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ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

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Previous issues of the Bulletin (formerly Newsletter) can be found at

http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/ungegn_info_bulletins.htm

UNGEEN Information Bulletin

(formerly NEWSLETTER)

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Preface

Message from the Chairperson

Dear Colleagues,

10th UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names

We are now on a countdown to the 10th UN Conference to be held in New York, 31 July – 09 August, together with the 27th Session of UNGEGN on 30 July and 10 August. The deadline for submitting technical documents for the Conference is May 21. Once the documents have been processed, the UNGEGN Secretariat will be posting them on the UNGEGN website. As was done for the 26th Session of UNGEGN in Vienna, we are planning to have a very minimal amount of paper documentation available at the Conference; delegates are encouraged to download the files to their laptops or bring paper copies with them.

Documents

- Must be submitted under a particular agenda item
- An abstract must be provided, for translation into the other UN languages
- Countries are encouraged to submit documents to address item # 7 of the Provisional Agenda, “Measure taken and proposed to implement United Nations resolutions on the standardization of geographical names, including the economic and social benefits”.

Special presentations, workshops, and exhibition

- Planning is under way to provide special presentations and workshops during the Conference, and the UNGEGN Secretariat is coordinating a small exhibition outside the Conference room. It is not too late to provide suggestions!

Some activities since the 26th UNGEGN session in Vienna, May 2011

(1) UNGGIM

The Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation and the Working Group on Publicity and Funding met in Seoul in conjunction with the High Level Forum on Global Geospatial Information Management held in Seoul in October 2011. In this way UNGEGN experts were able to present an exhibit on aspects of geographical names standardization¹ and short lunchtime talks about the work of UNGEGN and its relevance to GGIM. You will find more about this meeting and the future activities of UNGGIM on pages 7-8, and on the web at <http://ggim.un.org/forum1.html>.

¹ Some of the posters were subsequently used by ESRI to illustrate aspects of standardized geographical names, at an international workshop on geocoding held in Redlands, California in December 2011.

(2) *Consultative Workshop in Botswana*

In association with the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), UNGEGN through its Task Team for Africa participated in a workshop hosted by Botswana in November 2011 to discuss ways forward for programmes on geographical names standardization in Africa. The results of this workshop were taken to the StatCom-Africa meeting held in Cape Town in late January 2012. It is hoped that the suggestions put forward in the GAP report (see <http://www.uneca.org/statcom/2011/GAP-on-GNs-Activities-in-Africa.pdf> (English); <http://www.uneca.org/statcom/2011/GAP-on-GNs-Activities-in-AfricaFr.pdf> (French)) will have an impact on future directions. More details on this initiative can be found on pages 32-35.

(3) *Meetings of UNGEGN Divisions and Working Groups*

You will see from the UNGEGN web pages that some Divisions and Working Groups are meeting between the 26th UNGEGN Session in May 2011 and the 10th Conference in July/August 2012:

- WG on Evaluation and Implementation – October 2011
- WG on Publicity and Funding – October 2011
- Africa Division – November 2011
- ASEPSW Division – February 2012
- Africa South Division -- April 2012
- WG on Exonyms – May 2012
- WG on Romanization Systems – May 2012

(4) *Archiving documents on the UNGEGN website*

I would like to thank Vilma Frani on your behalf for the efforts she has made to upgrade the archival documents for all the UNGEGN Sessions and for the nine Conferences. We are now building a robust collection of scanned/digital documents, going back to the earliest meetings in the 1960s. This should provide a useful reference collection of geographical names issues over the decades. To complete this, we shall later need to ask for your assistance in finding some documents that are not available through the various UN sources.

(5) *UNEGN World Geographical Names Database*

We are continuing to add the names of cities/towns with a population over 100,000 and are hoping that those from countries that have not yet supplied data, will work with us very soon to upgrade this resource. We also welcome audio files (preferably WAV files) from you for the appropriate pronunciation of your city/town endonyms. I would be happy to answer questions from anyone working on this material.

(6) *Liaison with other scientific organizations associated with geographical names*

- Thanks to all those involved with preparations and launching of the joint IGU/ICA Commission/Working Group. After our meeting at the 26th UNGEGN in Vienna in May 2011, further meetings were held at both International Cartographic Association (ICA) and International Geographical Union (IGU) gatherings and the new

group, associated with the work of UNGEGN, now exists. UNGEGN experts are welcome to participate and further information about the Commission/Working Group will be presented at our 10th UNCSGN in New York this summer. See page 6 for more details.

- UNGEGN through its Working Groups has continued to provide links to the work of such groups as UNECA, ICANN, OGC, EuroGeoNames and the UNSDI Gazetteer Framework. In the last case, in the immediate future the Convenor and Working Group on Toponymic

Data Files and Gazetteers will be having input into the Scientific and Technical Advisory Group providing recommendations on the Framework project (see page 21-22 for further information).

I wish you all the best in 2012 and look forward to meeting you again in New York in July.

Helen Kerfoot

Chairperson, UNGEGN,
Ottawa, Canada

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News from the Secretariat

Message from the Secretariat

**Tenth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names
New York, 31 July – 9 August 2012**

**Twenty-seventh Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names
New York, 30 July and 10 August 2012**

Information for participants

1. Note verbale

The note verbale, the provisional agenda (E/CONF.101/1), and information about documentation for the Conference (E/CONF.101/INF/1) were sent to all Permanent Missions to the United Nations 27 February 2012. The note verbale, the provisional agenda and the information on documentation for the conference are available on the UNGEGN website at <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/ungegnConf10.html>. In addition, the provisional agenda for the 27th Session of UNGEGN is available at <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/ungegnSession27.html>.

2. Documents for the Conference

Documents for the Conference should be sent (digitally) to the UNGEGN Secretariat before 21 May (frani@un.org and geoinfo_unsd@un.org). Each document should include a short summary (no more than half a page) and the appropriate item on the provisional agenda must be indicated. Documents received before the deadline will be processed by the United Nations, their summary will be translated in the 6 official languages and they will be put on the

UNGEGN website. Late papers will not be guaranteed translation of their summary.

Please note that no printed copies of any pre-session document will be distributed at the Session. You are encouraged to bring your own digital or paper copy to the meeting.

3. Organization of work

The detailed organization of work is currently under discussion. Details will be posted on the conference website <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/ungegnConf10.html> in due course.

4. Country reports and Division reports

Country reports will be for information only (see provisional agenda, item 4) and will not be presented. However, the Bureau will consider the development of a summary report. You are encouraged to submit specific items of your country's work under appropriate agenda items, where discussion will then be possible.

Division reports (item 5 of the provisional agenda) should focus on collective activities of the Divisions. It is probable that Division reports will be handled in the same way as country reports; a precedent was set for this at the 9th Conference in 2007.

5. Special presentations

As in past conferences and sessions, we shall try to highlight some “special presentations” and as far as possible spread them over the days of the Conference. Your suggestions for such presentations are still invited. Other reports of general (rather than specific) significance can be highlighted within agenda items.

6. Side events: Division Meetings, Working Group Meetings, Workshops, etc.

The Secretariat will make available the main meeting room as well as two smaller rooms for side events. Available time slots will be in the early morning before the main session (8 - 9:45), during lunch time (13:15 – 14:45) and in the evening (after 18:15). We will post a side events table and a sign up sheet on the website shortly. If you have any immediate question on side events, please contact the secretariat directly.

Global Geospatial Information Management

Main GGIM Events

To improve the management and coordination of geospatial information at the global level, the United Nations established, in July 2011, a Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (GGIM) as an intergovernmental consultative mechanism that brings together decision-makers and specialists from all member states, as well as international professional organizations as observers. The Committee has held its first meeting in Seoul, Republic of Korea, in conjunction with a High Level Forum on GGIM. Overall, a series of four meetings on GGIM took place from 23 to 27 October 2011 in Seoul’s COEX Convention Center and

We are still open to your suggestions for topics and for people interested in presenting.

