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English

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Reports of the liaison officers

Joint ICA/IGU Commission on Toponymy

Submitted by the Joint ICA/IGU Commission on Toponymy **

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Summary

The report highlights the activities of the Joint ICA/IGU Commission on Toponymy since the 29th Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names in Bangkok in 2016. The Commission is a joint venture of the two global umbrella institutions of cartography and geography, i.e. the International Cartographic Association (ICA) and the International Geographical Union (IGU) and has been founded in 2011. Its main goal is to foster toponymic research in the fields of geography and cartography complementary to multidisciplinary fora such as the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) and the International Council of Onomastic Sciences (ICOS). To this end it organizes scientific events and publishes proceedings. After April 2016, the Commission thus organized or co-organized 4 symposia and sessions in the framework of conferences in 3 countries and at 3 continents. It also supported the publication of two proceedings, a third being in elaboration. The Commission's flagship project is establishing a geographical names consortium of several universities, where according to a common curriculum approved by the Commission and with lecturers (among others) from the Commission courses in toponymy are offered.

Activities of the Joint ICA/IGU Commission on Toponymy since April 2016

The report highlights the activities of the Joint ICA/IGU Commission on Toponymy since the 29th Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names in Bangkok in 2016.

1 Organizational aspects

Affiliation, foundation, terms of reference

The Commission is a joint venture of the two global umbrella institutions of cartography and geography, i.e. the International Cartographic Association (ICA) and the International Geographical Union (IGU) and has been founded in 2011 according to the relevant statutes as a commission on the IGU side and a working group the ICA side. After having been evaluated, its status was by the ICA General Assembly held during the 27th International Cartographic Conference, Rio de Janeiro, 23-28 August 2015, elevated to the rank of a commission also on ICA side.

Terms of reference:

- To act jointly with IGU/ICA fostering the geographic and cartographic research on all fields involving toponymy;
- to disseminate the scientific knowledge on processing and use of toponyms within geography and cartography;
- to verify the use of other sciences' toponymy concepts, such as anthropology, linguistics and others, in favour of cartography and geography;
- to maintain contacts and scientific exchange with UNGEGN and ICOS, such as by organizing joint events;
- to support and encourage the elaboration and publication of gazetteers, toponymic data files and toponymic reference systems (such as EuroGeoNames);
- to organize regional joint IGU/ICA events (workshops, symposia and others) with IGU and ICA members;
- to participate in IGU and ICA Regional and Main Conferences;
- to organize and maintain a website to facilitate contact between researchers in the field of toponymy and disseminate source material and literature available to the community and the general public alike;
- to organize and publish books, chapters and encourage paper publishing in specialized journals and the International Journal of Cartography.

Website: www.igu-icatoponymy.org

Chairs:

ICA Chair: 2011-2017 Paulo DE MENEZES (Brazil), 2017- Peter JORDAN (Austria)

IGU Chair: 2011- Cosimo PALAGIANO (Italy)

Common Vice-chair: 2015-2017 Peter JORDAN, 2017- Paulo DE MENEZES

Membership

As of 19 May 2017, the Commission had 8 full (steering board) members from 8 countries and 102 corresponding members from 36 countries.

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2 Symposia and sessions up to April 2016

Up to April 2016, the Commission organized or co-organized 12 symposia and sessions in the framework of conferences in 8 countries and at 4 continents. They are listed below in temporal sequence.

- (1) Session “Place names as markers and ingredients of space-related identity” in the framework of the **32nd International Geographical Congress, Cologne [Köln], Germany, 26-30 August 2012**
- (2) Session in the framework of the **IGU Regional Conference Kyoto, Japan, 4-9 August 2013**
- (3) Seminar “Historical maps, atlas maps, and toponymy”, Leipzig, Germany, **21-23 August 2013**
- (4) Session in the framework of the **26th International Cartographic Conference (ICC) Dresden, Germany, 26-30 August 2013**
- (5) Session in the framework of the **4th EuGeo Congress Rome [Roma], Italy, 5-7 September 2013**
- (6) Session in the framework of the **IGU Regional Conference Cracow [Kraków], Poland, 18-22 August 2014**
- (7) **Symposium on place-name changes, Rome [Roma], Italy, 17-18 November 2014**
- (8) Session in the framework of the **IGU Regional Conference, Moscow [Moskva], Russian Federation, 17-22 August 2015**
- (9) **Symposium on Atlases, Toponymy and the History of Cartography, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 20-21 August 2015**
- (10) Sessions in the framework of the **27th International Cartographic Conference, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 23-28 August 2015**
- (11) Session in the framework of **EuGeo Budapest, Hungary, 30 August – 2 September 2015**
- (12) **Symposium “Place names, diversity and heritage”, Clarens, Free State, South Africa, 17-18 September 2015**

3 Symposia and sessions since April 2016

From April 2016 to August 2017, the Commission organized or co-organized 2 symposia and 2 sessions in the framework of conferences in 3 countries and at 3 continents. They are listed below in temporal sequence.

