

3. STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

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**National** standardization:

Establishing on a national basis for each geographical object one single name version as the official version

International standardization:

Establishing, on a national basis for each geographical object one single name version *in each script* as the official version

Major aim: avoiding ambiguity and confusion, and therefore gaining time

Subsidiary aims: avoiding political conflict, e.g.:

- **Macedonia:** The UN-approved official name of the country is Former Yugoslav Republic Of Macedonia, or FYROM.



- **Arabian Gulf / Persian Gulf:** Because of its controversial nature, some mapping companies leave the gulf without name (Google, see first image below), others opt for the traditional name also endorsed by the UN, but display it in small letter (Bing, see second image).





- *East Sea / Sea of Japan*: one of the things in which North and South Korea agree: the name of the sea between Korea and Japan should be changed.



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