



UNITED NATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT

UNITED NATIONS
GROUP OF EXPERTS ON
GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

Newsletter

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FOREWORD

As mentioned in Bulletin No. 5, we are preoccupied with identifying means which would permit us to reach and further involve the countries that are still only too little engaged in the standardization of geographical names. As of yet, we have not met this objective and additional efforts are needed in order to reach it.

Already, the holding of training sessions is a positive step in this direction. As of next year, no fewer than eight international training workshops will have been held in toponymic management. The approximately 200 people participating in these sessions constitute an efficient multiplier effect in the dedication of toponymic standardization. It is therefore important that we continue to develop this programme by holding practical training sessions and by preparing and distributing material on practical aspects of toponymic management.

But we must also diversify our means. We still believe that increased participation by national toponymic authorities and geographical divisions of the Group of Experts to this biannual bulletin is a privileged means of finding out not only about the experiences and successes obtained in this matter but, also, about the needs and deficiencies which international co-operation could help meet. In this regard, it is hardly necessary to recall that the Fifth United Nations Conference on the standardization of Geographical Names had adopted a resolution engaging the public authorities of the member countries to sustain, as needed, the activities of normalization

and to recognize that the normalization of geographical names holds an important place in the international programmes of co-operation and technical assistance (resolution no. 6). It is hoped that both the developing and the technically advanced countries will identify co-operation projects to meet this concern; a few examples already exist to this effect.

In order to advance more rapidly in this direction, it would be desirable to obtain precise information on the state of toponymic normalization in more member countries. The ad hoc Working Group on evaluation has started working on this, and we must find out if the important work done during the United Nations conferences on the standardization of geographical names and during the meetings of the Group of Experts has had a positive and noticeable effect on the improvement of toponymic situations of the member countries.

To support the ad hoc Committee in its work, a questionnaire will soon be distributed to all national toponymic authorities as a follow-up to resolution no. 12 of the last United Nations Conference, which recommended to gather information relative to the :

- 1) structures and functions of national toponymic authorities;
- 2) toponymic data;
- 3) contents and presentation of nomenclatures.

In advance, we thank the organizations and individuals who will promptly fill in this questionnaire, the results of which will be very important in directing the future work of the Group of Experts who, in turn, at the next conference in 1992, will have to formulate precise recommendations as to the involvement of the UN in the pursuit of its work on the standardization of geographical names.

Henri Dorion, President

United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

NOTE LIMINAIRE

Comme nous l'avions signalé dans le Bulletin numéro 5, nous sommes préoccupés par l'identification de moyens qui permettraient de rejoindre et d'impliquer davantage les pays encore peu engagés dans la normalisation des noms géographiques. Cet objectif n'est pas encore atteint et des efforts supplémentaires devront être faits pour y parvenir.

Dejà, la tenue de sessions de formation constitue un pas positif dans cette direction. L'an prochain, au moins de huit ateliers internationaux de formation en gestion toponymique auront été tenus. Les quelque 200 participants à ces sessions constituent des multiplicateurs efficaces de l'engagement de normalisation toponymique. Il importe donc de continuer à développer ce programme par des sessions de formation pratique et par la préparation et la distribution de documentation sur les aspects pratiques de la gestion toponymique.

Mais il faudra aussi diversifier les moyens. Nous croyons encore qu'une participation accrue des autorités toponymiques nationales et des divisions géographiques du Groupe d'experts à ce Bulletin semestriel constitue un moyen privilégié pour connaître les expériences et les réussites en la matière, mais aussi les besoins et lacunes que la coopération internationale pourrait contribuer à combler. Il n'est pas inutile à cet égard de rappeler que la cinquième Conférence des Nations Unies sur la normalisation des noms géographiques avait adopté une résolution engageant les pouvoirs publics des pays membres "à soutenir comme il convient les activités de normalisation et

à reconnaître que la normalisation des noms géographiques occupe une place importante dans les programmes de coopération et d'assistance technique internationales" (résolution no. 6). Il faut souhaiter que les pays en développement et les pays techniquement avancés identifient des projets de coopération qui rencontrent cette préoccupation; quelques exemples existent déjà à cet effet.

