



UNITED NATIONS GROUP OF EXPERTS
ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

Information Bulletin

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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)

The *Information Bulletin of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names* (formerly UNGEEN Newsletter) is issued twice a year by the Secretariat of the Group. The Secretariat is established within the Statistics Division (UNSD), Department for Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), Secretariat of the United Nations. It publishes contributions/reports from the Experts of the Group, its Linguistic/ Geographical Divisions and its Working Groups. Contributions for the Information Bulletin can only be considered when they are made available in digital form. They should be sent to the following address:

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26th Session of UNGEGN

Message from the Chairperson

Dear Colleagues,

We are now very close to the 26th UNGEGN Session and much preparation is in hand to make this a very successful Session! I would like to draw your attention to some aspects of the plans for the week of 2-6 May.

Length of Session and documents received

As we all realize, the 26th UNGEGN Session will take place over a five-day period, a time shorter than we have had before to address the comprehensive agenda, to hear special presentations, and to compile and approve the report of the Session! So far, shortly after the deadline for paper submissions, the Secretariat has received some 80 working papers relating to various agenda items.

Working Papers on the UNGEGN website, but not distributed in paper copy

In response to suggestions of UNGEGN experts, all the documents for the Session will be available digitally on the UNGEGN website (at <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/ungegnSession26.html>) several weeks before the Session, and will NOT be available for general distribution in paper copy in Vienna. However, wireless access to the Internet is available in the UN facilities in Vienna, in case you are missing your own digital or paper copies of particular documents.

Reports of Divisions

The time available for discussion will be divided between agenda items, and as we have experienced previously, it may be necessary for the smooth running of the meeting for the documents on some issues to be summarized as a group, rather than presented individually. This was previously undertaken very successfully by Paul Woodman and Botolv Helleland for the Reports of Countries and the Reports of Divisions at the Ninth UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names in New York in 2007.

On this occasion, as recommended by the Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation, we have decided that, at least, the Reports of Divisions will be handled in collective summary form. This does not in any way degrade the very important work being undertaken by UNGEGN's Divisions, but rather provides opportunity for discussion of common themes/problems/solutions of several divisions, rather than only processing information that is already presented in the documents.

Presentation of Working Papers

To make the Session as effective as possible, we should be taking a more “problem-oriented” approach. Experts are respectfully requested to limit the length of their presentations to less than five minutes, and highlight the main learning or discussion points. If the document is for “information purposes”, its presentation should not be necessary.

If you wish to show a few projected images in association with your Working Paper, this must be discussed with the UNGEGN Secretariat and the Working Group Convenor ahead of the day of your paper. For longer Powerpoint presentations, arrangements should be made to show these to smaller interest groups at meetings outside the plenary session.

Meetings of Working Groups and Divisions

Ms. Vilma Frani of the UNGEGN Secretariat has prepared and made available on the UNGEGN website, a form that can be used to request meeting time and space for any group:

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/ungegnSession26Add.html>.

The schedule of these meetings (at lunchtime, as well as before and after sessions) is also available on the same webpage. You are encouraged to book early to avoid disappointment!

“Special Presentations” and Workshops

At this time we are in the process of arranging some special presentations and workshops of general interest to UNGEGN experts. We hope to have the following for you during the Vienna Session:

UN initiatives:

- UN Global Geospatial Information Management (UN GGIM)
- UN Spatial Data Infrastructure (UNSDI) – new UN gazetteer framework project
- UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) – report from the CODIST II session in Addis Ababa and GeoNym gazetteer for Africa

Technical/media matters:

- UNICODE activities
- Internet Committee on Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) – latest news
- Google updates

Cultural initiatives:

- International Council of Indigenous Place Names (ICIPN) – first conference 2010 and new Council activities

National standardization issues:

- Promoting the case for national standardization, especially in Africa
- Organizing a national geographical names authority
- Crowd-sourced data and the activities of national geographical names standardization

If you have questions about the forthcoming Session, please do not hesitate to contact me or the Secretariat. I look forward to meeting you in Vienna in just a few weeks from now!

