



UNITED NATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT

UNITED NATIONS
GROUP OF EXPERTS ON
GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

Newsletter

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NEWS FROM THE AFRICA WEST DIVISION

Guinea (Aguibou Bah)

Nous avons l'honneur de vous informer de la constitution au sein de l'Institut Géographique National de Guinée (IGNG) d'une Commission de Normalisation des Noms Géographiques (CNNG).

Cette commission est attelée actuellement à la constitution d'un répertoire exhaustif des noms des lieux, à partir des cartes au 1/200.000 et au 1/50.000 qui couvrent l'ensemble du territoire national. Dans un deuxième temps, elle se propose de faire des enquêtes sur le terrain pour une vérification linguistique en 1990.

Enfin, avec d'autres spécialistes (linguistes, historiens, sociologues), la Commission entreprendra des recherches pour affiner les résultats obtenus.

NEWS FROM THE ASIA SOUTH-WEST DIVISION

Iran (M.H. Ganji)

1. National Standardization

The National Geographical Organization, now known as the Geographical Organization of the Armed Forces, attached to the Ministry of Defense, remains as the official centre for standardization of geographical names in the Islamic Republic of Iran. The old Geographic Names Committee, created in 1968 in conjunction with the Iranian Academy, has been reorganized and is now regularly meeting once every other week to deal with all matters relating to the geographic names.

2. Field Collection of Information

Field collection of information is going on as in the past years. The village information sheet, shown as annex to the Report presented by Iran to the Second UN Conference on Standardization of Geographic Names, London, 1972 (tech. papers Vol. 2, page 43), has been developed into a full size booklet of some dozen pages, that covers a great deal of geographical information other than names. This booklet is completed by experienced members of staff and is returned to the main office where it is processed for inclusion in the gazetteer of Iran.

NOTE LIMINAIRE

Ce 5e numéro du Bulletin du Groupe d'experts des Nations-Unies sur les noms géographiques renseigne sur la poursuite du travail entrepris depuis plusieurs années déjà dans des pays où l'activité toponymique constitue une préoccupation sérieuse des instances gouvernementales. Nous remercions ceux qui ont fourni ces renseignements qui permettent de suivre l'évolution technique de la normalisation des noms géographiques.

Il importe cependant que le travail des Conférences et du Groupe d'experts sur les noms géographiques touche aussi les pays qui n'ont pas les moyens d'investir des ressources importantes dans les différentes étapes de la normalisation des noms géographiques, de la collecte de terrain au traitement informatique et à la publication de répertoires. On sait que les problèmes économiques, sociaux et environnementaux constituent la première urgence de ces pays, comme des autres d'ailleurs. Mais la connaissance du territoire et de ses ressources constitue pour chaque Etat le préalable fondamental de toute action positive vers le développement durable, or cette connaissance s'appuie sur des indicateurs spatiaux de base que constituent les noms géographiques dont la normalisation est donc essentielle. Cette réalité n'est pas partout perçue comme une évidence, c'est à cette tâche, entre autres, que le Groupe d'experts doit se consacrer d'ici 1992, date de la prochaine Conférence des Nations Unies sur la normalisation des noms géographiques.

Le prochain Bulletin traitera de cette problématique, en s'appuyant sur le travail accompli par les différents groupes de travail du Groupe d'Experts dont nous publierons un rapport préliminaire de leurs activités.

D'ici là, une action directe sera entreprise auprès des autorités toponymiques nationales, par le Secrétariat de New York, afin de colliger davantage d'informations sur l'état de la normalisation dans les différents pays membres de l'ONU, tant sur le plan structurel que normatif et opérationnel.

Cela dit, nous saluons avec satisfaction les initiatives nouvelles comme la création, en Guinée, d'une commission de normalisation des noms géographiques, comme ce fut récemment le cas au Gabon. Il est aussi réconfortant de voir se continuer la tenue de stages de formation en toponymie appliquée comme celui de Cipanas, Indonésie (octobre 1989), et comme ceux qui sont prévus en Amérique Latine et en Afrique de l'Est en 1991. Il s'agit là d'une des actions dont l'effet est le plus multiplicateur.