7. Exhibition

The secretariat is exploring the possibility of an exhibition, which is made difficult due to space restrictions in the Temporary North Lawn Building of the UN. If we are granted exhibition space we will inform experts via our website and through another e-mail.

8. Further information

Details concerning photo identification passes, possible hotel accommodation and other organizational matters for the UNGEGN Session and the Conference will be posted on the UNGEGN website.

Sabine Warschburger

UNEGN Secretariat

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KINTEX Convention Center (Republic of Korea):

- The **UN Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management**, comprising representatives from Member States and observers from international professional organizations held its inaugural meeting on *26 October*. This Committee adopted its terms of reference, reviewed its potential contribution to the forthcoming UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) and established a working group on an inventory of priority issues

to be addressed by the Committee in its future sessions.

- A **High-Level Forum on GGIM**, held from *24-26 October*, offered an unprecedented opportunity for a global discussion on GGIM involving hundreds of stakeholders: Ministers, government officials, representatives of international, civil society and professional organizations, and industry leaders. Its **agenda** includes: Challenges in Geospatial Policy Formulation and Institutional Arrangement; Developing Common Frameworks and Methodologies; International Coordination and Cooperation in meeting Global Needs, and; Capacity Building and Knowledge Transfer.
- An **Exchange Forum with Business Leaders**, held on *23 October*, enriched the subsequent High-level forum on GGIM by opening a dialogue between industry leaders and government officials involved in geospatial information on the application of geospatial technology to solve global challenges.
- A thematic **Seminar on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information**, held on *27 October*, *KINTEX Convention Center*, looked at

the technical standards and successful practices to incorporate statistical and geospatial data as fundamental base data for immediate support in planning and decision-making and ensure their efficient use and optimal dissemination.

Further information on the Seoul meetings is available on <http://ggim.un.org/>.

It is worth noting that the Second Session of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management will be held at UN (New York), from 13 - 15 August 2012 and the Second High Level Forum on GGIM is scheduled to take place in Doha, Qatar, 4-6 February 2013, at the Qatar National Convention Centre (<http://www.qncc.com/>).

For more details, please contact Amor Laaribi (Laaribi@un.org).

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From the Divisions

Plea for Creating a New Geographic-Linguistic Division for North Africa

This paper is a plea for the creation of a new Division of UNGEGN for North Africa to provide help to countries south of the Maghreb, in terms of standardization of geographical names but also, as a result of close cooperation established between the UNGEGN and ECA/UN and the African Union, to harmonize current regional divisions of Africa. This alignment might be complemented by creation within UNGEGN of a new Division for North Africa.

The different African Geographical Divisions under UNGEGN:

Africa is currently divided, in UNGEGN, in four linguistic-geographical divisions: Africa South, Africa East, Africa West and the Africa Central.

These divisions are actually based on geography rather than language. Some African countries also belong to other territorially extra-African divisions such as Lusophone African countries being members of the Portuguese-speaking Division, the French-speaking African countries being members of the French-speaking Division or that of South Africa, a member of several European-based divisions, including the Dutch- and German-speaking Division and the United Kingdom Division.

There is no North African Division. North African countries are members of the Arabic Division. And this is in contrast to the division in use in the ECA / UN and African Union.

The current division of Africa in the African bodies, including the Economic Commission for Africa / UN and the African Union

The model of UNGEGN division does not correspond to that used in African political bodies in particular in the ECA / UN and the African Union.

The division of Africa is purely geographically.

The different current geographical divisions in the ECA / UN and the African Union

Africa West Division Africa Central Division



Africa North Division Africa East Division



Africa South Division



West Africa : Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Ivory Coast, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea,

Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo

But Mali, Tchad and Niger can be also part of North Africa as shown in light green

Central Africa: Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Sao Tome and Principe, Chad.

Chad can also be part of the Central Division and / or West Division as well as Mauritania, which is also in the Western Division or the Sudan which is also in the Eastern Division.

North Africa: Algeria, Mauritania, Morocco, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Sudan, South Sudan.

East Africa: Burundi, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, Tanzania,

Southern Africa: South Africa, Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Need for alignment between UNGEGN, the ECA / UN and the African Union.

By the establishment of the Task Team for Africa, and the dynamics resulting from the growing involvement of ECA/ UN and AU in the activities of UNGEGN and the standardization of geographical names in Africa, the harmonization of divisions between the UNGEGN and those two bodies, would be a major asset for coordination and to give a new impetus to cooperation that could be beneficial for the standardization of geographical names in Africa.

Thus, the establishment of a Division for North Africa would be one factor contributing to that harmonization.

Why is it necessary to create a Division for North African countries?

The proposed Division would include the following countries: Mauritania, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Sudan, South Sudan, Mali, Niger and Chad.

Countries proposed to be part of the new North African Division.



It is understood that under the rules of the UNGEGN which clearly states that '*Countries decide for themselves the division(s) to which they wish to belong, some belong to more than one division*', these countries continue to be part of other divisions of their choice like, for example Mauritania which is part of the Arabic Division and the Africa West Division. (see Appendix 1)

These countries share not only spatial continuity, but also the culture and the language.

Indeed, if we observe the linguistic map, we notice that many of these countries share the Berber language. And therefore the area covered by this language, carries a toponymy resulting from the Tuareg or the Arabic languages.

Arabic is spoken not only in almost all of these countries especially in the northern territories, but in some countries like Chad, it has even the status of official language.

Spatial and Linguistic Homogeneity:

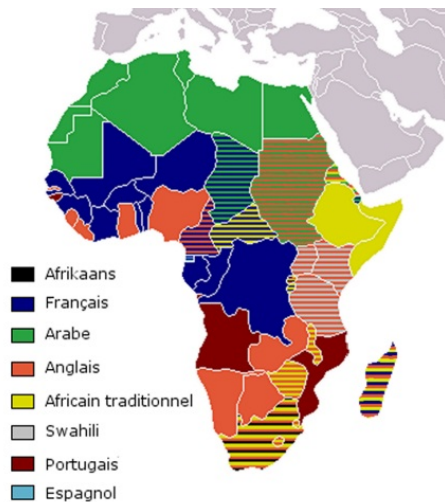
Linguistic area of the different Berber dialects in North Africa



The space covered by the Berber speakers, in addition to Algeria and Libya, covers more than half of Mali and Niger and Burkina Faso in its northern part.

Tuareg, as well as Arabic and other local languages such as Bambara, are the languages spoken by the entire population of these countries and therefore the place names, are assigned in these languages shared between these countries.

Map of the official languages used in Africa



This map of the official languages in use, shows the homogeneity of these northern

countries, in terms of language, where we see that the Arabic language is official in many of those countries besides French and English.

On the other hand, it will be seen that the African countries proposed as part of the new division are not (or are minimally) participating to the activities of UNGEGN, unlike the North African Arab countries that are not only very active in the UNGEGN but also in their respective countries and in the region itself where several meetings and activities in the field of geographical names take place.

Countries such as Mali, Niger and Chad could benefit from the experience of North African countries and thus benefit from the activities in the standardization of geographical names within the new division, through technical meetings, correspondence, exchanges etc.

In accordance with the principles set out in the UNGEGN regulation, in particular that 'the number of linguistic / geographical divisions and their composition may be revised, if necessary, and that a country must decide for itself the division(s) to which it wishes to belong. A country may be a member of another division provided that the nature of its participation does not change the linguistic/geographical character of the concerned division(s).

Given the positive cooperation established between the UNGEGN, ECA / UN and the AU, with the goal of a better alignment with these organizations, with the recorded dynamics of Africa in the field of geographical names, and in order to maintain this momentum, the creation of a new Division for North Africa is proposed.