Helen Kerfoot
UNEGN Chair
Ottawa, Canada
(hkerfoot@nrcan.gc.ca)

[You will find earlier discussions about optimizing our time at the UNGEGN Session in *Bulletin* 38, pages 4-5 and *Bulletin* 39, page 4.]

Poster exhibition in front of the Conference hall

Working groups and divisions, as well as national delegations, are invited to contribute to a poster exhibition related to the standardization of geographical names, to be displayed in front of the Conference hall during the Session in Vienna.

Contributions may be composed of a series of posters on a certain theme or of individual posters. They will be required as pdf or jpg files, and the dimensions should not exceed 0.8m wide x 1.5m high (approximately 30 in. x 60 in.).

All materials are subject to review by the UNGEGN Secretariat and must conform to UN practices. Please send them to the UNGEGN Secretariat (Sabine Warschburger [warschburger@un.org], Vilma Frani [frani@un.org]) by 18th April 2011 at the latest. We need sufficient time to print them off and arrange them.

Contacts: Peter Jordan
(peter.jordan@oeaw.ac.at) and
Helen Kerfoot (hkerfoot@nrcan.gc.ca)

Quelques brefs renseignements sur le déroulement de l'organisation du Concours de toponymie et des modalités d'évaluation

A la suite du succès obtenu lors du premier concours organisé au profit des pays africains par l'UNGEgn en 2009, sur la problématique de la toponymie d'une façon générale et de sa gestion d'une façon particulière, il a été décidé de reconduire cette initiative pour cette année.

Ce nouveau concours réservé également, aux pays africains, vise d'une part à promouvoir l'intérêt porté aux noms géographiques, à leur importance, au rôle qu'ils jouent en matière d'environnement et de connaissance du territoire et d'autre part à sensibiliser les pays africains sur l'importance de la normalisation car ces noms ne peuvent remplir ce rôle que s'ils sont écrits d'une façon correcte et précise. C'est là l'objectif poursuivi par le GENUNG

Les textes soumis seront évalués, comme pour le premier concours, par respectivement :

Pour les textes écrits en Arabe : Monsieur le Professeur Mohsen Diab de l'Université de Sfax (Tunisie)

Pour les textes écrits en français : Monsieur le Professeur Henri Dorion de l'Université Laval (Canada)

Pour les textes écrits en anglais : Monsieur le Professeur Ferjan Ormeling de l'Université d'Utrecht (Hollande)

Les résultats du concours seront annoncés durant les travaux de la 26 Session du GENUNG qui se tiendront à Vienne du 2 au 6 mai 2011.

A l'issue des résultats, les gagnants recevront l'un des documents suivants :

1) Ouvrages :

- a) L'ouvrage de Naftali Kadmon, Toponymy, the lore, laws and language of geographical names, New York, Vantage Press, 2002 ;
- b) L'ouvrage classique de Henri Dorion et Jean Poirier, Lexique des termes utiles à l'étude des noms de lieux, Québec, Presses de l'Université Laval, 1976 ;
- c) L'Ouvrage en langue arabe et Française de Farid Benramdane et Brahim Atoui Nomination et dénomination des noms de lieux, de tribus et de personnes en Algérie, ' القبائل و الأماكن في الجزائر أسماء الأسماء و التسمية, الأشخاص, و Alger, Éditions CRASC

- b) Bulletin des Sciences géographique, publié par l'INCT/ Algérie ;
- c) Insaniyat, publié par le CRASC / Algérie.

3) Un jeu de documents récents du GENUNG relatifs à la normalisation des noms géographiques.

(Vous trouverez tous les renseignements relatifs à ce concours sur le site Web de l'UNGEGN : unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo)

Le Président du Task Team for Africa
Brahim ATOUI
brahim.atoui@hotmail.fr

2) Un abonnement de deux ans à l'un des périodiques suivants :

- a) Nomina Africana, publié en République sud-africaine ;

Creating a Toponymy Commission within the International Geographical Union (IGU)

Several individuals have already expressed their interest in the creation of a Toponymy Commission within the structure of the IGU. IGU Conferences are held regularly in different parts of the world (the next will be in Santiago, Chile in November 2011) and a number of UNGEGN experts participate.