Pour vraiment avancer plus vite dans cette direction, il serait souhaitable de disposer d'une information plus précise sur l'état de la normalisation toponymique dans un plus de pays membres. C'est à cette tâche que s'est attelé le Groupe de travail ad hoc sur l'évaluation, car il importe de savoir si l'important travail réalisé lors des Conférences des Nations Unies consacrées à la normalisation des noms géographiques et lors des réunions du Groupe d'Experts a eu un effet positif et sensible sur l'amélioration des situation toponymiques des pays membres.

Pour appuyer le Comité ad hoc dans son travail, un questionnaire sera bientôt distribué à toutes les autorités toponymiques nationales afin de donner suite à la résolution no. 12 de la dernière Conférence des Nations Unies, qui recommandait de colliger l'information relative: 1) aux structures et fonctions des autorités toponymiques nationales; 2) aux banques de données toponymiques; 3) au contenu et à la présentation des nomenclatures.

D'avance, nous remercions les organismes et personnes qui auront la diligence de répondre rapidement à ce questionnaire, dont les résultats seront fort importants pour orienter les futurs travaux du Groupe d'experts qui, à son tour, devra formuler des recommandations précises à la prochaine Conférence de 1992 quant à la participation de l'ONU à la poursuite des travaux de normalisation des noms géographiques.

Henri Dorion, président

Group d'experts des Nations Unies pour les noms géographiques

NEWS FROM THE CHINA DIVISION

Zhou Dingguo (CHINA)

1. The Foreign Names Division of the China Committee on Geographical Names held a meeting in Xi'an, capital of Shanxi province, from 28 May to 8 June 1990 to discuss the instruction on translating place names from English, French, German, Russian, Spanish and Arabic into Chinese. Fourteen experts attended.
2. The China Committee on Geographical Names and the commercial press held meetings on publishing the dictionary of Geographical Names of China in Beijing from 6 to 9 June 1990. About 100 representatives attended. The volumes on Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Hebei, Taiwan provinces and Shanghai, as a part of the dictionary of Geographical Names of China, were published in early 1990. The volumes on Hunan province and Beijing are being printed.
3. A toponymy-oriented class run by the Department of History, Nanjing University

Toponymy is now springing up vigorously in China and a lot of professional staff is urgent needed. For this reason, in November 1988, the Ministry of Civil Affairs and Nanjing University reached an agreement on cultivating professionals in toponymy . It provides classifications

in the 87 and 88 classes of the History Department of the university, in order to train over 20 qualified professionals in toponymy each year. After that, in 1991 or 1992, it will be possible to establish a formal toponymy specialty and enroll undergraduates in the department.

Having been fully prepared, the first toponymy-oriented class began in September 1989. Seventeen juniors attending the class come from Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Anhui, Fujian, Jiangxi, Hunan, Hubein, Henan, Shanxi provinces and Ningxia, Guangxi autonomous regions. They plan to study 20 courses, take an operating practice and write a graduation thesis during the following two years. The courses they will study include some six types of topics. In geography, there are courses such as Natural Geography, Regional Economic Geography, Historical Geography and Cartography. In history, there are Chinese History, World History, Local Chronicles, Historic Datagraphy; Introduction to Archaeology. In Philology, there are General Linguistics, Modern Chinese, Basis of National Languages, Dialectology, the Second Foreign Language. In humane studies, there are Ethnology, Folklore; in new technique, there are Algorithm Language, Data Base of Place Names; in the specialized basic courses, there are Archivology, Introduction to Compilation, Toponymy, Textual Research and Translation of Place Names, Administration of Place Names, Dividing Principle of Administrative Areas. In addition, they are encouraged to take other courses as electives.

NEWS FROM THE NORDEN DIVISION

B. Helleland (Norway)

1. A new law for the standardization of place names on official maps, etc. was passed on 18 May 1990. It requires place names to be standardized on the basis of the local dialect, bearing in mind general orthographic rules. Place names in the minority languages (Finnish and Sami) are to be used when they are traditional. The law will come into force on 1 July 1991.

Responsibility for the authorization of place names lies with the administrative bodies that need to use them (e.g. State Office of Cartography, National Road Administration).

The name advisory services will be shared by the four universities of the country (Oslo, Bergen, Trondheim, Tromsø), each having two advisers with their own secretaries. In addition, a Sami/Finnish advisory service is to be established.

Unpopular decisions on place-name standardization will be handled by an appeal committee.

A central computerized place-name register containing all the place names in official use (maps, gazetteers etc.) is to be established and run by the State Office of Cartography.