Je remercie tous ceux qui, à travers ce Bulletin et autrement, apportent leur appui au Groupe d'Experts des Nations Unies pour les noms géographiques.

Henri Dorion
Président

NEWS FROM THE CELTIC DIVISION

Ireland (Art O'Maolfabhail)

A new Gazetteer of Ireland has been published:

Gasaitéar na heireann/Gazetteer of Ireland,
Baile Atha Cliath/Dublin, 1989.

Prepared by the Placenames Branch of the Ordnance Survey of Ireland, the new 283-page Gazetteer lists important names of population centres and physical features, in both their Irish-language and English-language forms. It has two parts: an Irish-English section and an English-Irish section, each arranged alphabetically. Basically the list of names consists of the names of places where post offices are now situated, or were situated at some time during the past twenty years, and to these the names of major physical features and some other names have been added.

In both sections the nature of the feature to which each name refers is stated as well as the county or counties in which the place or feature is situated, and in the case of the longer watercourses the counties at each extreme of the feature are given. In both sections also a guide is given to the correct stressing of the English-language forms.

In the Irish-English section additional information is given: (a) the relevant co-ordinates on the national grid; (b) the recommended standard pronunciation for the Irish forms; (c) the genitive case of the Irish form of certain names whose genitive might not be obvious; and (d) an indication of the number of syllables in some English forms where doubt or error might arise.

Towns and cities with a population of over 1,500 are indicated and for technical reasons this information is based on 1971 census figures.

The spelling of the names is that used by the Ordnance Survey of Ireland. The Irish spelling is standardized and there are no variants. In English, however, certain variant spellings are listed. In English-language contexts the names of certain towns have been changed during the present century. In most of these cases the change has not been one of spelling only, but rather a complete change to another name in an Irish-language form. As an aid to the pronunciation, the standard phonetic transcription of these Irish forms is given in the English list. Some of the former names are still in current use to an extent and these are listed in italic type with reference made to the new name. The postal authorities use variant English forms of many names. These, also, are listed in italic type and reference is made to the Ordnance Survey spelling. Apart from the two categories mentioned, no variant spellings are listed.

FOREWORD

This fifth issue of the Newsletter of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names outlines the continuation of the work undertaken, over the last several years, by countries where toponomic activity constitutes a serious preoccupation for governmental authorities. We wish to thank all those who have supplied the information which allows us to follow the technical evolution of the standardization of geographical names.

However, it is important that the work of the Conferences and of the Group of Experts on Geographical Names reaches even those countries that do not have the means to invest important resources in the different stages of the standardization of geographical names, from field collecting to computerized information and to the publication of directories. It is known that economic, social and environmental problems constitute the first urgency of these countries, as well as others. The knowledge of the territory and its resources is for each State a fundamental prerequisite of any positive action towards a sustainable development; thus, this knowledge leans on spatial basic indicators made up of geographical names of which standardization is essential. Not everywhere is this reality being perceived as evident; it is to this task, among others, that the Group of Experts must apply itself from now until 1992, the date of the next Conference of the United Nations on the standardization of geographical names.

The next Newsletter will deal with this problem, outlining the work accomplished by the different working groups of the Group of Experts. A preliminary report of their activities will be published.

Meanwhile, the national toponymic authorities will be contacted by the Secretariat in New York in order to collect more information on the state of standardization in the various Members of the United Nations, on the structural plan as well as on the prescriptive and operational ones.

We acknowledge with great satisfaction new initiatives such as the creation, in Guinea, of a commission for the standardization of geographical names, as well as in Gabon recently. It is also comforting to see the continuation of the training sessions on applied toponymy, as was the case in Cipanas, Indonesia (October 1989), as well as those planned for Latin America and East Africa in 1991. This is one of the actions with the most multiplier effect.

I thank all those who, through this Bulletin or otherwise, give their support to the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names.