We need to know if you are interested in being an active member of an IGU Toponymy Commission, so that we can see if this is a viable proposal!

UNGEGN experts interested and wishing to be active in such a group should **contact**: Ki-Suk Lee (leekisuk@snu.ac.kr) and Helen Kerfoot (hkerfoot@nrcan.gc.ca), as soon as possible!

News from the Secretariat

1. Note verbale and credentials

The note verbale, the provisional agenda (GEGN/26/1) and information about documentation (GEGN/26/2) were sent to all Permanent Missions to the United Nations on 19 November 2010. A generic copy is posted online at <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/ungegnSession26Add.html#noteverbale>. If you need a country specific copy, please contact the Secretariat.

Members of the Group of Experts, who will attend the session and are kindly requested to communicate the composition of their delegations by means of a note verbale on official letterhead (“credentials”) to the Secretary of the Group of Experts, Mr. Timur Alasaniya (c/o Ms. Sophie Aloe (e-mail aloe@un.org, tel. 1 (212) 963-2183; room IN-0609; fax 1 (212) 963-5305)). Please note that only scanned copies of note verbales will be accepted by e-mail.

2. Registration

If you have registered your participation with the Secretariat you might have received an e-mail from “ConferenceRegistration” in Vienna, which either invites you to upload a photo (if none is on record in the Vienna Conference Centre) or simply informs you that you have been registered as a participant for the 26th Session of UNGEGN (if a photo of you is on file in Vienna). We strongly encourage you to submit a photo online if requested as it will greatly facilitate the registration process on Monday morning: Participants, who have a photo on file in Vienna (either by submitting it online or by

virtue of having visited the VIC in previous years), will be able to pick up their conference badges Monday morning without having to line up for formal registration and photo taking.

Registration (including pick up of pre-prepared badges for participants who submitted a photo) will start Monday morning at 8:00. Please note that the meeting will start at 10:30 on Monday and at 10:00 Tuesday to Friday.

3. Documentation for the Session

Most GEGN-documents and more than 80 Working Papers have been received by the Secretariat and posted online in mid-March.

Documents are available by agenda item on the Session’s website at: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/ungegnSession26.html> More documents will be posted as they become available.

Late papers are still welcome but you are encouraged to send them as soon as possible, so participants have enough time to download and read them.

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.

On the other hand, if your delegation wishes to distribute material at the Session, you need to bring sufficient copies to the meeting. Such material may be shipped to:

Document Reproduction and Distribution Unit
Attention: Mr. Levon Boghossian
for UNGEGN (2-6.05.2011)
UNOV
POB 500
A-1400 Vienna
Street address
Vienna International Centre
Wagramer Strasse 5
1400 Vienna/Austria

4. Side events

Side events, such as meetings of Working Groups and Divisions should be registered using our “meeting room sign up sheet”. Requests will be accommodated on a first come first served basis.

Please check our website regularly for updates of the “Table with side events”:
<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/ungegnSession26Add.html>

5. Other useful information

Information on the Vienna International Centre, the city of Vienna and hotels in Vienna has been posted online at <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/ungegnSession26.html> .

Vilma and I are looking forward to meeting you in Vienna!

Sabine Warschburger
UNGEGN Secretariat
E-Mail: warschburger@un.org

In Memoriam



Jacob Rais 1928-2011

Born 18/6/1928, at an early age Jacob Rais was already confronted with a multitude of languages: to his native Acehnese and the Malay lingua franca spoken in the busy seaport Sabang where his father worked at the shipyard, would be added Dutch when he entered primary school, and in secondary school, during World War II, he also learned Japanese, next to English and German. As a true Indonesian nationalist he would later indicate Bahasa Indonesia as his mother tongue.