2. In 1990, the State Office of Cartography published an Index to Names on 1:50,000 scale maps of Norway, Series M711 (Topographic Main Series), Volume I, South of 61^o. The volume contains 134,000 names.
(Available at Statens Kartverk, N-3500 Hønefoss. Price: NOK 360,-).

NEWS FROM THE USSR DIVISION

A.S. Zemcev (USSR)

Standardization of Geographical Names in the USSR

The existing directions of work on the standardization of geographical names have been retained in the period of 1989-1990 scientific and methodological elaboration of new rules (instructions) and renovation of old ones on the normalization of the Russian transcription of toponyms from the USSR and foreign people's languages, and work was also done to compile standard dictionaries of geographical names. Special efforts were made to improve the rules of transcription from national languages of Soviet republics, which is in turn linked to processes going on in the social and political life of the nation. As is known, some republics made their national language the official one after having proclaimed their sovereignty (Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Byelorussia and others), and Moldova (as the former Moldavia is now named) even changed its Cyrillic alphabet into Latin.

All this requires a re-appraisal and re-development of the existing principles and rules of transcribing names from the USSR national languages. In particular, instructions on transcribing names from the Byelorussian and Moldavian languages are being re-developed in conformity with the new linguistic situation, and also new rules on the Russian transcription of names from the North Caucasian peoples' languages. A renovated instruction on the Russian transcription of geographical names of the Latvian SSR was prepared and issued to improve the practice of Russian transcription of Latvian names (1989).

Work continues on the compilation of a standard Dictionary of Geographical Names of the USSR, which would include all the changes in geographical names of recent years. It will contain an indication of the administrative location of toponyms and the transcription of names in the official or Latin alphabet (for names of the Baltic republics and Moldova).

Several conferences were held on the initiative of the USSR Administration of Geodesy and Cartography to discuss matters of the standardization of geographical names in Novosibirsk (1989), and in Minsk, Moscow and Leningrad (1990).

In recent years republican bodies working on the standardization of names have stepped up their activity. Thus, the reference book "The Hydronyms of Latvia" has been published in Latvia (Riga, 1984-1986, 10 editions), the reference dictionary "Geographical Names of the Komi ASSR" has been printed in the Komi ASSR (Syktyvkar, 1990), reference books of the administrative territorial division of some regions of the Russian Federation have been published (Novgorod Region in 1989, Kirov Region in 1990). Kirghizia works on the establishment of an automated information retrieval system of geographical names. Moldova proposes to compile a reference dictionary of all the communities in the republic in the new national alphabet and Russian transcription.

Interest in toponymy has grown immeasurably in the country over these years, and public movements have sprung up in some republics and cities of the USSR demanding the return of the historical names of geographical objects. A scientific public Council on Toponymy has been set up and is successfully operating under the Soviet Cultural Fund. Several conferences have already been held on its initiative, including the one in Moscow in April 1990 on the topic "Historical Names as Cultural Monuments". The Council regards as one of its tasks the return of historical names, as well as their safeguarding and protection, including the formulation of regional and national safeguards (the so-called Redbooks). The efforts of the public are bearing tangible fruit - a number of cities and towns have had their former names back: Naberezhnye Chelny (formerly Breznev), Izevsk (formerly Ustinov), Rybinsk (formerly Andropov), Sarypovo (formerly Cernenko), Mariupol (formerly Zdanov) and Tver (formerly Kalinin). Local authorities have already decided to restore the historical names of the cities of Vladikavkaz (formerly Ordzonikidze) and Niznij Novgorod (formerly Gorkij).

The question has been raised of the return of the former names to Kirov (Vjatka), Kuibyshev (Samara), Zagorsk (Sergiev Posad) and others. A process to restore the ancient names of inner city locales (streets, alleyways and squares) in Moscow, Lvov and Baltic cities is going on.

A great deal of work on the development of toponymic studies and dissemination of toponymic knowledge has been done by various conferences. The Sixth Conference on the Onomastics of the Volga Region was held in Volgograd in 1989, one on Prospects of Development of Onomastics in Moscow in 1990 and one on the problems of geographical names of the Polessie district in Minsk in 1990.