There is no doubt that this division, once created, would be a very stimulating factor for the development of the toponymic activity in the African region. It would allow countries,

which until this day, do not benefit enough from the standardization of geographical names, to join us and participate in the progress of the standardization of geographical names.

If this proposal acquires support of UNGEGN members, we suggest that it be discussed at the next UNGEGN Session and a resolution establishing a Division of North Africa be

submitted for adoption.

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Plaidoyer pour une création d'une nouvelle division géographico-linguistique pour l'Afrique du Nord.

Ce papier est un plaidoyer pour la création d'une nouvelle division du GENUNG, pour l'Afrique du Nord. Celle-ci vise, d'une part à aider les pays situés au sud des pays du Maghreb, à mieux profiter des bienfaits de la normalisation des noms géographiques et d'autre part, au vue de l'étroite coopération établie entre le GENUNG, la CEA/UN et l'UA, d'harmoniser leur découpage respectifs

Les différentes Divisions géographiques africaines en cours au GENUNG:

L'Afrique est divisée actuellement, au sein du GENUNG, en quatre Divisions linguistico-géographiques : la Division du Sud, celle de l'Est, de l'Ouest et celle du Centre.

Ces Divisions sont en réalité basées sur une répartition géographique plutôt que linguistique.

Certains pays africains appartiennent aussi, à d'autres Divisions territorialement extra-africaines tels les pays africains lusophones membres de la Division de langue portugaise, les pays africains de langue française, membres de la Division francophone ou celle de l'Afrique du Sud membre de plusieurs Divisions appartenant à l'Europe notamment la Division néerlandophone et germanophone et la Division du Royaume uni

Il n'existe pas de Division Nord-africaine. Les pays d'Afrique du Nord sont membres de la Division arabe. Et ceci à l'inverse du découpage en usage au sein de la CEA/UN et de l'UA.

Le découpage actuel de L'Afrique au sein des instances africaines notamment la Commission Economique Africaine/UN et L'Union Africaine :

Le modèle du découpage de l'UNGEGN ne correspond pas à celui en usage dans les instances politiques africaines notamment au sein de la CEA/UN et de l'Union Africaine.

L'Afrique est découpée sur une base purement géographique.

Les différentes Divisions géographiques en cours à la CEA/UN et l'Union Africaine

Afrique de l'Ouest



Afrique Centrale



Afrique du Nord



Afrique de l'Est



Afrique du Sud



Afrique de l'Ouest : Benin, Burkina Faso, Cap Vert, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambie, Ghana, Guinée, Guinée Bissau, Libéria, Mali, Niger, Nigéria, Sénégal, Sierra Leone, Togo

Mais le Mali, le Tchad et le Niger peuvent également faire partie de l'Afrique du Nord comme mentionné en vert clair

Afrique Centrale : Cameroun, République Centrafricaine, République du Congo, République démocratique du Congo, Gabon, Guinée équatoriale, Sao Tomé-et-Principe, Tchad.

Le Tchad également peut faire partie de la Division Centrale et/ou de l'ouest au même titre que la Mauritanie qui est aussi dans la Division de l'Ouest ou du Soudan qui est également dans la Division de l'Est.

Afrique du Nord : Algérie, Mauritanie, Maroc, Tunisie, Libye, Egypte, Soudan, Soudan Sud.

Afrique de l'Est : Burundi, Djibouti, Erythrée, Ethiopie, Kenya, Ouganda, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalie, Tanzanie,

Afrique du Sud : Afrique du Sud, Angola, Botswana, Comores, Lesotho, Madagascar,

Malawi, Maurice, Mozambique, Namibie, Swaziland, Zambie, Zimbabwe.

Nécessité d'une harmonisation entre le GENUNG, la CEA/UN et l'UA.

Par la mise en place du Task Team for Africa, la dynamique instaurée depuis et l'implication de plus en plus de la CEA/UN et de l'UA dans les activités du GENUNG et de la normalisation des noms géographiques en Afrique, l'harmonisation du découpage, entre le GENUNG et ces deux instances, serait un atout majeur pour une coordination à même de donnée un nouveau souffle à une coopération qui ne pourrait qu'être bénéfique pour la normalisation des noms géographiques en Afrique.

A ce titre, la mise en place d'une Division pour l'Afrique du Nord serait un des facteurs favorisant cette harmonisation.

Pourquoi il est nécessaire de créer une Division pour les pays d'Afrique du Nord ?

La Division proposée regrouperait les pays suivants : Mauritanie, Maroc, Algérie, Tunisie, Libye, Egypte, Soudan, Soudan Sud, Mali, Niger, Tchad.

Pays proposés pour faire partie de la nouvelle Division de l'Afrique du Nord.



Il reste bien entendu que conformément au règlement du GENUNG, qui stipule clairement

que ‘ *Les pays décident par eux-mêmes la division (s) à laquelle ils souhaitent appartenir, certains appartiennent à plus d’une division*’, ces pays continueront de faire partie d’autres Divisions de leur choix à l’instar, par exemple de la Mauritanie qui fait partie de la Division arabe et de celle de l’Ouest.

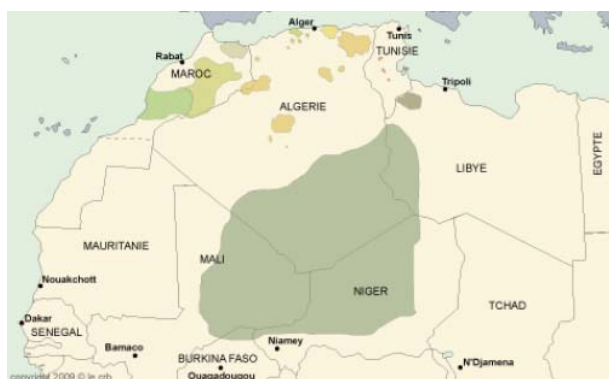
Ces pays ont en partage non seulement la continuité spatiale mais également la culture et la langue.

On effet si on observe la carte linguistique, on remarque qu’une bonne partie de ces pays ont en partage la langue berbère. Et par conséquent tout l’espace couvert par cette langue, porte une toponymie issue de la langue targuie ou de la langue arabe.

La langue arabe est non seulement parlée dans la quasi-totalité de ces pays notamment dans les territoires nord, mais dans certains pays, elle a même, le statut de langue officielle comme au Tchad par exemple.

Homogénéité linguistique et spatiale :

Aire linguistique des différents parlars Berbères en Afrique du Nord



L’espace couvert par le parler Berbère, en plus de l’Algérie et de Libye, couvre plus que la

moitié du Mali et du Niger et même le Burkina Faso dans sa partie Nord.

Le Touarègue, à côté de l’Arabe et d’autres langues locales tel le Bambara, restent les langues parlées par la quasi-totalité de la population de ces pays et par conséquent les noms de lieux, sont nommés dans ces langues en partage entre ces pays.

Carte des langues officielles en usage en Afrique



Cette carte des langues officielles en usage, vient en appui pour marquer une certaine homogénéité de ces pays du nord, sur le plan linguistique, où on constate que la langue arabe est aussi officielle dans plusieurs de ces pays à côté notamment du français et de l’anglais.

D’autre part, il a été constaté que les pays africains proposés pour en faire partie de la nouvelle Division ne participent pas ou très peu, aux activités du GENUNG ; A l’inverse des pays arabes de l’Afrique du Nord qui sont non seulement très actifs au sein du GENUNG mais également au niveau de leurs pays respectifs et dans la région même où il est enregistré plusieurs activités et rencontres sur le thème des noms géographiques.

Des pays comme le Mali, le Niger ou le Tchad pourraient en bénéficier de l'expérience des pays situés plus au Nord et bénéficier ainsi des activités dans la normalisation des noms géographiques au sein de la nouvelle division, grâce à des réunions techniques, correspondances, échanges etc.