For a university education he had to move to Java, where in Bandung he took the exam of geodetic engineer in 1955 at what is now ITB, the primary technical university of Indonesia. In 1956 he became head of the cadastral office in Semarang, where he also participated in founding a second technical university, Diponegoro State University, of which he later served as rector (1965-67).

MSc degree in geodetic science in 1969 at Ohio State University. Back in Indonesia in 1970 he became professor of geodesy at ITB and simultaneously deputy director of Bakosurtanal, the national coordinating agency for surveys and mapping, and served from 1984-1994 as its director. He was then also nominated a member of Indonesia's Academy of Sciences. In 1988 he was nominated honorary fellow of ITC, Netherlands, and in 1994 he received an honorary degree of Doctor of Science from the University of New South Wales in Sydney.

As his areas of specialization Prof Rais would list geomatic engineering, coastal resource management, boundary delimitation and toponymy. After his retirement from Bakosurtanal he embarked on a whole new career in which he combined his areas of expertise: the Coastal Resource Management Project within the framework of the regional autonomy law (2004) in which he coordinated the campaign to develop Indonesia's uninhabited and unnamed islands, and also started a naming campaign for them.

But his interest in toponymy started earlier: in 1982, as director of Bakosurtanal he facilitated the first international UNGEGN toponymy course, in Cisarua, starting a proud tradition, as he also saw to follow-up courses in Cipanas (1989) and Malang (2005). He presented a toponymy course at ITB, and only recently with his close colleague Widodo Edy Santoso wrote a textbook on toponymy (Toponimi Indonesia, 2007), and also assisted in setting up regional toponymy courses in the framework

of decentralised regional toponymic programmes. He first attended UNGEGN meetings in 1986, and continued to do so; in Nairobi in 2009 he gave a presentation on the island naming programme. Using scientific definitions and modern equipment the supposedly 17.000 Indonesian islands were reduced to a firm 12.000, all of them named.

My best memories of Prof Rais stem from the 2005 UNGEGN toponymy course which he coconvened and supervised; he actively participated in it, leading the convoy of minivans during the fieldwork, busily communicating on his mobile phone with the field party leaders, as a general, just as he had coordinated the fleet of small crafts during his small island mission in the previous years. We serenaded him at the final party at the end of the fieldwork, singing “Oom Jacob”, to the tune of the French nursery rhyme song “Frère Jacques”. He loved singing and asked to bring a CD with Dutch songs he still remembered from his childhood, the next time we would meet. But that was not to happen.

Prof Rais died 28 March 2011, aged 83, on the day he was expected to go to Riau, as member of the National team for the Standardisation of Topographical names, on a verification and validation mission of the administrative area names of Riau province. As a role model for the way scientists should serve their country and as the driving force behind toponymic projects in Indonesia he will be sorely missed.

Ferjan Ormeling
(f.ormeling@geo.uu.nl)

From the Divisions

Africa Central Division

Report on the Training Course on Standardization of Geographical names, Yaoundé, 22 - 27 November 2010

1- Background and rationale

Every geographical object has a personality and conventionally, an identity. Personality refers to the physical existence (material, immaterial) of the object whereas identity refers to the descriptive specifications which go with it. The most commonly descriptor used to enable a subject have the first idea of a spatial entity (locality, topography, and river) is irrefutably the name. The United Nations Organisation (UNO) is interested in all the names given to objects that are found on earth. These are considered as names of places or geographical names. To this effect, the UNO set up a task force dubbed “United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN)”.

A geographical name is defined as an appellation given by authorities (political, traditional, religious) to an entity which can be located on a given space within a system of reference using geographical facts (longitude, latitude) or Cartesian data. This entity can be a monument, a school, a road, a park or a region.

Geographical names unquestionably have several advantages in various domains of public life. To name just a few examples, they help a lot in relief and search operations, management of disasters,

elections and surveys. They are also very useful in national and international communications, tourism, transport, commerce, regional and environmental planning, postal services, social services, cartography, science and technology.