As far as the standardization of the Russian transcription of foreign geographical names is concerned, such work goes on within the framework of the national geographical names service of the USSR Main Administration of Geodesy and Cartography. The "Recommendations on the Russian Transcription of Names of Inner-city Objects in France" (CNIIGAİK Information Bulletin, issue 1) were published in 1989. Dictionaries of geographical names of Hungary, the Republic of South Africa and undersea objects of the World Ocean area are present being prepared for publication.

A great deal of practical work is also being done to establish the Russian and Latin transcription of geographical names of the USSR and foreign countries for the 3rd edition of the World Atlas and other cartographic products issued by the USSR Administration of Geodesy and Cartography.

The CNIIGAİK is working on the establishment of an automated data base of USSR geographical names for personal computers. The standard recording of the name of an object includes both the name itself and additional accessory information (the recording number, the name of the object, the status of the name, the type of the object, geographical and administrative location, the co-ordinates of the object, the nomenclature of the topographical map sheet, other versions of the name and additional information). The programming makes it possible to make and renovate the DB recordings, retrieve, sort and print out information. User interface ensures the convenience of operating the DB and does not require special knowledge from the operator.

MARCH - AUGUST 1990 / MARS - AOÛT 1990

1. CANADIAN MEETINGS / RÉUNIONS CANADIENNES

The Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names, comprises 25 members (representing the provinces and territories, federal departments, and advisory committees).

Le Comité permanent canadien des noms géographiques se compose de 25 membres représentant les provinces et les territoires du Canada ainsi que des ministères fédéraux et des comités consultatifs.

In May, Henri Dorion accepted an appointment from the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources to chair the CPCGN for a three-year period.

Sur l'invitation du ministre de l'Énergie, des Mines et des Ressources, Henri Dorion a accepté, en mai, d'assurer la présidence du Comité pour une période de trois ans.

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

On peut obtenir des renseignements sur le CPCNG et les noms géographiques du Canada en s'adressant au :

CPCGN Secretariat
650 - 615 Booth Street
Ottawa, Canada, K1A OE9

Secrétariat du CPCNG
650 - 615, rue Booth
Ottawa, Canada K1A OE9

2. PUBLICATIONS

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

- **Guide toponymique du Québec**, Commission de toponymie du Québec, 178 pages.
- **Répertoire odonymique de la MRC de Matane**, Commission de toponymie du Québec, 69 pages.

Brochures / Dépliants

- **Canada - Geographical names and the Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names and/et Canada - Les noms géographiques et le Comité permanent canadien des noms géographiques**, CPCGN/CPCNG Ottawa.
- **Toponymic data bases of Canada / Bases de données toponymiques du Canada**, CPCGN Secretariat / Secrétariat du CPCNG, Ottawa.
- **Gazetteer of Canada: Manitoba - Cumulative Supplement to June 30, 1990**, Manitoba Department of Natural Resources.
- **Commission de toponymie**, Commission de toponymie du Québec, 16 pages.
- **Guide de dénomination - édifices, ouvrages d'art, autres constructions**. Comment procéder. Commission de toponymie du Québec.

Newsletters / Communiqués

- CANOMA 16(1) July / juillet 1990 (News and views on Canadian toponymy / Nouvelles et commentaires concernant la toponymie du Canada), CPCGN Secretariat / Secrétariat du CPCNG special edition for the centennial of the United States Board on Geographic Names, containing articles of relevance to both Canada and the United States / Numéro spécial sur le centenaire du United States Board on Geographic Names, composé d'articles sur des sujets d'intérêt commun au Canada et aux États-Unis.
- Commission de toponymie du Québec :
 - Le toponyme 7/3-4 février 1990; 8/1 juin 1990
 - TOPONYMIX 13 : *Québec, Québec, Jean Poirier*, 4 pages
14 : *Baptiser les lieux au Québec : une expérience-pilote*, Rémi Mayrand, 8 pages
 - Origine de février 1990 : *Rivière des Prairies et Évain*
juin 1990 : *Lac Meech et Granby*

Map of general interest / Carte d'intérêt général

- North Circumpolar Region, National Atlas of Canada 5th Edition, MCR 4141, 1:10 000 000 / La région circumpolaire - Nord, l'Atlas national du Canada, 5^e édition, MCR 4141F, 1 : 10 000 000.

