

**Twenty-eight session  
28 April – 2 May 2014**

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**Item 7 of the Provisional Agenda**

**Implementation of resolutions and activities relating to  
the Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation**

## **Report of the Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation \***

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# **Report of the Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation<sup>†</sup>**

## **SUMMARY**

The report covers activities of the Working Group since the 10<sup>th</sup> United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names. There were two meetings, one during the 10<sup>th</sup> Conference and the other in Suwon and Seoul, Republic of Korea, July 2013, where items for the current work plan of the WG were discussed, including the implementation of resolutions, resolutions database, results of the evaluation survey conducted at the 10<sup>th</sup> Conference, and the working conditions and status of the UNGEGN. Actions and suggestions were made to improve its tasks.

The current work plan of the Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation, basically guided by the UNCSGN resolutions V/4 and VI/4, includes the following four items;

- ♦ evaluating the functioning and efficacy of UNGEGN and the Conferences, and the implementation of resolutions;
- ♦ finding ways to involve member states not currently participating in UNGEGN;
- ♦ looking at the needs of developing countries to achieve national standardization of their geographical names; and
- ♦ proposing actions to increase the effectiveness of the Conferences, UNGEGN and its Divisions and Working Groups.

In order to fulfill this plan, two meetings were held, where items relevant to the plan were discussed and actions and suggestions were made.

### **Working Group meetings**

A Working Group meeting was held on 7 August 2012 at the occasion of the 10<sup>th</sup> Conference, jointly with the Working Group on Publicity and Funding. Completed items since the last WG meeting in October 2011 were reported, including the results of the evaluation survey conducted at the 26<sup>th</sup> Session, resolutions database, and the plan for evaluating the Conference. The convenorship was transferred from Mr. Ki-Suk Lee to Mr. Sungjae Choo. The new convenor emphasized the basic mandate of the WG, which would be motivating and finding measures of the implementation of resolutions.

A three-day Working Group meeting, also jointly with the WG on Publicity and Funding, was held on 4-6 July 2013 in order to thoroughly discuss the current plans of the WGs. The meeting was

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<sup>†</sup> This working paper pertains to the UNCSGN resolutions V/4 (Work performed by the UNGEGN and its future activities), VI/4 (Working group on evaluation), IV/24 (Divisional activities), V/2 (Statute of the UNGEGN) and X/1 (11<sup>th</sup> UNCSGN and 28<sup>th</sup> Session of the UNGEGN).

composed of two-day agenda sessions at the conference room of the National Geographic Information Institute (NGII) in Suwon, Republic of Korea, and one-day excursion in Seoul focusing on Korean places, history and geographical names. Participants were convenors of the WGs, Sungjae Choo and Peder Gammeltoft; UNGEGN chair, Bill Watt; vice chairs, Ferjan Ormeling and Naima Friha; rapporteur of the WGs, Hubert Bergmann; former UNGEGN chair, Helen Kerfoot; former convenor of the WG, Ki-Suk Lee; experts from Korea and observers from the NGII and other Korean institutions.

Before the agenda sessions, the NGII as the host institution organized an opening ceremony at the auditorium of the Institute, in which opening addresses by two WG convenors and Director General of the NGII, Mr. Joo-Bin Im, were delivered and a special presentation by the UNGEGN chair, titled “Getting them right: Cultural and technical accuracy,” was made. A special lecture “New names drive out old names: The case of place-name changes in the construction of the new administrative city *Sejong* in Korea,” given by Prof. Sang-Hyun Chi of Kyung Hee University on the second day, enriched the meeting.

At the meeting, the current working conditions and status of the UNGEGN were generally reviewed, including completed or on-going items since the 10<sup>th</sup> Conference, status quo regarding the arrangements for the 28<sup>th</sup> UNGEGN Session in 2014, link to the UN Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management (GGIM), considerations to improve the efficacy of future UNGEGN sessions, etc. Basic findings from the evaluation survey carried out at the 10<sup>th</sup> Conference were also reported.

Narrowing down to the functions of the WG, its mandate, objectives and responsibilities were confirmed. Current status of the UNCSGN resolutions database was reported; the English and French versions now in operation with the 12 new resolutions from the 10<sup>th</sup> Conference added. A considerable portion of the meeting was dedicated to the issue of implementing resolutions.

### **Implementing resolutions**

The Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation has been missioned to encourage members of UNGEGN to implement resolutions adopted at the Conferences as norms of the standardization of geographical names, as endorsed by the UNCSGN resolutions V/4, VI/4 and IV/24. In order to continuously motivate UNGEGN experts to refer to the resolutions in their works, some measures were suggested;

- ◆ inserting a phrase in the “Documentation for the Session” requesting each working paper to indicate the resolution(s) to which the document refers;
- ◆ adding a question in the evaluation questionnaire regarding the implementation of resolutions; and
- ◆ preparing a working paper to arouse interests in resolutions.

According to the suggestions, actions were made, as seen in the current session.

## **UNCSGN resolutions database**

The UNCSGN resolutions database is now in operation both in English and French versions, containing 207 resolutions adopted up to the 10<sup>th</sup> Conference. It is hosted by the NGII and accessible from the UNGEGN web-page (<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/ungegn/confGeneral.html>).

The database is now ready to be extended to a third language, depending on the readiness of complete texts of the resolutions. This work will be made possible with the technical and financial support of the NGII.

## **Evaluation of the 10<sup>th</sup> UNCSGN**

A total of forty-six responses of the evaluation questionnaire forms were received at the 10<sup>th</sup> Conference in 2012. An analysis of the likert scale evaluations on the programs, contents and logistics of the meeting indicated an overall satisfaction with the Conference. For future conferences were suggested such changes as reduction of conference duration, reduction of reports, better communication of division and working group meetings, etc. Toponymic training was ranked at the top of the to-do list before the 11<sup>th</sup> Conference.

More details of the survey results will be reported separately. The collection of responses and tabulation of basic statistics were contributed by the UNGEGN Secretariat.

## **Future of the Working Group**

At the Working Group meeting in July 2013, it was confirmed again that the Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation should continue separately from the Working Group on Publicity and Funding, but have joint meetings with it to achieve synergy effects. The Working Group is steered by the convenor, the chair, vice-chairs and immediate former chair of the UNGEGN, but open to any experts interested. Since the last meeting, the WG has also been joined by Korean colleagues, Ms. Hyo Hyun Sung, Mr. Yeon-Taek Ryu and Mr. Young-Hoon Kim. Mr. Hubert Bergmann showed his hope to step down from the position of rapporteur. A successor to him is to be sought.

The next meeting of the Working Group will be scheduled within the framework of the current 28<sup>th</sup> Session, jointly with the Working Group on Publicity and Funding.