

Romanization of Chinese Names Of Persons and Places

CHINA'S State Council has recently decided to use the Chinese phonetic alphabet to standardize the Romanization of Chinese names of persons and places.

According to the decision, all publications and documents in English, French, German, Spanish and other languages put out in China will, starting from New Year's Day this year, use the Chinese phonetic alphabet in spelling Chinese names of persons and places.

Beijing Review will also, starting from this issue, use the Chinese phonetic alphabet to Romanize Chinese names and place names.

Specific Rules

The State Council provides the following specific rules on implementing the new way of spelling:

* The spelling of the name of the country will not change in languages using the Roman alphabet. "China" will remain "China" in English, "Chine" in French, "China" in German and "China" in Spanish.

* In foreign languages, Chinese geographical names, in principle, will be spelt out in the Roman alphabet according to Chinese phonetic scheme, while the common name part such as "province, municipality, autonomous region, river, lake, etc." will be translated according to meaning.

* The names of persons and places with specific meanings which need to be translated according to their meanings for literary works, tourist maps and other publications can be so translated.

* The traditional spelling of certain historical places and persons such as Confucius and Sun Yat-sen need not be changed. But, if required, the new spelling can be used and the usual spelling given in parenthesis.

* The names of overseas Chinese will be spelt according to their own usual way of spelling.

* Trade marks and trade names already in use need not be changed.

* All diplomatic documents, passports, certificates, contracts, agreements, publications and various kinds of export catalogues, sample books, explanations and bills which use traditional spelling, can still be used if necessary. The new spelling should be used when reprinting.

* The spelling of names of Chinese persons and places which are used in certain scientific terms need not be changed.

* In telecommunications, forms of spelling which do not conform to telecommunication needs can be dealt with technically, for instance, "yu" can be used for "ü."

* In view of the fact that internationally a transitional period would be required in adopting the new way of spelling, documents, telegrams, visas, etc. from abroad using the old spelling should not be invalidated.

Preparatory work has been done by the parties concerned to facilitate the implementation of the new decision. They have published in Chinese phonetic spelling a map of China and a handbook of Chinese geographical names, a list of common geographical names together with names in Han language, English, French and Spanish, a table of Chinese names and place names including those in the old way of Romanization, and a list of the names of Chinese Party and state leaders together with the old way of spelling. Other publications include a book with the names of telegraph offices, a maritime navigation chart, and a list of meteorological observatories and stations (the Chinese Central Meteorological Bureau has transmitted it to the World Meteorological Organization) in both the new phonetic alphabet and the traditional spellings.

How to Pronounce

Following is a Chinese phonetic alphabet table showing the alphabet pronunciation with approximate English equivalents. Spelling in the Wade system is in brackets for reference.

"a" (a), a vowel, as in far;

"b" (p), a consonant, as in be;

"c" (ts), a consonant, as "ts" in its; and
"ch" (ch), a consonant, as "ch" in church,
strongly aspirated;

"d" (t), a consonant, as in do;

"e" (e), a vowel, as "er" in her, the "r"
being silent; but "ie", a diphthong, as in yes
and "ei", a diphthong, as in way;

"f" (f), a consonant, as in foot;

"g" (k), a consonant, as in go;

"h" (h), a consonant, as in her, strongly
aspirated;

"i" (i), a vowel, two pronunciations:

1) as in eat

2) as in sir in syllables beginning with the
consonants c, ch, r, s, sh, z and zh;

"j" (ch), a consonant, as in jeep;

"k" (k), a consonant, as in kind, strongly
aspirated;

"l" (l), a consonant, as in land;

"m" (m), a consonant, as in me;

"n" (n), a consonant, as in no;

"o" (o), a vowel, as "aw" in law;

"p" (p), a consonant, as in par, strongly
aspirated;

"q" (ch), a consonant, as "ch" in cheek;

"r" (j), a consonant pronounced as "r"
but not rolled, or like "z" in azure;

"s" (s, ss, sz), a consonant, as in sister; and

"sh" (sh), a consonant, as "sh" in shore;

"t" (t), a consonant, as in top, strongly as-
pirated;

"u" (u), a vowel, as in too, also as in the
French "u" in "tu" or the German unlaute
"u" in "Muenchen";

"v" (v), is used only to produce foreign and
national minority words, and local dialects;

"w" (w), used as a semi-vowel in syllables
beginning with "u" when not preceded by con-
sonants, pronounced as in want;

"x" (hs), a consonant, as "sh" in she;

"y", used as a semi-vowel in syllables be-
ginning with "i" or "u" when not preceded by
consonants, pronounced as in yet;

"z" (ts, tz), a consonant, as in zero; and "zh"
(ch), a consonant, as "j" in "jump".

Spelling of Chinese Names of Persons

In accordance with the Chinese phonetic
alphabet, the late Chairman Mao Tsetung's
name will be spelt "Mao Zedong"; the late
Premier Chou En-lai's name will be "Zhou
Enlai"; and the late Chairman of the Standing

Committee of the National People's Congress
Chu Teh will be "Zhu De."

Following are names of Party leaders of
China Romanized according to the Chinese
phonetic alphabet. The old spelling is in brackets
for reference.