- (13) In the framework of the **33rd International Geographical Congress, Beijing, China, 21-25 August 2016**, in a session on “Place names as social constructs”, organized by Peter JORDAN and Cosimo PALAGIANO, 20 papers were presented by the following speakers (in the sequence of presentation): Cosimo PALAGIANO (Italy), Hyo Hyun SUNG et al. (all Republic of Korea), Matthew HATVANY (Canada), Gábor GERCSÁK (Hungary), Tomasz WITES (Poland), Rassem KHAMAISI (Israel), Riemer REINSMA (Netherlands), Peter RAPER (South Africa), Peter JORDAN (Austria), Wojciech WŁOSKOWICZ (Poland), Dash DOLJIN & Nyamtseren MANDAKH (both Mongolia), Zhu ZHENHUA & Zhang HONGYAN (both China), Dong Po DENG (China) & Peter KANG (Taiwan, China), Zhaoliang ZHANGSHENGSHENG (China), Huang WENCHUAN (Taiwan, China), Sungjae CHOO & Heesu KIM (both Republic of Korea), Heesu KIM & Sungjae CHOO, Kriti KANAUIA (India), Je Hun RYU (Republic of Korea), Madina TUSSUPBEKOVA et al. (all Kazakhstan).
- (14) **International Panamerican Symposium on Toponymy, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 3-5 May 2017**, organized on behalf of the Joint ICA/IGU Commission on Toponymy by Paulo DE MENEZES, the Panamerican Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH), the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ) and the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE). The main themes were toponymy on maps, toponymy and education, indigenous and minority toponymy. The event had 92 registered participants from 8 countries (Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Portugal, Argentina, Dominican Republic, South Africa and Italy), 30 papers were presented.
- (15) **ICC Joint Pre-Conference Workshop: Charting the Cosmos of Cartography: History – Names – Atlases, Washington, D.C., USA, 28-30 June 2017**, organized by the ICA Commission on the History of Cartography (Chair: Imre DEMHARDT, USA), in co-operation with the ICA Commission on Atlases (represented by Eric LOSANG, Germany), and the ICA Commission Toponymy (represented by Peter JORDAN, Austria). In the sequence of presentation toponymic papers were presented by Derek ALDERMAN (keynote, USA), Peter JORDAN (Austria), Cosimo PALAGIANO (Italy), Paulo DE MENEZES (Brazil), Peter RAPER (South Africa), Elri LIEBENBERG (South Africa), Albina APRIADSA & Ari CAHYONO (both Indonesia), Hyo Hyun SUNG & Sejin AHN (Republic of Korea) and Yaïves FERLAND (Canada). A selection of papers will be published in the Cartographic Journal.
- (16) In the framework of the **28th International Cartographic Conference, Washington D.C., USA, 2-7 July 2017**, the Joint ICA/IGU Commission on Toponymy sponsored three toponymic sessions with in total 9 papers: Session 1: Place-name changes, toponymic fieldwork, metaphoric use of place names (Chair: Peter JORDAN) with papers presented by Younghoon KIM (Republic of Korea), Mohsen DHIEB (Tunisia), and Riemer REINSMA (Netherlands); Session 2: Place names as cultural heritage, indigenous and minority names (Chair: Cosimo PALAGIANO) with papers presented by Přemysl MÁCHA (Czechia), Pedro PARICA (Chile), Paulo DE MENEZES (Brazil), and Tainá LAETA (Brazil); Session 3: Name-placement on maps, names on ancient maps and for planetary features (Chair: Paulo DE MENEZES) with papers presented by Guillaume TOUYA (France), Cosimo PALAGIANO (Italy), and Henrik HARGITAI (Hungary).

3 Publications

Proceedings published before April 2016:

- (1) *Semestrare di Studi e Ricerche di Geografia*, XXV, 2, Roma 2013: special issue including toponymy papers presented at the IGU Regional Conference Kyoto, Japan, 4-9 August 2013. (<http://www.semestrare-geografia.org/index.php/sdg/issue/view/3>)
- (2) Peter JORDAN, Paul WOODMAN (eds.) (2016), *Place-Name Changes. Proceedings of the Symposion in Rome, 17-18 November 2014* (= Name & Place, 5). Hamburg, Dr. Kovač, 492 p. ISBN 978-3-8300-8423-5. (<http://www.verlagdrkovac.de/978-3-8300-8423-5.htm>)

Proceedings published after April 2016:

- (3) Jana MOSER (ed.) (2016), *Joint Commission Seminar on Historical Maps, Atlases and Toponymy* (= forum IfL, 30). Leipzig, Leibniz-Institut für Länderkunde, 134 p. ISBN 978-3-86082-101-5. (<http://www.ifl-leipzig.de/de/publikationen/zeitschriften-und-reihen/forum-ifl.html>)
- (4) *Nomina Africana, Journal of the Names Society of Southern Africa*, 30, 1, 2016: special issue containing 10 papers presented at the Symposion “Place names, diversity and heritage”, Clarens, Free State, South Africa, 17-18 September 2015.

Proceedings in elaboration:

Symposium on Atlases, Toponymy and the History of Cartography, Rio de Janeiro, 20-21 August 2015: to be published as an individual book, edited by Ana RESENDE on behalf of the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE) and the Swiss Statistical Office.

4 Flagship project

Establishing a geographical names consortium of several universities, where according to a common curriculum approved by the Commission and with lectors (among others) from the Commission courses in toponymy are offered. This project evolves from an idea and initiative of Peter RAPER and Theodorus DU PLESSIS (both South Africa) and is to start with some universities in Southern Africa and later to spread to other countries and continents. This project conforms to the task “to disseminate the scientific knowledge on processing and use of toponyms within geography and cartography” in the Commission’s terms of reference. It has been initiated also with the consent and kind support of the convener of the UNGEGN Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy, Ferjan ORMELING, and will complement UNGEGN courses, which will also be continued.