However, the use of geographical names gives rise to a few problems. Not only are the same names used to refer to different places, but also, in a multilingual context, different names at times refer to the same place. It has also been noticed that during natural disasters, there are delays in the conveyance of food supply and assistance due to lack of information on the names of location and inaccurate geographical referencing of names. In addition, changes of names witnessed in many countries, the abundance and multiplication of confusing and ambiguous names do not make access to information easy in the current context of globalisation. In order to avoid inconveniences resulting from these problems, geographical names have to be standardized. To this effect, there is need for every country to resolutely undertake the standardization process of names of places by setting up specific tools for the management of toponymy and a dictionary of geographical names in keeping with relevant existing norms.

For the United Nations, the organisation of training workshops is the first stage in this process. It is in this background that the National Institute of Cartography, on behalf of the Central Africa Division and in collaboration with the Task Team for Africa and the UNGEGN, decided to organise a continuing training workshop from 22 to 27 November 2010 in Yaoundé, Cameroon

2- Objectives of the workshop

After the workshops organised in Tunis in 2007 for North Africa, in 2008 in Ouagadougou for West Africa, in May 2000 in Nairobi for English-speaking East Africa, the Yaoundé workshop billed for 22 to 27 November 2010 aims mainly at:

- bringing together stakeholders of various domains and services in charge of undertaking a sound reflection on standardisation of geographical names in Central Africa;
- disseminating through teaching, the scientific and technical know-how on the standardisation process of geographical names;
- creating national awareness on the contribution of a consistent dictionary of geographical names to the cultural and socio-economic development of countries of this part of the continent;
- providing participants with relevant skills to set up in each country an operational office for toponymy.

3- Organisation of the workshop¹

Le lundi 22 novembre 2010 a vu l'ouverture de l'atelier de formation par Mme le

Secrétaire Général du Ministère de la Recherche Scientifique et de l'Innovation. Cette cérémonie protocolaire, a été ponctuée par plusieurs allocutions :

Le Directeur Général de l'INC après avoir présenté les missions de son institution, a exprimé sa fierté d'organiser une telle cérémonie, dont l'impact sur les activités de recherche géographique et de production cartographique est considérable.

Le Président de la «Task Team for Africa » pour sa part a présenté la situation peu reluisante de la normalisation des noms géographiques en Afrique et en a appelé à une véritable prise de conscience des efforts à déployer pour rattraper le retard accusé.

Quant à la Présidente du GENUNG, après avoir présenté le groupe qu'elle dirige au sein des Nations Unies, elle a fait un diagnostic de la situation générale des noms géographiques dans le monde et a insisté sur le rôle des noms de lieux pour le développement socioéconomique et culturel des nations. Pour elle, des noms géographiques consistants et sans ambiguïtés sont un élément fondamental des bases de données spatiales d'un pays en même temps qu'ils font partie intégrante de l'histoire, de la culture et de l'identité d'une nation.

Le discours de Mme le Secrétaire Général est venu mettre un terme à cette phase protocolaire. Dans son propos, elle a tenu à remercier le GENUNG pour le choix porté sur le Cameroun, choix qui constitue un réel motif de fierté nationale. Elle a ensuite souligné les attentes du Gouvernement en matière de normalisation des noms géographiques et a exprimé le vœu que cette formation débouche sur la mise en place des mécanismes appropriés d'utilisation et de nomination correcte des noms de lieux.

¹ Note by the Secretariat: This article is printed as submitted by the author: first part in English and second part in French.



Madame le Secrétaire Général du Ministère de la Recherche Scientifique prononçant le discours d'ouverture

3.1 Lessons taught

Pendant six jours, une quarantaine de participants venus du Cameroun, du Congo Démocratique et du Tchad ont suivi neuf sessions de cours animées méthodiquement par plus d'une dizaine d'intervenants. Concernant les enseignements dispensés, les travaux ont abordé tour à tour les fonctions des noms géographiques, le processus de normalisation des toponymes, les autorités toponymiques dans le monde, le traitement des noms géographiques, les travaux de terrain et les méthodes de mise en place des bases de données toponymiques.

