

**Twenty-seventh session
30 July and 10 August 2012, New York**

Item 4 of the Provisional Agenda

Reports of the liaison officers

**Establishment of an IGU/ICA Commission/Working Group
on Toponymy ***

* Prepared by: Paulo Márcio Leal de Menezes (Brazil), Vice President International Cartographic Association, ICA-Chair IGU/ICA Commission/Working Group on Toponymy; Cosimo Palagiano (Italy), IGU-Chair IGU/ICA Commission/Working Group on Toponymy; Peter Jordan (Austria), Austrian Academy of Sciences and Chair, Austrian Board on Geographical Names; Ferjan Ormeling (Netherlands), Utrecht University

Abstract

A Commission/Working Group on Toponymy has jointly been established by the International Geographical Union (IGU) and the International Cartographic Association (ICA). in 2011.

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 new Commission/Working Group will present itself to a wider public for the first time in the framework of the International Geographical Conference (IGC) in Cologne [Köln], 26-30 August 2012.

Establishment of an IGU/ICA Commission/Working Group on Toponymy

Following preparatory meetings already during the 26th UNGEGN Session in Vienna in May 2011 and the International Cartographic Conference in Paris in July 2011, the final brickstones 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 rank of a commission from the IGU side and had nominated Cosimo PALAGIANO (Italy, cosimopalagiano2@gmail.com) IGU chair of this commission. In its Vienna meeting the ICA Executive Board finally approved the establishment of this joint institution in the rank of 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 2015 in Rio de Janeiro.

So the joint Commission/Working Group will be co-chaired by a representative of IGU and 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 Conference (IGC) in Cologne [Köln], 26-30 August 2012, where – besides a business meeting (27 August, 17.30-19.00) – it organizes a paper session on “Place names as markers and ingredients of space-related identity” composed of four panels with 15 papers on Monday, 27 August, 08.00 to 17.30 (chair: Peter JORDAN, co-chair: Cosimo PALAGIANO). For more details consult the Congress website (www.igc2012.org).

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