Conformément aux principes énoncés dans le règlement du GENUNG, notamment que *'le nombre de divisions linguistiques / géographiques et leur composition peut être révisé, si nécessaire.'* Et *qu'un pays doit décider pour lui-même la division à laquelle il désire être rangé. 'Un pays peut être membre d'une autre division à condition que la nature de sa participation ne change pas le caractère linguistique / géographique de la division concernée (s).'* Et au vu de la coopération positive, instaurée entre le GENUNG, la CEA/UN et l'UA, d'une part, dans le but d'une meilleure harmonisation avec ces deux instances et devant la dynamique enregistrée au niveau de l'Afrique dans le domaine des noms géographiques et ainsi dans le but de maintenir cette dynamique, il est proposé la création d'une nouvelle Division pour l'Afrique du Nord.

Norden Division

Next Norden Division Meeting

The next Norden Division Meeting is still being planned. However, the date for the meeting has been set for June 10, 2012, at Section for Name Research, Copenhagen University. The Norden Division Meeting will thus take place immediately in the wake of the Femtende nordiske navneforskerkongres (Fifteenth Nordic Name Research Congress) 2012, June 6–9.

The meeting agenda is still being formulated, but the main issues at the next Norden Division Meeting will be how to prepare for the 27th

Celle-ci, à ne pas en douter serait, s'il elle venait à être créée, un facteur très stimulant pour le développement de l'activité toponymique dans cette région de l'Afrique. Elle permettrait à des pays, qui jusqu'à ces jours, ne profitent pas assez des bienfaits de la normalisation des noms géographiques, de se joindre à nous et de participer ainsi, au progrès liés à la normalisation des noms géographiques.

Si cette proposition acquière l'adhésion des membres du GENUNG, nous suggérons que ce point soit discuté lors de la prochaine Conférence du GENUNG et qu'une résolution portant création de la Division de l'Afrique du Nord soit soumise pour adoption.

Brahim Atoui

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UNGEEN Session and the 10th United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names in New York, USA later in the year. Another major item on the agenda concerns the Norden Division chairmanship for the coming five-year period.

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From the Working Groups

Working Group on Country Names

The Working Group (WG) has made progress towards updating an official updated version of the UNGEGN List of Country Names to present to the Tenth UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (UNCSGN) in New York in August 2012. This list provides the names of countries in their official language(s) and script(s), and also in the six official languages of the United Nations, as found in the UN Multilingual Terminology Database (UNTERM - <http://unterm.un.org/>).

In November 2011 an unofficial “working version” of the country names list was made available to the WG for review. By the end of the year several WG members provided comments that have resulted in changes to the list. **Any UNGEGN member who wishes access to this “working version” should make a request to the convenor at the e-mail address below.** Comments from all UNGEGN members on the content and structure of the country names list are welcome.

A notice will go out to the WG in mid-April 2012 asking for final comments on the latest

draft version of the list. It is hoped that these comments will be received by mid-May so that a final draft of the list can be sent to the WG members for approval by the end of May.

As discussed at the WG meeting in Vienna in May 2011, the WG is planning on presenting a Working Paper to the Tenth UNCSGN which includes Internet links to country names lists published by national authorities. **The WG requests that any national authority wishing to provide a link to their country names list for this Working Paper please send that link to the convenor at the e-mail address below.**

The Working Group on Country Names invites any interested experts to become a member of the group. Please contact the convenor at the e-mail address below if there are any questions.

Leo Dillon
Convenor
Working Group on Country Names
Email: dillonli@state.gov

Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation

Working Group Meeting held in Seoul, Korea, 27 October 2011

The Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation had a joint meeting with the Working Group on Publicity and Funding at COEX, Seoul, Korea, on 27 October, in continuation of UNGEGN activities during the High-Level Forum on GGIM. Participants were Convenors of the Working Groups, Ki-Suk Lee and David Munro, UNGEGN Chair, Helen Kerfoot, Vice Chairs, Brahim Atoui and Ferjan Ormeling, Rapporteur of the Working Groups, Botolv Helleland, Sungjae Choo, Professor of Kyung Hee University, and observers from the National Geographic Information Institute and Northeast Asian History Foundation of the Republic of Korea.



Participants of the Joint Meeting of the Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation and Working Group on Publicity and Funding with Ambassador for Geographic Naming of the Republic of Korea, Seoul, Korea, October, 2011.

This meeting was generally intended to review the current working conditions and procedures of UNGEGN and make suggestions for the improvement of its tasks. Evaluation questionnaire sheets collected at the 26th Session in Vienna were reviewed and comments and suggestions were noted. Based on this evaluation, ideas for the 10th Conference were shared, including special presentations, lunch time activities, exhibition, etc. The preparations for the UNGEGN participation in the GGIM Forum were highlighted, and the current progress of establishing a French version of UNCSGN resolutions database was reported.

This half-day meeting was followed by a visit to ‘Smart Korea 2011 Exhibition’ which was centered on the development of digital devices and related research on geospatial information.

The next meeting of the Working Group will be held in New York in 2012 in conjunction of the 10th Conference. More complete minutes of the Working Group meeting are available, on request, from the Convenor.

Ki-Suk Lee

Convenor

WG on Evaluation and Implementation

Email: leekisuk@snu.ac.kr

Working Group on Exonyms

12th Working Group on Exonyms Meeting in Gdańsk, 16-18 May 2012

The 12th Working Group on Exonyms Meeting will take place 16-18th May 2012 in Gdańsk, Poland. The meeting will be held in conjunction with a meeting of the Working Group on Romanization Systems (Convenor: Peeter PÄLL). Half a day will be devoted to an excursion to the bilingual region Kashubia nearby the city. Gdańsk has an attractive downtown, an international airport and is easily accessible also by train.

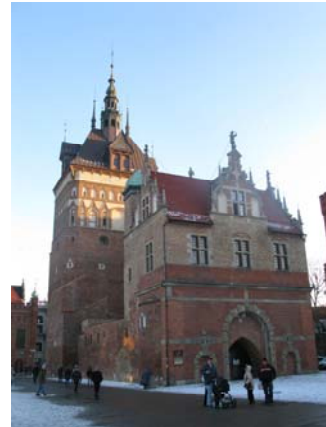
The main purpose of our meeting is to prepare for the 10th UN Conference in New York. This means that sufficient time will be devoted for discussing salient items of the WG agenda and to consider whether to submit resolutions to be passed by the Conference. But the meeting is also to see paper presentations on the following main topics:

- endonym/exonym divide,
- status of sea names,
- criteria for a sensitive use of exonyms,
- trends in exonym use
- categorisation of exonyms

Regular registration has already ended on 31 January 2012, but in exceptional cases registration will still be accepted (Please address: peter.jordan@oeaw.ac.at). No participation fee is requested.

Venue

Scandic Hotel Gdańsk, Podwale Grodzkie 9,
PL-80-895 Gdansk,
(gdansk@scandichotels.com)



Time schedule

Wednesday, 16th May 2012, 9:00. – 17:00:

12th Working Group on Exonyms
Meeting; paper presentations

Thursday, 17th May 2012, 9:00 – 17:00:

12th Working Group on Exonyms
Meeting; paper presentations and
discussions

Friday, 18th May 2012, morning:

Common excursion to the Kashubian
region

Friday, 18th May 2012, afternoon:

Meeting of the Working Group on
Romanization Systems

Peter JORDAN

Co-Convenor, WG on Exonyms

Email: peter.jordan@oeaw.ac.at

Working Group on the Promotion of Recording and Use of Indigenous, Minority and Regional Language Group Geographical Names

We are rapidly approaching the 10th United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names. I am looking forward to seeing many friends and colleagues and hearing of the work you have been undertaking since the last meeting.

From the perspective of this working group, we will be submitting an updated summary of projects around the world. In relation to this, if you have any projects that are not listed or have updated information regarding existing listings, please forward the relevant details to me at william.watt@sa.gov.au for inclusion.