3. TRAINING PROGRAMMES AND COURSES / FORMATION EN TOPONYMIE

- The CPCGN Secretariat has assembled English translations of some of the papers presented in French at the Toponymy Training Course held in Québec in 1988. This collection will be prepared as a toponymy training kit for use in future UNGEGN courses.
- Le cours «Introduction à la toponymie» est de nouveau offert au Département de géographie de l'Université Laval de Québec au trimestre d'automne 1990. Madame Cécyle Trépanier, professeur adjointe, est responsable de la session qui va du 6 septembre au 13 décembre 1990.

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

- La Commission de toponymie du Québec a procédé, en collaboration avec le ministère du Loisir, de la Chasse et de la Pêche, à une expérience-pilote portant sur la dénomination de plusieurs centaines d'entités géographiques (lacs, étangs, rivières, ruisseaux, rapides, baies, pointes, îles et monts) situées dans la réserve faunique de Sept-Îles--Port-Cartier. En réponse à une demande des autorités de ce ministère, la Commission s'est appliquée à baptiser 1 687 de ces lieux en ayant recours à des nouveaux procédés de création de noms. Ainsi, notamment, la Commission n'a pas craint d'utiliser de nombreux noms descriptifs et métaphoriques tirés principalement de poèmes de Roland Jomphe et de Gilles Vigneault, de même que des oeuvres poétiques de Camille Laverdière et de Michel Noël, d'un roman d'Yves Thériault et d'un ouvrage de Joseph-Charles Taché.

La Commission a rendu officiel le nouveau toponyme Lac U.S.A. pour souligner le 100^e anniversaire du United States Board on Geographic Names. La Commission de toponymie a voulu ainsi rendre hommage au premier organisme national structuré institué dans le monde pour gérer les noms de lieux géographiques de son territoire.

5. OTHER ACTIVITIES / AUTRES ACTIVITÉS

- Statistics Canada is in the process of matching municipal names in their data base with toponyms approved by the Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names, and included in the Canadian Geographical Names Data Base (CGNDB), formerly the National Toponymic Data Base (NTDB). The objective is to permit linkage of the municipal names by which Statistics Canada reports census and survey data with equivalent CPCGN approved toponyms on the CGNDB that are included in gazetteers, atlases, topographic and thematic maps. So far work has been completed for four of Canada's twelve provinces and territories.

- As of May, the Northwest Territories has in place a new policy providing for a multi-level decision-making process for geographical naming within the framework of the Government of the NWT. *Local names* for geographical features not having official names can now be approved by the Northwest Territories member on the Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names; *new names, name changes, and multiple name* decisions will be made by the Minister of Culture and Communications; and *controversial name* decisions for *major geographical features or populated places* will be made by the Executive Council.

- Using the National Topographic System grid, the CPCGN has recently drafted a map to indicate the areas of Canada where field collection of locally-used toponyms has been completed. This will act as a framework for the Committee to plan to move towards its goal for the achievement of basic field recording of geographical names across Canada.

- The CPCGN currently has in hand several initiatives addressing the geographical names used by the native peoples of Canada.
 - a) The development of a practical guide addressing the collection and recording of native toponyms.
 - b) The preparation of an annotated bibliography of some 800 items concerned with native toponyms.
 - c) The development of guidelines concerning the writing of native toponyms. So far, the CPCGN and the Government of the Northwest Territories have cooperated on a pilot project towards determining possible options for standardizing written forms of Athapaskan toponyms. For a sample area in the valley of the Mackenzie River, locally-used names have been displayed in various ways on a 1:50 000 National Topographic System map. Responses to an associated questionnaire sent to different types of map users will assist the CPCGN in developing policy recommendations for a systematic approach to the official recognition of written forms of native toponyms. The use of diacritics, the language of generic terms, and the need to standardize names in more than one language will be considered.

Naftali Kadmon, Convenor

Interim Report by the Convenor

UN Glossary No. 330, Technical Terminology Employed in the Standardization of Geographical Names (1) produced under the direction of M. Jean Ramondeau (France), was presented to the UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names in September 1984. At the Fifth Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names in 1987, a revised edition was presented (2) various experts remarked that this important contribution to the science and practice of toponymy could be made even more useful through a critical review of its contents.

At the Fourteenth Session of the Group of Experts in 1989, a paper by Israel (3) listed four specific topics for revision of the Glossary. These were:

1. Uniformity of definitions
2. Precision
3. Redundancy
4. Completeness of the list of terms.

A working paper by the East, Central and South-East Europe Division also addressed some of these problems.