Henri Dorion
President

Canada (Helen Kerfoot)

October 1989 - March 1990/Octobre 1989-Mars 1990

1. CANADIAN MEETINGS / RÉUNIONS CANADIENNES

The Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names, comprises 24 members (representing the provinces and territories, federal departments, and advisory committees).

Le Comité permanent canadien des noms géographiques compose de 24 membres (représentant les provinces et territoires du Canada ainsi que des ministères fédéraux et des comités consultatifs).

The newly formed Working Group on Automated Geographical Names Records met in February. Items discussed included:

Le nouveau Groupe de travail sur l'automatisation des fiches toponymiques s'est réuni en février. Les sujets discutés furent:

- standards of accuracy and completeness of records;
- upgrading and recording of feature extents;
- determining and recording feature extents;
- access to names data bases and data exchange;
- documentation;
- formal data base outputs.

- les normes pour l'exactitude et la complétude des données;
- l'amélioration des données;
- la définition et l'enregistrement des limites des données;
- l'accessibilité aux bases de données toponymiques et l'échange des données;
- la documentation;
- les produits conventionnels des bases de données.

Information on the CPCGN and Canada's geographical names may be obtained from the:

Les renseignements concernant le CPCNG et les noms géographiques du Canada peuvent être obtenus auprès du:

CPCGN Secretariat
650 - 615 Booth Street
Ottawa, Canada, K1A 0E9

Secrétariat du CPCNG
650 - 615, rue Booth
Ottawa, Canada, K1A 0E9

2. PUBLICATIONS / PUBLICATIONS

Publications of the CPCGN or its members / Publications du CPCNG ou de ses membres:

- La toponymie des Naskapis, Commission de toponymie du Québec, 1990. [Le troisième dossier à paraître sur le thème qui contiendra les noms de lieux amérindiens.]

Brochures / Dépliants:

- Naming Canada's Geographical Features and/et La dénomination des entités géographiques du Canada Advisory Committee on Glaciological and Alpine Nomenclature and CPCGN Secretariat / Comité consultatif nomenclature glaciologique et alpine et le Secrétariat du CPCNG.
- Gazetteer of Canada: Manitoba - Cumulative Supplement to December 31, 1989, Manitoba Department of Natural Resources

Newsletters / Communiqués:

- CANOMA 15(2) December / décembre 1989 (News and views on Canadian toponymy / Nouvelles et commentaires concernant la toponymie du Canada), CPCGN Secretariat / Secrétariat du CPCNG

PREAMBULO

Esta quinta edición del Boletín del Grupo de Expertos de las Naciones Unidas sobre los nombres geográficos informa de la continuación del trabajo emprendido hace ya varios años en países donde la actividad toponímica constituye una preocupación importante de las autoridades gubernamentales. Agradecemos a las personas que han proporcionado los datos nos que permiten seguir la evolución técnica de la normalización de los nombres geográficos.

Es importante que el trabajo realizado por las conferencias y el Grupo de Expertos sobre los nombres geográficos alcance también a los países que no tienen recursos suficientes para invertir de manera sustancial en las diferentes etapas de la normalización de los nombres geográficos, sea en la recolección de nombres en el terreno o en el tratamiento informático y la publicación de repertorios. Sabemos que problemas económicos, sociales y ambientales constituyen la primera preocupación de dichos países, de y seguramente los demás .

Por otra parte, para cada Estado el conocimiento de su territorio y el de sus recursos la condición fundamental de todo proyecto de desarrollo duradero. Ahora bien, este conocimiento se basa en indicadores espaciales básicos como lo son los nombres geográficos, cuya normalización se hace pues esencial. No se percibe en todas partes esa realidad como una evidencia, a esta tarea debe dedicarse, entre otras, el Grupo de Expertos de aquí a 1992, fecha de la próxima Conferencia de la Naciones Unidas sobre la normalización de los nombres geográficos.

El próximo Boletín tratará de dicha problemática apoyándose en el trabajo realizado por los diferentes grupos de trabajo del Grupo de Expertos, cuyas actividades serán presentadas en un informe preliminar.