We have also been preparing a short document that outlines the potential issues that may be faced during a project to record indigenous, minority or regional language group place names, including a short

bibliography of the documents relating to the recording of such names. This document is presented as a starting point, and as additional experience is gained, and other documents prepared, these can be easily incorporated.

An outstanding issue is still the name of the working group, which all agree is very lengthy. Please let us know if you can think of a better name. Also, if you have any other thoughts or ideas in relation to this work, please do not hesitate to advise me.

Bill Watt

Convenor

WG on the Promotion of Recording and Use of Indigenous, Minority and Regional Language Group Geographical Names

Email: William.Watt@sa.gov.au

Working Group on Publicity and Funding

The Working Group on Publicity and Funding held a joint meeting with the Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation in Seoul, Republic of Korea, on 27th October 2011. Amongst the seven participants and three observers present were the Chair and two Vice-Chairs of UNGEGN.

This meeting was held in association with the UN First High Level Forum on Global Geospatial Information Management which offered an opportunity to showcase the work of UNGEGN through the mounting of an exhibition and the presentation of a series of lunchtime talks.

At the Working Group meeting, updates to the Working Group's page on the website were made and a suggestion that the UNGEGN entry in Wikipedia should be updated and augmented. It was noted that UN Statistical Division funding for training activities would continue within the constraints of the budget, with special emphasis on providing support for participants from developing countries. The meeting invited the UN Statistics Division to consider providing support for two or three participants from developing countries attending the 10th Conference in New York. If any other Working Groups or Divisions are planning publications between 2012 and 2017, could they please inform the

Convenor of the Working Group on Publicity and Funding in advance of the 10th Conference so that a general resolution can be prepared for the Secretariat indicating that funding needs to be allocated.

David Munro and Botolv Helleland intimated that they would be stepping down as Convenor and Rapporteur of the Working Group on Publicity and Funding. At the Conference in July-August, the convenorship will pass to Peder Gammeltoft

who is also currently Chair of the Norden Division.

The next meeting of the Working Group will be held in New York during the week of the Conference.

David Munro

Convenor

WG on Publicity and Funding

Email: davidmunro@kinaskit.co.uk

Working Group on Romanization Systems

Since the informal meeting of the Working Group in Vienna (2011) there has been correspondence with various national authorities in questions regarding romanization systems. Contacted countries include Armenia, Belarus, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Georgia, Maldives, Nepal and Ukraine. In some cases (Armenia) the contacts have lead to new romanization systems being proposed, in other cases (Cambodia, Maldives) there has been only a minimal response. Five new members, from Austria, Iran, the Netherlands and the United States have joined the working group since 2011.

In November 2011 Armenia presented its first romanization draft to the Working Group and preliminary discussions are expected to follow with the Armenian authorities over its exact content. In December 2011 the Working Group received a proposal by Iran with possible modifications to a romanization system that would be put forward at the next UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names.

The Working Group is to hold a meeting in Gdańsk, Poland on 18th of May 2012. The main purpose of the meeting will be to prepare for the 10th UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, 31 July – 9 August 2012. As there will be several proposals for romanization systems to be approved at the Conference, the Working Group needs to take a closer look at each of the proposed systems, and to make a recommendation. Also any other matters related to romanization might be discussed.

The meeting will be hosted by the Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names Outside the Republic of Poland (KSNG) and will be combined with that of the UNGEGN Working Group on Exonyms, on 16th–17th of May 2012.

Peeter Päll

Convenor

WG on Romanization Systems

Email: peeter.pall@eki.ee

Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers

UNSDI Gazetteer Project - the Convenor joins the Science and Technical Advisory Group (STAG)

A gazetteer framework represents an important initial element of the UN Spatial Data Infrastructure (UNSDI), an initiative being led by the Office of Information and Communication Technology (OICT) of the UN Secretariat (see UNGEGN Bulletin no. 41). It will enable the aggregation of national gazetteers and the development of common mechanisms to access and exploit gazetteers at national, regional and global scales across a range of environmental, developmental and humanitarian applications.

The UNSDI Gazetteer Framework project is funded through a co-investment by the Australian Government and being led by Australia's peak research agency, the CSIRO, with the support of OICT of the UN Secretariat. The project will also partner with the National Coordination Agency for Survey and Mapping (Bakosurtanal), Global Pulse and World Food Programme (WFP) to deliver its outputs. It is of immediate significance to UNGEGN.

With the support of UNGEGN, the convenor of the Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers accepted an invitation to join the Science and Technical Advisory Group (STAG) of the UNSDI Gazetteer Framework Project. The purpose of the STAG is to review the scientific and technical directions taken by the Project Leader and to ensure that technical decisions are compatible with the environments into which they may eventually be delivered. The intention is that STAG will mainly provide recommendations to the Project Leader e.g. for the scientific and technical validity of

proposed approaches. The convenor foresees involving the Working Group with reviews on scientific outputs.

Comments on the OGC Best Practices Document: Gazetteer Service - Application Profile of the Web Feature Service Candidate Implementation Standard

In January 2012 the Working Group contributed to the comments on the OGC Best Practices Document: Gazetteer Service - Application Profile of the Web Feature Service Candidate Implementation Standard (OGC 11 122r1).

Generally, some Working Group members expressed concerns about keeping ISO 19112 in this updated WFS-G (Best Practice) document and by that keeping terms like 'LocationInstances', 'geographic Identifiers' etc. Some of these concerns had been expressed e.g. within the EuroGeoNames project as well as - more formerly - through the INSPIRE data specification process for geographical names. It was emphasized that a comprehensive names' concept relies on places, names and spellings, with appropriate attributes for each, which is applicable for gazetteer purposes, too. In any case, names databases and gazetteers should be distinguished from each other as gazetteers are only one of many possible outcomes derived from a (sometimes much more complex) names database.

However, improvements in this OGC approach could be identified too, some of them towards a more feature oriented and understandable concept of modelling places with names as attributes to features in

accordance with the European INSPIRE outcome.

The OGC Gazetteer Best Practice is available at <http://www.opengeospatial.org/standards/requests/83>

Pier-Giorgio Zaccheddu

Convenor

WG on Toponymic Data Files and

Gazetteers

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Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy

English webcourse in Toponymy

In 2011 UNSD enabled the ICA to complete the internet toponymy course (<http://toponymycourses.geog.uu.nl/ICAcourses/index.html>). Thanks to the UNSD support, 9 modules could be added: on Reference systems, Languages, Writing systems, Conversion systems, Names placement, Legal status of names, Editorial issues, Toponymical Planning and on Names as cultural heritage.

In 2012 UNSD has again made some funding available in order to upgrade the previously existing 11 modules of the course, that is, apart from an Introduction, modules on the Naming process, on the Function of geographical names, on National Agencies, Field collection systems, Office processing, Multilingual areas, on the UN/UNGEGN role in supporting national names bureaus, on Exonyms, Toponymical guidelines and on Toponymical data files. All these 'old' modules will get the same structure as the new ones, linkages between all modules will be inserted, and the teaching material in a number of modules will be extended.

In this way the whole toponymy course will be completed before the summer of 2012, and by themed-July 2012 all those interested in toponymical training will be able to evaluate the results by accessing the above url. It is the

intention to have a meeting of the Working Group on Training Courses on Toponymy in August, during the tenth UNGSGN in New York, in which all interested parties can participate, and where the results of this work will be discussed.

The course is set up in such a way that the modules follow the real world process of collecting, processing and disseminating geographical names. The material is offered in such a way that those that want to follow the course can do so independently. There will be exercises in each module, and the correct answers to these exercises can be found as well by the participants. Every module also has some literature attached to it that can be downloaded, so that course participants don't have to search elsewhere for it. It is envisaged that the UNGEGN Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy will be able to answer queries from participants regarding the course, and at some future point it might be relevant to present these and the answers to them in the form of a Frequently Asked Questions module.