Functions of geographical names

La fonction première des noms géographiques est d'identifier un lieu de façon non équivoque, grâce à l'unicité du nom et la stabilité graphique de sa forme. Elle vise également la conservation de l'information ou de la valeur patrimoniale que les noms de lieux recèlent. Les présentations de Ferjan Ormeling et Helen Kerfoot ont montré que les noms géographiques assurent de nombreuses fonctions dans la vie publique. Ces fonctions sont à chercher dans les domaines de la communication, de la culture, de l'éducation ou de l'histoire.

The naming process

Les exposés sur le processus de normalisation des toponymes quant à eux, ont analysé les principales étapes du chantier de la normalisation. Il ressort que le processus de la normalisation des noms de lieux comprend cinq étapes : la collecte, le traitement, la reconnaissance, la modification et la diffusion.

National names authorities

Les présentations concernant les autorités toponymiques dans le monde ont été axées, d'une part, sur la présentation du GENUNG, et d'autre part, sur l'analyse des modèles de gestion des agences nationales ainsi que les fonctions et les responsabilités qu'elles exercent. Il ressort des exposés de H. Kerfoot et F. Ormeling que la normalisation s'inscrit dans les activités courantes des agences nationales de toponymie, qu'il s'agisse des opérations relatives à l'inventaire, au traitement, à l'officialisation, à la diffusion et au contrôle des toponymes, ou de la normalisation de la terminologie géographique.

Office processing of geographical names

Les unités de formation sur le traitement des noms géographiques présentés par Kerfoot et Brahim Atoui ont fait ressortir les méthodes de collecte des données, de stockage, de valorisation et de diffusion des informations toponymiques. Après la collecte des noms sur le terrain ou par des sources écrites, ils sont introduits dans une base de données dont il faut en maîtriser les champs et les procédures. La reconnaissance officielle et les modifications précèdent la diffusion sous formes diverses (Répertoires, Base de données, cartes, atlas, Web, DVD, matériel pédagogique, guide manuel, dépliant, bulletin d'information, Panneaux routiers, etc.)

Field work preparation

Les interventions sur la préparation des travaux de terrain se sont appesanties sur la problématique du terrain, les caractéristiques des langues locales et sur les aspects géographiques de la région à visiter. Ils ont été présentés par F. Ormeling et deux experts locaux notamment MM. Bindom Bilounga et Michel Simeu.

Field work forms

Les exposés de Tapsoba et Ormeling ont permis de prendre connaissance des aspects pratiques de la phase préparatoire, notamment l'établissement du questionnaire et du cahier de terrain. Ces présentations ont été complétées par celle de F. Isseri sur la localisation des données au GPS. Pour clore cette session P.G. Zaccheddu a anticipé sur l'usage prévu des données à collecter.

Data bases

Concernant enfin les exposés sur les méthodes de mise en place des bases de données toponymiques ou systèmes d'information toponymique (SIT), l'expert des Nations Unies, P.G. Zaccheddu, après avoir rappelé les fondamentaux sur les bases de données a adopté la pédagogie du « faire faire » qui s'est traduite par une session de travaux pratiques combinant la prise en main des logiciels de SGBD et de SIG.

Au total, les exposés ont déroulé un chapelet de connaissances à la fois théoriques et pratiques sur la normalisation des noms de lieu. Ils ont été tous très riches en illustrations cartographiques, graphiques, statistiques et chronologiques. Dans un tel contexte, nous pouvons affirmer que l'atelier de formation de Yaoundé sur la normalisation des noms géographiques est

sans doute l'un des plus aboutis au plan pédagogique.