Mientras tanto, la Secretaría de Nueva-York, emprenderá una acción directa acerca de la autoridades toponímicas nacionales, a fin de recopilar datos adicionales sobre el estado de la normalización de los nombres geográficos de los diferentes Miembros de la ONU, tanto a nivel estructural como a nivel normativo y operacional.

Acogemos con satisfacción la reciente iniciativa en Guinea, de crear una Comisión encargada de la normalización de los nombres geográficos, así como se hizo hace poco en Gabón. También es reconfortante ver que se siguen organizando cursillos de formación en toponimia aplicada como el de Cipanas, Indonesia (octubre de 1989), y como los que están previstos en América latina y en Africa del Este en 1991. Estas acciones han tenido un efecto multiplicador.

Agradezco a todos los que, a través de este Boletín y por otros medios, dan su apoyo al Grupo de Expertos de las Naciones Unidas sobre los nombres geográficos.

Henri Dorion
Presidente

3. TRAINING PROGRAMMES AND COURSES / FORMATION EN TOPONYMIE

- In October, Canada provided materials and an overview of toponymy in the country for the Toponymy Training Course, Indonesia.
- Currently the CPCGN Secretariat and the Commission de toponymie du Québec are collaborating to make available English translations of some of the papers presented in French at the Toponymy Training Course held in Québec in 1988.
- Durant le trimestre d'hiver 1990, l'Université Laval de Québec donne le cours "Introduction à la toponymie". Madame Cécyle Trépanier, professeure adjointe, est responsable de la session. Sur les 13 cours, neuf sont à caractère magistral, deux sont basés sur des exercices, et un autre consiste en une visite à la Commission de toponymie du Québec.

Les objectifs généraux de ce cours sont les suivants :

- (1) introduire les notions fondamentales en toponymie;
- (2) montrer l'importance de la toponymie dans l'analyse géographique des paysages naturels et anthropiques;
- (3) sensibiliser les élèves aux problèmes de la gestion de la toponymie.

Les objectifs spécifiques sont :

- (1) présenter les divers instruments de recherche en toponymie;
- (2) apprendre à faire une enquête sur le terrain selon une méthodologie des inventaires toponymiques : préparation, l'enquête, sa réalisation et son traitement;
- (3) apprendre à monter une base de données toponymiques pour la réalisation d'un travail en géographie historique.

4. DECISIONS ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES / DÉCISIONS SUR LES NOMS GÉOGRAPHIQUES

- Manitoba commemorated the internationally known author Gabrielle Roy by naming an island (Gabrielle-Roy Island) in vicinity of the community of Wawarshan, the local setting which forms a backdrop to Roy's literary works.
- Also in Manitoba, attention was given to the important task of standardizing community and neighbourhood names with the City of Winnipeg. Identification and application of such names is very important for consistency in local and national mapping purposes.

5. MISSION, RESPONSIBILITIES AND GOALS OF THE CPCGN / MISSION, RESPONSABILITÉS ET OBJECTIFS CPCNG

In 1989 the CPCGN developed a clear statement of its mission, responsibilities, goals and recommended actions for the 1990s. En 1989, le CPCNG a formulé clairement sa mission, ses principales responsabilités, ses objectifs, et les activités recommandées pour les années 1990.

CPCGN Mission Statement

As the national body coordinating all matters affecting geographical nomenclature in Canada, the CPCGN has a technical role to record and to approve, through the jurisdictions of its members, names for official use, in accordance with general principles and standards developed by the Committee; and a socio-cultural role to preserve and disseminate information on the historical and cultural significance of Canada's toponyms. The CPCGN is also the body which represents Canada internationally in activities relating to toponymic standards and practices outside the jurisdiction of National Defence.