It is expected that, pending the evaluation in August 2012, the UNGEGN will provide a direct link from its website to this renewed and extended toponymy course (the

current link to the old modules is <http://lazarus.elte.hu/cet> under ‘special themes’, Toponymy), just as it is also linked to the French language web course on toponymy, developed by Laval University, Québec, Canada and the IGN, France at <http://www.toponymiefrancophone.org/DivFranco/Formation/accueil.htm>. When completed the English language Toponymy course will

again be available from <http://lazarus.elte.hu/cet>.

Ferjan Ormeling

Convenor

WG Training Courses in Toponymy

Email: f.ormeling@geog.uu.nl

From the Countries

Brazil

The first version of The **Geographic Names Database of Brazil (BNGB)** has been available since September 23, 2011. The BNGB is a product of the Reference Center on Geographic Names of the Coordination of Cartography of the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE), and was developed by a multidisciplinary team of professionals from the Coordination of Cartography (CCAR) and the Directorate of Informatics of this institute.

The names in the database were drawn from the *Malha Municipal 2005* (Municipal Boundaries Dataset), from the *Base Cartográfica Contínua do Brasil, ao Milionésimo* (BCIM) – version 2.1 (Continuous Cartographic Base of Brazil, millionth), and from the *Palmeira* sheet of chart (MI 2844). The first two being products by the IBGE, and the latter developed in a covenant of this institute with the government of the State of Paraná.

The database was developed with free and open source software (FOSS), according to the Brazilian policies of encouragement regarding the use of these tools, and it presents both geocartographic and historic-geocartographic aspects of the names contained in it.

The geocartographic aspect deals with the following information about the geographic name: code, official and variant geographic names, classification of the cartographic element it names according to its category of information, its geographic coordinates, the scale in which it is represented in the national mapping system, and the

cartographic products by IBGE in which the particular name appears.

It is possible to search for a name within a specific area by entering the coordinates of its maximum and minimum points. It is also possible to search for all the names within a given category of information, which are:

- **General Economic Activities:** geographic names of geographic features in which activities of public service, economic, cultural or commercial nature are practiced, such as dams, farms, plants, among others.
- **Hydrography:** geographic names of running or still water, as well as natural or man-made features contained in this environment, on or under its surface, such as rivers, waterfalls, islands, archipelagos, sandbanks, and others.
- **Hypsography:** geographic names of land and underwater surfaces regarding elevations, such as mountains, beaches, peaks, etc.
- **Boundaries:** names of imaginary or real lines, set by legal acts, which establish territorial borders and areas of special interest, such as parks, reservations, forests, and others. At the moment, the BNGB solely contains the names of areas of special interest.
- **Localities:** names of geographic areas including cities, towns, villages, etc. The classification of the localities follows the criteria established by the IBGE. The generic term of the geographic names of most elements in this category is implicit. Ex. City of Rio de Janeiro > Rio de Janeiro.

- **Transportation System:** names of features destined to the transport and traffic of cargo and passengers, such as airports, railway stations, roads, among others.

The historic-geocartographic aspect deals with historical data on the geographic names, which may contribute with relevant information to economic and academic research, and to provide the Committee on Geographic Names (CNGEO) with useful information for the standardization of geographic names.

This aspect of the BNGB will enable the user to retrieve the history of the geographic names and of their historical variants, as well as a history of the administrative units of the national territory they have belonged to.

At the moment, the history of the geographic names of the municipalities in the States of Rio de Janeiro and Paraná is available and the history of the geographic names of the municipalities of the other Brazilian States is under construction.

The launch of the BNGB, which took place in Rio de Janeiro, received broad press coverage and started with a short speech by Rafael March, Substitute Director of the Directorate of Geosciences. He spoke of the importance of the work on toponyms for the improvement of the quality of the Brazilian mapping system and of the role of place names as the main tool for the retrieval of information in the Brazilian SDI (INDE). Following his speech, João Bosco de Azevedo, Coordinator of Cartography of the Coordination of Cartography of the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE) at the time of the launch of the database, thanked the staff involved in the development of the database and highlighted its importance to the IBGE and

to the society as a whole. Marcia de Almeida Mathias, manager of the Reference Center on Geographic Names (CRNG), spoke after him and presented a brief history of the Project Geographic Names of Brazil, of which the BNGB is an outcome. Then, Dr. Cláudio João Barreto dos Santos, from the CRNG, made a presentation about the collection of geographic names by the IBGE and the significance of these names to the population. Finally, systems analyst Graciosa Rainha Moreira, manager of the Project Geographic Names Database of Brazil, presented the BNGB. She spoke about the human and technical resources involved in its development and demonstrated some of its possible uses and applications.



From left to right: Graciosa Rainha Moreira, Márcia de Almeida Mathias, Rafael March, João Bosco de Azevedo and Cláudio João Barreto dos Santos



Cláudio João Barreto dos Santos



Graciosa Rainha Moreira

The BNGB is available at www.bngb.ibge.gov.br

Listed here are links to some news items about the BNGB, published at the time of the launch.

<http://ultimosegundo.ig.com.br/brasil/porque-varresai-saco-do-rei-e-vaiquemquer-tem-este-nome/n1597224179872.html>

<http://www.estadao.com.br/noticias/cidades,ibge-divulga-banco-de-dados-sobre-nomes-das-cidades-no-pais,776527,0.htm>

<http://oglobo.globo.com/politica/ibge-lanca-banco-de-dados-para-padronizar-nomes-de-localidades-2694904>

Egypt

The participation of Egypt at UNGGIM activities in Seoul, Republic of Korea, October 2011

High Level Forum on Geospatial Information Management (GGIM)

All participants recognized the following:

- The important leadership role for the United Nations in setting the global consultation mechanism on global

Training Courses

As part of IBGE's annual training program (PAT), the Reference Center on Geographic Names offered the course of Introduction to Standardization of Geographic Names, from 22-24 November 2011, in Rio de Janeiro, when 14 people were trained.

Also, 8 technicians from the Instituto de Terras e Cartografia (ITCG) of the State of Paraná and 5 from the IBGE were trained by the Reference Center on Geographic Names (CRNG) - IBGE to take part in the surveys of geographic names in the State of Paraná. The two Brazilian institutions are working together in the Project Geographic Names of Paraná, which aims at updating the geographic names present in the mapping of that State, in an effort towards the standardization of the set of Brazilian geographic names. The training sessions took place in the ITCG headquarters, located in Curitiba, capital of the State of Paraná, from September 28th to 30th, 2011.

Ana Cristina da Rocha Bérenger Resende
 IBGE - DGC - Coordenação de Cartografia
 Centro De Referência Em Nomes
 Geográficos
 Email: ana.resende@ibge.gov.br

geospatial information management and promotes its use to address key global challenges and to coordinate among member states and between countries and international organizations active in this field.

- The importance of cooperation between Member States and International

organizations in a common framework under the umbrella of UNGGIM to assist states to develop integrated infrastructure of national data and utilization of best practices for the implementation of the national infrastructure for developing countries.

- The important role of geospatial information in policy formulation and decision making for national development, especially in the critical issues facing the world.
- The main objectives of the UN Committee are to provide a forum for coordination and dialogue among Member States and between Member States and relevant international organizations and to propose work plans and guidelines with a view to promoting common principles policies methods mechanisms and standards for the interoperability and inter-changeability of geospatial data and services.

Thematic Seminar “Integrating Statistical and Geospatial Information: Issues and Challenges”

Egypt shared in a presentation about: Best practices in Integrating Statistical and Geospatial Information.

The presentation focused on the importance of the integration of statistical data with spatial data, and their effective role in the planning and development, policy formulation and decision-making in all areas of development, and the effective role of National Statistical Agencies in developing national spatial data infrastructures.

