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English

**United Nations Group of Experts on
Geographical Names****2025 session**

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Item 4(a) of the provisional agenda *

Reports: Divisions of the Group of Experts**Towards the establishment of a division of the Chinese
Characters Cultural Sphere****Summary ****

At the 2023 UNGEGN Session held in May 2023, Professor Emeritus Hiroshi Tanabe, Chair of Asia East Division, expressed his wish to establish a “Language-based Division by Asian Countries that share Chinese characters”, and the issue was passed on to his successor. In this summary report, as his successor, I will report on the preparations for the establishment of a division of the Chinese Characters Cultural Sphere (tentative name).

The following issues are considered in establishing a new division. The name of the division, the member countries, the purpose and issues, etc. are considered. As for the name, I would like to use the provisional name of “Hanji or Chinese Characters Cultural Sphere”. Or, it is also good to list the pronunciations of Chinese characters in the three countries of People’s Republic of China, Republic of Korea and Japan, “Hanzi/Hanja/Kanji”. As for the member countries, I would like to invite Republic of Korea in the Asia East Division and People’s Republic of China, the country of origin of Chinese characters, to participate, and then expand to other Asian countries.

The countries that use Chinese characters have the common characteristic of being influenced by Chinese characters culture, as well as their own unique characteristics. At the first meeting, we would like to discuss the name of the division, the countries that make up the division, its purpose, as well as issues common to all members and issues unique to each country.

* GEGN.2/2025/1

** The full report was prepared by Akihiko TAKAGI, Japan, Asia East Division. The report will be available under document symbol GEGN.2/2025/107/CRP.107, in the language of submission only, at https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/4th_session_2025/.