Mission du CPCNG

En qualité d'autorité nationale chargée de coordonner l'activité toponymique touchant le Canada, le CPCNG a un rôle technique à jouer lorsqu'il s'agit de consigner et d'approuver, par le pouvoir discrétionnaire de ses membres, des noms destinés à un usage officiel, conformément aux normes et principes généraux qu'il a adoptés; et un rôle socio-culturel lorsqu'il s'agit de conserver et de diffuser de l'information sur le contenu historique et culturel des toponymes canadiens. Le CPCNG est également l'autorité qui représente le Canada dans le cadre des activités internationales ayant trait aux normes et pratiques toponymiques qui sont en dehors de la compétence du ministre de la Défense nationale.

3. National Gazetteer of Iran

The project for the gazetteer of Iran began in the years before the 1979 Revolution of Iran. It was resumed after a slight slow down soon after the revolution. Up to date no less than 83 volumes have been published, each corresponding with one 1:250,000 topographic sheet of Iran. Office work on 33 volumes is in progress and there remain only 23 sheets to be dealt with in the future. It is hoped that this project will be completed in 3 years' time, when a revision will begin under a new project.

4. Computerization

The N.G.O. has just acquired a computer unit and is presently engaged in planning a Geographical Information System that will greatly facilitate the systematic processing of geographical names.

5. New Publications

Recently two works of tremendous importance, as far as geographical names are concerned, have been published in Iran.

1. Gazetteer of Villages and Religious Places of Iran, by Dr. M.H. PapoliYazdi, Geography Dept., The Islamic Research Foundation, Mashhad 1989. This gazetteer contains 80,717 names of inhabited locations throughout the country.

The names are tabulated in alphabetical order with the following additional information:

- a) Province in which the locality is situated
- b) Latitude to the minutes
- c) Longitude to the minutes
- d) Elevation above sea level in meters.

2. GITA SHENASI-YE IRAN, Vol. 1 Mountains of Iran, by A. Jafari, Tehran, 1989. The book contains some 8,000 names of mountains that are shown on Iranian maps of 1:250,000, 1:50,000 etc. and an equal number of rivers, most of them seasonal, emanating from the names of mountains. The book is a valuable addition to the list of books on geographical names in Iran.

6. Regional Activities

Unfortunately, it has been possible, so far, to hold only a regional meeting mainly because of the present conditions in Afghanistan. A start has, however, been made by issuance of advance notices of a meeting of delegates from Iran, Pakistan and Afghanistan, probably late this year or early in 1991.

8. MEETING OF THE US/CANADA DIVISION

Representatives of the US/Canada Division met at the US Geological Survey in Reston, Virginia (USA) in November 1989 to discuss a range of topics. Attending the meeting were the Executive Secretaries of the CPCGN and the USBGN; the BGN Chairman and the BGN Executive Secretary for Domestic Names. The UNGEGN Chairman was also present. In the exchange of information several subjects of relevance to the UN were discussed:

- (1) Full support was expressed for the importance of the appointment of a replacement for Mr. de Henseler, who recently retired as UNGEGN Secretary. Several steps were formulated to encourage this process.
- (2) The US/Canada Division has undertaken to work on several projects to assist UNGEGN activities:
 - (a) to prepare a preliminary list of names and contact addresses of national names authorities;
 - (b) with the leadership of the UNGEGN Chair, to assemble documents towards the creation of "training kits" which can in future be made available for UN courses;
 - (c) through cooperation with the ad hoc UN Working Group of Evaluation, to review the nature of divisional work on the UN; and review the significance and utility of the existing UN resolutions from the first five conferences.
- (3) The two countries in the division have collaborated to reach an Understanding on the Treatment of Names of Transboundary Features. Canada has subsequently undertaken an inventory of named features along the boundary, with an aim to the eventual review and possible standardization by both jurisdictions of the names of some 300 of the 900 features, where at present the names are not consistently applied on both sides of the border.