Nahla Seddik Mohamed

Director GIS Unit, GIS Department
CAPMAS, Egypt

Email: pres_capmas@capmas.gov.eg

Special Projects and News Items

IGU/ICA Commission/Working Group on Toponymy established

Following preparatory meetings during the 26th UNGEGN Session in Vienna in May 2011 and the International Cartographic Conference in Paris in July 2011, the final foundation stones for a joint IGU/ICA Commission/Working Group on Toponymy have been laid in the framework of the IGU Regional Conference in Santiago, Chile, and a meeting of the ICA Executive Board in Vienna, both in November 2011.

- In the Santiago meeting Ron ABLER, president of IGU, communicated that the IGU Executive Board had approved this joint institution in the form of a commission from the IGU side and had nominated Cosimo PALAGIANO (Italy, cosimopalagiano2@gmail.com) as IGU chair of this commission.
- In its Vienna meeting the ICA Executive Board finally approved the establishment of this joint institution as a Working Group from the ICA side and confirmed Paulo Márcio Leal de MENEZES (Brazil, pmenezes@acd.ufrj.br) as ICA chair of this Working Group. According to ICA statutes a new institution must start as a working group and can only after four years be elevated to commission status by the next ICA general assembly. This will very likely occur in Rio de Janeiro in 2015.

So the joint Commission/Working Group will be co-chaired by a representative of IGU and of ICA. It will also have a steering committee of up to 10 persons from different countries invited by the two chairs. Otherwise membership is open to everybody who is interested.

The joint Commission/Working Group conceives its function complementary to the tasks of UNGEGN with its focus on standardization issues and will on the one hand try to disseminate knowledge on place names to geographers and cartographers and on the other foster geographical/cartographic place-name research especially as regards functions of place names on maps, rendering of place names on maps, names placement on maps, elaborating principles for creating new place names, place names as expression of time- or space-related identity, place name/feature relations, motives for place naming, place names and administration, place names and transportation, place names in the cyber world, social dimensions of place names, elaborating principles for solving place-name conflicts.



The joint Commission/Working Group will keep close contact with UNGEGN and coordinate its activities with it. This will be facilitated by several UNGEGN experts being also members of the new Commission/Working Group.

The new Commission/Working Group will present itself to a wider public for the first time in the framework of the International Geographical Congress (IGC) in Köln, Germany, 26-30 August 2012, where it will – besides a business meeting – organize a paper session on “Place names as markers and ingredients of space-related identity” (chair: Peter JORDAN, co-chair: Cosimo PALAGIANO) as well as a panel discussion titled “Reading the landscape on ancient maps” chaired by Cosimo PALAGIANO and co-chaired by Paulo Márcio Leal de MENEZES. The exact dates of the business meeting and of these sessions will only be defined, when the whole program of the Congress is determined. Please, consult the

Congress website (www.igc2012.org) for more information.

A number of UNGEGN experts have already confirmed interest in taking part in the activities of this Commission/Working Group. Should you wish to join them, please address one of the two co-chairs (cosimopalagiano2@gmail.com, pmenezes@acd.ufrj.br) or peter.jordan@oeaw.ac.at

Peter JORDAN

Co-convenor

WG on Exonyms

Email: peter.jordan@oeaw.ac.at

UNGEKN Activities during the High-Level Forum on GGIM, Seoul, 24-26 October 2011

In the High-Level Forum on Global Geospatial Information Management, held in Seoul, Republic of Korea, 24-26 October 2011, UNGEGN Working Groups on Evaluation and Implementation and on Publicity and Funding managed an activity room to offer a small exhibition and lunch-time presentations on UNGEGN issues to forum participants. The general focus was given on providing information and attracting interests in relation to geographical names; their authorization; the technical, economic, social and cultural benefits of standardized names; and their significance as an element of GGIM.

The exhibition was composed of poster and publication sections. Posters intended to inform about the meaning of and need for geographical names, the scope and methods of standardization (romanization, terminology, toponymic guidelines), the role

of UNGEGN, and world regional projects and trends of standardization, e.g. Task Team for Africa, EuroGeoNames, naming in multilingual areas in Europe. Publications displayed were from UNGEGN, e.g. brochures, media kits, two manuals for standardization, postcards, conference reports, and from member countries, e.g. principles and procedures from Indonesia, Canada and New Zealand, materials for national names authorities from South Africa and Norway, and toponymic guidelines from Poland, Ukraine, Spain, Finland and Austria.

The presentations, offered with free sandwiches, were oriented to more topical issues, including UNGEGN's relevance to GGIM, geographical standardization in Africa, names databases and GIS, cultural aspects and names authorities. Topics and presenters were:

- UNGEGN - why, what, how and relevance to GGIM (Helen Kerfoot)
- Le GENUNG - la normalisation des noms géographiques en Afrique (Brahim Atoui)
- UNGEGN World Geographical Names Database (Helen Kerfoot)
- Names, mapping and GIS (Ferjan Ormeling)
- The cultural aspects of geographical names (Botolv Helleland)
- The EuroGeoNames project: producing a virtual geographical names database (Ferjan Ormeling)
- Names authorities: overview (David Munro)
- Types of names authorities (Helen Kerfoot)
- National names authority: the case of the Republic of Korea (Sungjae Choo)

- Language advisors according to the Norwegian Place-Name Act (Botolv Helleland)
- Countries without a geographical names bureau: the Netherlands (Ferjan Ormeling)

For three days, participants from as many as 31 countries and 3 institutions visited the UNGEGN room. The activities were financially supported by the National Geographic Information Institute of the Republic of Korea.

Sungjae Choo

Email: sjchoo@khu.ac.kr





L'atelier consultatif, Gaborone

A la suite de la réunion de la 27 Session de GENUNG tenue à Vienne en Mai 2011 et des rencontres organisées au cours de cette session par le Task Team for Africa, un atelier consultatif sur l'orientation future des activités des noms géographiques en Afrique, a eu lieu à Gaborone en Botswana, du 23 au 25 Novembre 2011.

Cette rencontre organisée par la Commission Africaine des Statistiques (StatCom-Afrique) en collaboration avec la CEA/UN, l'UNGEFN et le gouvernement du Botswana a regroupé plusieurs Experts issus de pays africains, des représentants de l'Union Africaine, des Centres régionaux de Formation ainsi que d'autres organisations intéressées par les noms géographiques.

Au cours de ses travaux, une déclaration et un plan de travail sur les activités futures des noms géographiques en Afrique ont été arrêtés.

Dans le plan arrêté, un diagnostic rigoureux a été établi ; les Experts ont insisté notamment sur les points suivants à même de donner une dynamique certaine aux activités toponymiques en Afrique.

Accroître le renforcement des capacités et le partage des connaissances entre les différents pays africains notamment

- Par l'organisation de sessions de formation et par la promotion de la coopération Sud-Sud dans le développement des ressources humaines afin d'améliorer l'échange.
- La conception d'Ateliers de courte durée sur les noms géographiques, préluce ou en association avec certains événements du CODIST, de

StatCom-Afrique et d'autres conférences.

- Le parrainage de la participation des pays africains à ces événements.
- La CEA/UN est encouragée à prendre des initiatives pour la mobilisation de fonds pour organiser des ateliers de formations et des réunions d'Experts ainsi que l'implication des Centres régionaux tels le Centre des ressources pour le développement (RCMRD) le Centre régional aux techniques des levées aérospatiales (RECTAS) le Centre régional de Télédétection des Etats d'Afrique du Nord (CRTEAN) dans les activités toponymiques.

Promouvoir la coordination et la coopération aux niveaux national, régional et mondial :

- Par notamment l'introduction de la normalisation des noms géographiques dans les agendas de StatCom, de Codist et des réunions et conférences organisées par cette dernière tels les Centres régionaux par exemple la ECOWAS, SADC, ECCAS etc.
- la création d'une base de données des personnes ressources africaines en la matière.