Chairman of the Central Committee of the
Chinese Communist Party:

Hua Guofeng (Hua Kuo-feng)

Vice-Chairmen of the Party Central Com-
mittee:

Ye Jianying (Yeh Chien-ying)

Deng Xiaoping (Teng Hsiao-ping)

Li Xiannian (Li Hsien-nien)

Chen Yun (Chen Yun)

Wang Dongxing (Wang Tung-hsing)

Members of the Political Bureau of the
Party Central Committee:

Hua Guofeng (Hua Kuo-feng)

(The following are listed in the order of
the number of strokes in their surnames.)

Wang Zhen (Wang Chen)

Wei Guoqing (Wei Kuo-ching)

Ulanhu (Ulanfu)

Fang Yi (Fang Yi)

Deng Xiaoping (Teng Hsiao-ping)

Deng Yingchao (Teng Ying-chao)

Ye Jianying (Yeh Chien-ying)

Liu Bocheng (Liu Po-cheng)

Xu Shiyu (Hsu Shih-yu)

Ji Dengkui (Chi Teng-kuei)

Su Zhenhua (Su Chen-hua)

Li Xiannian (Li Hsien-nien)

Li Desheng (Li Teh-sheng)

Wu De (Wu Teh)

Yu Qiuli (Yu Chiu-li)

Wang Dongxing (Wang Tung-hsing)

Zhang Tingfa (Chang Ting-fa)

Chen Yun (Chen Yun)

Chen Yonggui (Chen Yung-kuei)

Chen Xilian (Chen Hsi-lien)

Hu Yaobang (Hu Yao-pang)

Geng Biao (Keng Piao)

Nie Rongzhen (Nieh Jung-chen)

Ni Zhifu (Ni Chih-fu)

Xu Xiangqian (Hsu Hsiang-chien)

Peng Chong (Peng Chung)

Alternate Members of the Political Bureau
of the Party Central Committee:

(The following are listed in the order of the number of strokes in their surnames.)

Chen Muhua (Chen Mu-hua)
Zhao Ziyang (Chao Tzu-yang)
Seypidin (Saifudin)

Spelling of Chinese Place Names

Names of well-known places in China are listed as follows. The old spelling is in brackets for reference.

Municipalities directly under the central authorities:

Beijing (Peking)
Shanghai (Shanghai)
Tianjin (Tientsin)

Provinces, autonomous regions for minority nationalities and some well-known cities and other places:

Anhui (Anhui) Province
Hefei (Hofei)
Bengbu (Pengpu)
Fujian (Fukien) Province
Fuzhou (Foochow)
Xiamen (Amoy)
Gansu (Kansu) Province
Lanzhou (Lanchow)
Guangdong (Kwangtung) Province
Guangzhou (Kwangchow)
Shantou (Swatow)
Guangxi Zhuang (Kwangsi Chuang) Autonomous Region
Nanning (Nanning)
Guilin (Kweilin)
Guizhou (Kweichow) Province
Guiyang (Kweiyang)
Zunyi (Tsunyi)
Hebei (Hopei) Province
Shijiazhuang (Shihchiachuang)
Tangshan (Tangshan)
Heilongjiang (Heilungkiang) Province
Harbin (Harbin)
Daqing Oilfield (Taching Oilfield)
Qiqihar (Chichihar)
Henan (Honan) Province
Zhengzhou (Chengchow)
Luoyang (Loyang)
Kaifeng (Kaifeng)
Hubei (Hupei) Province
Wuhan (Wuhan)

Hunan (Hunan) Province
Changsha (Changsha)
Jiangsu (Kiangsu) Province
Nanjing (Nanking)
Suzhou (Soochow)
Wuxi (Wuhsi)
Jiangxi (Kiangsi) Province
Nanchang (Nanchang)
Jiujiang (Chiuchiang)
Jilin (Kirin) Province
Changchun (Changchun)
Liaoning (Liaoning) Province
Shenyang (Shenyang)
Anshan (Anshan)
Luda (Luta)
Nei Monggol (Inner Mongolia) Autonomous Region
Hohhot (Huhehot)
Baotou (Paotou)
Ningxia Hui (Ningsia Hui) Autonomous Region
Yinchuan (Yinchuan)
Qinghai (Chinghai) Province
Xining (Sining)
Shaanxi (Shensi) Province
Xian (Sian)
Yanan (Yenan)
Shandong (Shantung) Province
Jinan (Tsinan)
Qingdao (Tsingtao)
Yantai (Yentai)
Shanxi (Shansi) Province
Taiyuan (Taiyuan)
Dazhai (Tachai)
Sichuan (Szechuan) Province
Chengdu (Chengtu)
Chongqing (Chungking)
Taiwan (Taiwan) Province
Taibei (Taipei)
Xinjiang Uygur (Sinkiang Uighur) Autonomous Region
Urumqi (Urumchi)
Xizang (Tibet) Autonomous Region
Lhasa (Lhasa)
Yunnan (Yunnan) Province
Kunming (Kunming)
Dali (Tali)
Zhejiang (Chekiang) Province
Hangzhou (Hangchow)