゃがはましおさいはまなすこうえんまええき | Chōjagahama Shiosai Hamanasu Kōenmae Eki |
| 南阿蘇水の生まれる里白水高原駅 | 南阿蘇みずのうまれるさとはくすいこうげんえき | Minamiaso Mizu no Umareru Sato Hakusui Kōgen Eki |

14. A foreign language name (or portion of a name) reverts to the original Roman-script spelling and orthography.

| Kanji/Katakana | Hiragana | Roman Script Equivalent |
|---|---|---|
| 東京ディズニーランド | とうきょうでぃずにーらんど | Tokyo Disneyland |
| ユニバーサルスタジオジャパン | ユニバーサルスタジオジャパン | Universal Studios Japan |
| 赤倉温泉スキー場 | あかくらおんせんすきーじょう | Akakura Onsen Ski Jō |
| 鬼首 GC ゴルフ場 | おにこうべごるふくらぶごるふじょう | Onikōbe Golf Club Golf Jō |

**RELATED DOCUMENTS AND WEBSITES**

BGN/PCGN Japanese Romanization Tables

Toponymic Guidelines for Map Editors and other Editors by Japan (Item 17, Twenty-Third Edition, 2006 and Third Edition, 2007)

Gazetteer of Japan 2007, Government of Japan

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19th BGN-PCGN Conference Agenda Item 9.d, 1998

Word Segmentation Standard for Chinese Geographic Names (approved FNC 352, July 10, 2007)

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http://www.gsi.go.jp/common/000024858.pdf Romanization of Geographical Names in Japan by Takehide Hishiyama, Topographic Department, Geospatial Information Authority of Japan

http://www.gsi.go.jp/WNEW/koohou/439-5.htm 地名などのローマ字表記に関する規定などの改定について by GSI

http://www.age.ne.jp/x/nrs/iso3602/iso3602.html ISO 3602 (1989 version) in Japanese

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http://www.massangeana.com/mas/charsets/keiji.txt 鉄道掲示基準規程 by Japan Railway

http://www.mlit.go.jp/road/sign/sign/annai/direction-sign.htm 道路技術基準、道路標識 by Department of Land, Infrastructure, Transportation and Tourism