The Group of Experts therefore decided at its 14th Session to set up a new working group to deal with terminology in the standardization of geographical names (see para. 94 in the report. The following were named as its members: Ms. Narhi, Ms. Kerfoot, Messrs. Ficor, Gonzalez, Hornansky, Lapierre, Lewis, Payne, Raper and Sievers, with Mr. N. Kadmon as Convenor. Work was to be conducted at first on an English version. After the initial meeting of the Working Group in Terminology (WGT) in May 1989, the Convenor issued a first Report to members and invited them to tender their proposals for additions, corrections and deletions of terms, with 1 November 1989 as first target date. This was later extended to 1 April 1990, by which date a quite extensive body of material was received. Most active had been the Dutch and German Speaking Division, which sent in a very detailed list of proposals for revised terms, additions and deletions. At later dates further contributions were received from Canada, the United States and Czechoslovakia.

The Convenor generated a preliminary computerized data base, the "List of Terms", on an IBM-compatible PC (personal computer), using the very widely known LOTUS 1-2-3 software which, at a later stage, could make this data base easily accessible to potential users on practically every PC around the world. At the time of writing (1 August 1990) the List of Terms includes 315 entries of which 91 are cross-references (the majority being word order reversals), as against 181 entries with 59 cross-references in Glossary 330/REV. 2.

Processing entails two main stages. The first concerns inclusion in the List of Terms and requires a preliminary decision on whether a term will be recognized as an independent lexical entry, or appear under a different entry, with a cross-reference. At the second stage the actual definitions are formulated. This is the more demanding part of the work, since both precision and relative brevity must be attained. Furthermore, definitions should be as wide and inclusive as possible. One of the more common stumbling blocks was the reference of many proposed definitions to Western languages and scripts only, disregarding e.g. syllabic and logographic scripts or Semitic and East and South-East Asian languages. The Convenor addressed this problem in processing the definitions. In practice, work on both stages outlined above proceeded simultaneously as material was received.

All entries in Glossary 330 were revised where necessary, in order to enhance both precision and standardization. All proposals received to date have been processed to Stage 1. All those that were received prior to the target date of 1 April 1990 have been processed to Stage 2.

It is intended to hold a meeting of the Working Group on Terminology and to present a further report to the UN Group of Expert on Geographical Names at the Fifteenth Session in 1991.

References

- [1] UN Document ST/CS/SER.F/330 of 24 September 1984.
- [2] UN Document ST/CS/SER.F/330/Rev.2 of 24 July 1987.
- [3] UNGEGN, 14th Session, May 1989, Working Paper No. 4.
- [4] UNGEGN, 14th Session, May 1989, Working Paper No. 57.
- [5] UN Document ESA/RT/C/GN/12 of 12 July 1989.

Henri Dorion, Convenor

The proceedings of the Workshop on Toponymy held in Cipanas, Indonesia, 16-28 October 1989 have been published by Bakosurtanal, Cibinong, Indonesia. This 200 page book is a collection of 23 contributions on different aspects of national and international standardization of geographical names. This valuable document, edited by Drs. T.R. Tichelaar, is an important contribution to the basic corpus which the coming training sessions in applied toponymy will refer to and rely upon.

Likewise, the secretariat of the Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names has translated into English 12 of the most basic documents which were produced for the International Workshop on Toponymy which was held in Québec, Canada in August 1988. The proceedings of this workshop were published in French: Stage international de formation en toponymie, Commission de toponymie du Québec, 1989, 493 pages. The English condensed version will be issued in March 1991 and will be available for the next training session organized by the Working Group.

A training session to be held in a European country by June 1991 is now under preparation. It will be open to English speaking participants from African countries.

Thanks to the support of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History and (PAIGH), a third course on field-collection and office treatment of geographical names was held in Santiago, Chile, in November 1990. The usefulness of co-operation between the PAIGH and the UNGEGN had been recognized by Resolution no. 10 of the Fifth United Nations Conference held in Montreal in 1987.

These initiatives are noteworthy because training future toponymy managers now is the key-stone of the whole issue of standardization of geographical names at both the national and international levels. It is good news to hear about the vigorous development of toponymy programs in Chinese universities; this is an example to be followed in accordance with the acknowledgment of the importance of such programmes by the Group of experts.