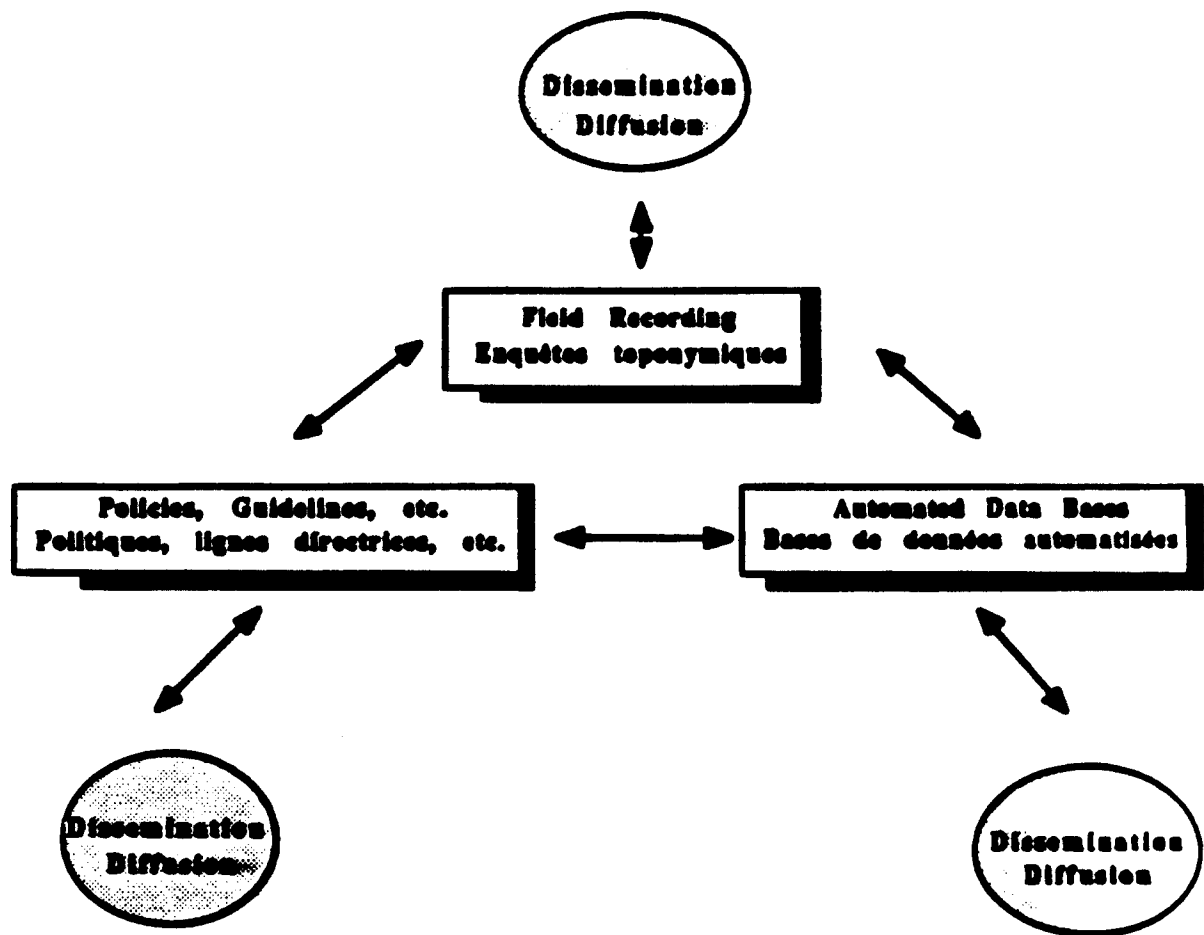
The United States and Canada cooperate on an ongoing basis on subjects of common interest, such as, automated toponymic records, geographical names used by the Amerindian population, treatment of names of features/places outside North America, functioning of national names authorities. Participation in each other's regular scheduled national meetings has proved to be an excellent way of increasing the mutual understanding of the toponymic questions - both similar and different - faced by each country.

Major goals for the CPCNG have been established and confirmed by members:

- 1) dissemination of accurate toponymic information;
- 2) achievement of basic field recording of geographical names across Canada;
- 3) automation of names data bases; and
- 4) development of national policies, principles and guidelines affecting official and unofficial names.

