

---

**UNITED NATIONS  
GROUP OF EXPERTS ON  
GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES**

**Working Paper**

**No. 9**

**Twenty-fourth Session**  
New York, 20 and 31 August 2007

---

Item 3 of the provisional agenda  
**Report of the working groups**

**Report of the Working Group on Publicity and Funding**

---

Prepared by David Munro (U.K.), Convenor of the Working Group on Publicity and Funding.

# Report of the Working Group on Publicity and Funding

## Summary

At a three-day Joint Meeting of the Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation (Convenor, Ki-Suk Lee) and Working Group on Publicity and Funding (Convenor, David Munro), held in Honolulu in January 2007, media and publicity activities since the 23<sup>rd</sup> Session of UNGEGN were reviewed and possible future activities discussed. The publication of a promotional leaflet, press kit, Technical Manual, and the Basic Manual in all of the UN languages have all been advanced along with the securing of continued UN funding in support of toponymic training courses.

### **Media and publicity activities since the 23rd Session**

At the conclusion of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on geographical Names (UNGEGN) held in Vienna in March-April 2006 the Convenor of the Working Group on Publicity and Funding, drafted a press release that was subsequently sent to the media by the UNGEGN Secretariat. As a result of this, the Working Group Convenor was invited to take part in a radio interview for Media Live, a US news agency. This interview was distributed to a number of networks.

Members of the Working Group have continued to promote geographical names issues and the activities of UNGEGN in a variety of ways. In 2006 the Convenor provided text on the subject of geographical names standardization for the website of the British Cartographic Society following an address given to that Society in London. In the autumn he assisted a postgraduate student from Oman studying toponymy at the University of Glasgow with a view to a place-name authority being established in that country. Dr Munro also raised awareness on the subject of geographical names with the Scottish Executive in response to a consultation paper on the development of a geographic information strategy for Scotland. Mr Botolv Helleland edited a special issue of the ICOS publication *ONOMA* (39) which focussed on name research and teaching with articles on standardization issues.

There will be opportunities to promote geographical names issues and the work of the UNGEGN at conferences such as the International Geographical Congress to be held in Tunisia in August 2008.

### **Joint Working Group Meeting**

A three-day Joint Meeting of the Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation (Convenor, Ki-Suk Lee) and Working Group on Publicity and funding (Convenor, David Munro) was held at the East-West Center in Honolulu, 22-24 January 2007. Working Group mandates and action items from previous meetings were reviewed and it was agreed that, while joint meetings would be beneficial from time to time, both Working Groups should continue as separate groups.

### **Publications**

Since the presentation of the English language version of the Basic Manual at the 23<sup>rd</sup> UNGEGN Session in Vienna, progress has been made on the translation of the text into all UN languages. It has been noted that a Portuguese language version of the Basic Manual has been requested and, as with previous promotional publications, it is recommended that this and any other language versions should be advanced in consultation with the UNGEGN Secretariat. The text of the Technical Manual was completed at the end of 2006 with a view to publication at the earliest opportunity.

The Working Group has advanced a new promotional leaflet – *Geographical Names as vital keys for accessing information in our digital world* - aimed at mapping, survey and geographical information system organizations in countries that do not have names authorities. After further input from UNGEGN experts, this leaflet was approved and passed to the UNGEGN Secretariat for production.

During 2007-08 the Working Group will be working on the production of a press kit designed to promote geographical names issues and the work of the UNGEGN amongst the media.

UNGEGN experts are reminded that any new proposals for major publications should be presented to the Conference through a resolution prepared in consultation with the Convenor of the Working Group on Publicity and Funding. Smaller publications can be included in the regular UNGEGN Secretariat plans.

### **Funding**

Funding in support of trainees attending training courses and trainees from non-participating countries attending the Conference in New York was discussed with the UNGEGN Secretariat which will assess individual needs within an agreed budget. A paper on 'Identifying Funding for Geographical Names Projects' was published in the March 2007 UNGEGN *Information Bulletin* (Number 33). The Working Group on Publicity and Funding will continue to explore other sources of funding and would welcome any suggestions.