SEMINAR ON APPLIED TOPONYMY IN INDONESIA

F.J. Ormeling Sr. (The Netherlands)

From 16-28 October 1989 the UNGEGN Division Asia, Southeast/Pacific Southwest held its second Seminar on Applied Toponymy. Like the first one in 1982 the meeting was designed by Bakosurtanal, the National Coordination Agency for Surveys and Mapping in Indonesia. It was organized in close ~~co-operation~~ with the U N Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEKN) and with the ITC, Netherlands.

The seminar which was attended by some 40 participants, mostly Indonesian, took place in Cipanas, a mountain resort in West-Java, where students and lecturers were accommodated in an attractive conference centre. Participants were recruited from a variety of government agencies and institutions involved in geographical name problems in areas such as Transmigration, Forestry, Irrigation, Statistics, Planning and Topographic and Hydrographic Mapping. The lecturers, 12 in total, came from universities and from various national committees on geographical names. Among them were Australian, British, Canadian, Dutch, Hungarian and Indonesian experts.

The assistance of UNGEGN included a presentation to all participants of a "document kit" containing selected papers on name standardization mainly of UN and US origin. The Canadian Committee on Geographical Names assisted by the

Commission de Toponymie de Québec sent a second document kit containing valuable Canadian material. In accordance with UNGEGN recommendations, a small exhibition was set up in the conference centre showing maps relevant to name problems, gazetteers and related literature.

The program consisted of two parts. During the first week lectures were presented on various aspects of geographical name standardization. In agreement with the wishes of the host country, next to more technical matters, ample attention was paid to general introductory subjects such as the terminology in toponymy; the role of geographical names for cartographic and non-cartographic purposes; the diversity of languages in Indonesia; social and economic benefits of name standardization; UN achievements in this field; exonyms; regional languages. etc. As far as the technical aspects were concerned, in view of their increasing importance, subjects such as the automated processing of standardized geographical names and their incorporation into GIS systems were dealt with extensively.

The second week was devoted to practical work, i.e., to field collection of names. For that purpose participants were divided into teams of three. Each team, accompanied by an interpreter and provided with blank 1:25,000 maps, was sent into a section of the predominantly Soendanese-speaking West-Javanese mountain area. After three days of field work, difficulties encountered were reviewed and subjects such as the task of national name authorities and gazetteers were discussed in depth.

The seminar was concluded by the presentation of two documents: 1) A renewed written recommendation to Bakosurtanal (the first one having been made in 1982) to promote the establishment of a National Indonesian Names Authority in accordance with the recommendations of the UN Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names; and 2) an evaluation of the seminar. Though technical minutiae could be improved, particularly during the field work period, the general feeling was that the seminar was well planned and had been highly satisfactory and as such served its purpose. Particularly the sequence of theoretical subjects preceded by an introduction into toponymic terminology and followed by practical field collection was considered effective. At the closing session participants were presented with a certificate of attendance on behalf of UNGEGN and Bakosurtanal, while Professor Jakub Rais, Director of the latter agency, announced the intention to publish Proceedings of the Seminar containing the papers presented to serve as a reference work for participants.

ADVANCED INFORMATION ON THE XVTH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
GROUP OF EXPERTS ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

Kadri ElAraby, UNGEGN SECRETARY

The Fifteenth Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names will take place from 16 to 20 September 1991 in Geneva, Switzerland.

The official invitation will be sent to the governments shortly.

Your timely preparation and mailing of reports and participation in the work of the session would be greatly appreciated.

DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FIFTEENTH SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS GROUP OF EXPERTS ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

1. Opening of the session
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Report of the Chairman
4. Report of the Secretary
5. Reports of the Division
6. Reports of the Liaison Officers
7. Regional meetings
8. Report of the Working Group on Evaluation
 - (a) Factual assessment of the implementation of the resolutions of the five United Nations Conferences on the standardization of geographical names.
 - (b) Action plan
 - (c) Communication plan
 - (d) Co-ordination with international organizations
9. Report of the Working Group on Courses in Applied Toponymy
10. Report of the Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers
11. Concise national gazetteers
12. Toponymic guidelines
13. Report of the Working Group on Terminology
14. Report of the Working Group on Romanization Systems
15. Country names
16. Standardization of multilingual areas

17. Exonyms
18. Sixth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical
Names
19. Sixteenth session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical
Names
20. Other matters
21. Adoption of the report