Les principaux objectifs du CPCNG qui ont été établis confirmés par les membres :

- 1) diffuser des renseignements toponymiques exacts;
- 2) réaliser, partout au Canada, des enquêtes toponymiques;
- 3) automatiser les bases de données toponymiques;
- 4) élaborer des politiques, des lignes directrices et de principes pour le traitement des toponymes officiels et non officiels, valables pour l'ensemble du Canada.



Basic field recording is the foundation stone upon which to build useful, accurate, unambiguous toponymic data bases for Canada, for use by government and the private sector in a wide variety of products. With names gathered in the field correctly reflecting the usage of English, French, indigenous and ethno-cultural groups in the country, policies and guidelines must be developed to give meaningful, consistent and authorized recognition of these names for cartographic and textual purposes, both inside and outside Canada. Throughout the process of documenting our toponymic heritage, dissemination of clear, accurate information, both on the Committee, its principles and procedures, and on the geographical names of the country are of great importance. Only by making available the information recorded, processed and made official, is the Committee meeting the ongoing responsibilities of its technical and cultural roles as guardian of the toponymy of Canada.

Cependant, ce sont les enquêtes toponymiques sur le terrain qui permettent de constituer des bases de données toponymiques utiles, précises et claires pour le Canada, et qui seront utilisées par le gouvernement et le secteur privé à de multiples fins. Parallèlement à la consignation précise des noms utilisés par des groupes francophones, anglophones, autochtones et ethno-culturels du pays, il faut élaborer des politiques et des lignes directrices pour la reconnaissance de ces toponymes et leur traitement cohérent sur les cartes et dans les publications au Canada et à l'étranger. Tout au long de ce processus de documentation de notre patrimoine toponymique, la diffusion de renseignements clairs et exacts, tant sur le CPCNG que sur ses principes et ses méthodes que sur les noms géographiques canadiens, revêt beaucoup d'importance. Pour s'acquiescer des responsabilités inhérentes aux aspects technique et culturel de sa mission de sauvegarde du patrimoine toponymique canadien, le CPCNG doit absolument diffuser les données consignées, traitées et officialisées.

NEWS FROM THE WORKING GROUP ON COURSES IN APPLIED TOPONYMY

A Workshop on applied toponymy was held in Cipanas, Indonesia, from 16-28 October 1989. This UNGEGN-Bakosurtanal Workshop, whose organizer and convenor was Mr. F.J. Ormeling, Sr., was successful thanks particularly to the following:

- 1) An attractive programme of lectures interspersed with discussions, technical and social excursions;
- 2) A strong international team of lecturers, with diverse specialties, consisting of 12 experts: 6 Indonesian and 6 foreign (Australian, British, Canadian, Dutch, Hungarian);
- 3) The diverse origin of student-participants (30 in total) including cartographers, educators, statisticians, linguists, journalists, hydrographers, etc., most of them actively took part in lively discussions;
- 4) The combined accommodation of lecturers and students in bungalow parks in the mountains of West Java, with joint meals, tea breaks, etc., facilitating contacts;
- 5) Technical visits to Bakosurtanal, to PPFK National Training Centre of Cartographers in Bandung and to private contractors, hired for large-scale mapping of parts of Sulawesi and Kalimantan;
- 6) The excellent work of the organization committee responsible for the programme, duplication and distribution of papers, visual and auditive aids, etc., and
- 7) The welcome support of toponymy documents supplied by the UN and UNGEGN-Chairman.

During the first week some 20 papers were presented. Discussion took place in the evening hours. During the second week 2.5 days were devoted to field work on the basis of blank 1:50,000 maps. The course was evaluated by both students and lecturers.

The workshop ended with the unanimous adoption of four recommendations, signed by Bakosurtanal and the UNGEGN convenor, strongly recommending the establishment of a National Advisory Board on geographical names in Indonesia. These recommendations will be channeled via Bakosurtanal to the Ministry of Home Affairs, which is responsible for geographical names under the law.

Finally it was decided by Bakosurtanal that joint papers will be published in the Workshop Proceedings.