Exploiter les progrès de la technologie et de la communication et leur impact sur les noms géographiques en Afrique notamment :

- Par la mise à la disposition des pays africains du logiciel africain GeoNyms de la CEA.
- Les pays soient assistés dans l'utilisation de cette technologie afin

de permettre aux noms géographiques d'être stockés et réutilisés dans la cartographie, les statistiques, les opérations de recensement, les SIG, et à d'autres fins au sein du gouvernement et du secteur privé.

Par ailleurs, le Plan d'action dit de Gaborone, issu de la réunion du Botswana, a été présenté à la troisième réunion de la Commission statistique pour l'Afrique (StatCom- Afrique III) qui a eu lieu à Cape Town en Afrique du Sud. Cette rencontre s'est tenue simultanément avec le 7^e Symposium Afrique sur le développement des statistiques (ASSD) du 17 au 23 Janvier 2012 et ayant pour thème "*harmonisation des statistiques à l'appui de l'intégration économique, monétaire et social en Afrique*". La réunion a porté essentiellement, sur la sensibilisation, sur le rôle important des statistiques dans tous les aspects du développement social et économique de l'Afrique. A l'issue de ses travaux, la Commission de statistique pour l'Afrique, a approuvé et adopté le Plan d'action dit de Gaborone. Elle a appelé les organismes nationaux de statistiques à s'impliquer davantage dans la standardisation des noms géographiques afin de pouvoir fournir des systèmes de codage pour les noms et de préconiser l'utilisation de ces codes à chaque fois que les systèmes

de données sont en cours d'élaboration. Aussi, a-t-elle appelé le CEA, la CUA, la BAD ainsi que les autres partenaires intéressés, pour soutenir le travail de l'Équipe spéciale pour l'Afrique du GENUNG, afin de développer les activités liées à la normalisation des noms géographiques dans le continent.

La résolution adoptée au cours des travaux créera, certainement une nouvelle dynamique à même de donner un nouveau souffle au développement de la gestion des noms géographiques en Afrique.

Pour plus d'informations à la fois, sur la réunion de Gaborone et celle de StatCom-Afrique III à Cape Town, nous vous invitons à consulter les sites de la CEA et du GENUNG.

Au nom de l'équipe Task Team for Africa

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Consultative workshop, Gaborone

Following the meeting of the 26th Session of UNGEGN in Vienna in May 2011 and meetings held during this session by the Task Team for Africa, a consultative workshop on the future direction of geographical names in Africa was held in Gaborone, Botswana from the 23rd to 25th November 2011. This meeting organized by the African Commission on Statistics (StatCom-Africa) in collaboration with ECA, UNGEGN and the government of Botswana brought together experts from several African countries, representatives of the African Union, regional training centres and other organizations concerned with geographical place names.

During the workshop, a statement and a work plan for the future direction of place names in Africa was discussed. The experts emphasized the following points in particular to give momentum to geographical place name activities in Africa:

1. Increase capacity building and knowledge sharing among African countries by organizing training sessions and promoting South-South cooperation in human resource development to improve exchange of information.
2. Organize workshops on geographical place names prelude or in combination with certain events of CODIST, StatCom-Africa and other conferences.
3. Sponsorship of the African countries' participation in these events.
4. ECA was encouraged to make initiatives of mobilizing funds to organize training workshops and meetings of experts and the involvement of regional centres such as the Regional Centre for Mapping

Resources Development (RCMRD), Regional techniques levees Aerospace (RECTAS), Regional Centre for Remote Sensing of North African States (CRTEAN).

5. Promote coordination and cooperation at national, regional and global levels.
6. Introduction of standardization of geographical names in the agendas of StatCom, CODIST meetings and conferences and those of regional bodies like SADC, ECOWAS, ECCAS, etc.
7. Create a database for African resource persons knowledgeable in geographical place names
8. Exploit advances in technology and communication and their impact on geographical place names by making available to African countries the African Geonyms software by ECA
9. Assisting African countries in using this technology to allow storing and reusing geographical names in mapping, Statistics, census operations and other purposes in government and other sectors.

The workshop in Botswana came up with the Gaborone Action Plan, which was presented at the Third meeting of the Statistical Commission for Africa (StatCom-Africa III) which took place in Cape Town, South Africa, back to back with the 7th Africa Symposium on Statistical Development (ASSD) from 17th to 23rd January 2012 under the theme “Harmonizing Statistics in Support of Economic, Monetary and Social Integration in Africa”. The meeting focused mainly on increasing awareness about the important role statistics play in all aspects of social and economic development of Africa. In conclusion, the

Statistical Commission for Africa recommended and endorsed the Gaborone Action Plan, called on the National Statistics Offices to take an active part in the assignment and standardisation of geographical names to provide coding systems for names and advocate the use of such codes whenever data systems are being developed. The Commission also called upon the ECA, AUC, AfDB and other partners to support the work of the Task Team for Africa in particular and geographical names activities in general.

The resolution passed will create a new dynamic impact on the development of geographical names management in Africa.

More information on both the Gaborone workshop and StatCom-Africa III can be found on the ECA and UNGEGN websites.

On behalf of the Task Team for Africa

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Upcoming Meetings of Groups Associated with Geographical Names

Some forthcoming meetings of organizations relevant to geographical names

**Challenges in synchronic toponymy:
structure, context and use / Défis de la
toponymie synchronique : structures,
contextes et usages**
(<http://www.sites.univ-rennes2.fr/lidile/>)
22-23 March 2012, Rennes, France

International Congress Geotunis 2012
(<http://www.geotunis.org>)
26-30 March 2012, Tunis

**UN Geographic Information Working
Group (UNGIWG)**
(contact: secretariat@ungiwgsec.org)
28-30 March 2012, UNOV, Vienna

Intern. Hydrographic Organization (IHO)
*XVIIIth International Hydrographic
Conference*
(http://www.iho.int/srv1/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=388&Itemid=306)
21-27 April 2012, Monaco

GSDI World Conference
*Spatially enabling government, industry and
citizens: research and development
perspectives*
(<http://www.gsdi.org/gsdiconf/gsd113/>)
14-17 May 2012, Québec, Canada

Names in the Economy
(<http://www.tse.fi/EN/unis/otherunits/names-in-the-economy/Pages/NITE4.aspx>)
14-16 June 2012, Turku, Finland

Trends in Toponymy 5
(<http://www.topotrends2012.org>)
9-13 July 2012, Bern, Switzerland

**VIIIth Congress of the International Society
for Dialectology and Geolinguistics (SIDG)**
(<http://sidg.oeaw.ac.at/en/>)
23-28 July 2012, Vienna, Austria

**United Nations Global Geospatial
Information Management**
(<http://ggim.un.org/forum1.html>)
13-15 August 2012, UNHQ, New York

**Management and dissemination of
toponymic data online / Bainistiú agus
foilsíú sonraí logainmníochta ar líne**
(<http://www.logainm.ie/placenames2012/>)
24-25 August 2012, Dublin / Baile Átha
Cliath

International Geographical Union
*IGU International Geographical Congress
2012*
(<http://www.igc2012.org/frontend/index.php>)
26-30 August 2012, Köln, Germany

American Association of Geographers (AAG)
Annual meeting 2013, 2014, 2015
(http://www.aag.org/cs/calendar_of_events)
April 9-13, 2013, Los Angeles
April 8-12, 2014, Tampa
April 21-25, 2015, Chicago

**ICC 2013 – 26th International Cartographic
Conference**
(<http://www.icc2013.org/>)
25-30 August 2013, Dresden, Germany

**International Congress of Onomastic
Sciences (ICOS)**
(<http://www.icosweb.net/>)
25-29 August 2014, Glasgow, Scotland