3.2 Fieldwork at Mfou

La journée de Jeudi 25 novembre 2010 a été consacrée à l'exercice pratique de collecte de noms de lieux sur le terrain. La sortie a conduit l'ensemble de la délégation (encadreurs et stagiaires) dans la localité de Mfou à 19 km de Yaoundé dans le département de la Mefou-et-Afamba. Après une courte visite de courtoisie effectuée auprès du Préfet de la Mefou-et-Afamba et du Maire de la commune de Mfou, l'équipe s'est dirigée tour à tour dans trois secteurs bien différenciés de la ville, avant de se rendre à la chefferie de Mfou-village. Outre des questions sur les limites de la commune, des villages et des cantons, le sens des noms, la graphie originelle et leur évolution, la position de nombreux lieux-dits a été enregistrée au GPS et nombreuses prises de vue effectuées. La visite de terrain a permis aux participants de se familiariser avec les réalités de la collecte des données toponymiques.

L'ensemble de l'équipe sur le terrain



Photo de famille devant la résidence du chef du quartier Elig Owono à Mfou

4- Related activities

L'atelier de formation sur la normalisation des noms géographiques a été l'occasion

pour les instances africaines et régionales en charge de la question de se retrouver dans le cadre de réunions restreintes. C'est ainsi que l'on a assisté tour à tour à la réunion de la Task Team for Africa et à celle de la Division Afrique centrale du GENUNG. L'on retient de ces premières assises en terre camerounaises essentiellement que l'opportunité doit être saisie pour réfléchir sur les stratégies à mettre en place pour l'Afrique centrale. Les participants ont été largement informés des activités du GENUNG. Ils ont en outre désigné un vice-président de la Division Afrique Centrale en la personne de Pax Mbuyi Mucici de la République Démocratique du Congo. Ils ont décidé en outre de créer des contacts dans chaque pays pour des échanges périodiques de sensibilisation et d'information des pays membres et d'accélérer les échanges entre les divisions qui sont le socle de la Task Team Afrique. Enfin, ils ont convenu de l'élaboration d'un fichier de localités des pays membres, de la proposition des sujets de recherche sur la toponymie et ont affirmé leur détermination à saisir toutes les opportunités de réunions sur la géo information pour parler des toponymes.

Some members of the Task Team for Africa



De gauche à droite, le tchadien Goltob Ngaressesem, le camerounais Michel Simeu Kamdem, président de la Division Afrique Centrale, l'algérien Brahim Atoui président de la Task Team for Africa, le burkinabe Claude Tapsoba, président de la Divisions Afrique de l'Ouest et le congolais Pax Mbuyi Mucici, Vice-président de la Division Afrique centrale

Sur un tout autre plan, toujours en marge des travaux de l'atelier, un concours d'imagination a été organisé parmi les stagiaires pour déterminer à travers des photos prises dans le monde entier et dans diverses langues, les lieux qu'ils désignent. Ce concours a été remporté par Monsieur Idrissou Alioum, enseignant à l'université de Yaoundé 1.

5- Closing session

Présidée par Madame le Secrétaire Général du Ministère de la Recherche Scientifique et de l'Innovation, la cérémonie de clôture s'est articulée autour de trois points. La présidente du "Groupe d'Experts des Nations Unies pour les Noms Géographiques" (GENUNG) a, avant de remercier le gouvernement camerounais, à travers le Ministère de la Recherche, pour l'initiative de l'atelier, procédé à la publication des résultats du jeu concours organisé à l'intention des stagiaires. La parole est ensuite revenue à la Division Afrique Centrale pour tour à tour, remettre solennellement à chaque participant, les attestations de participation et des CD-Rom contenant les différentes communications, distribuer des cadeaux souvenirs aux experts et aux participants de nationalité étrangère et enfin, présenter le rapport général des travaux. Dans son discours de clôture, Madame le Secrétaire Général du Ministère de la Recherche Scientifique et de l'Innovation a tenu à remercier très sincèrement, au nom du gouvernement, le Groupe d'Experts des Nations Unies pour les Noms Géographiques (GENUNG) pour avoir édifié les stagiaires sur la normalisation des noms de lieux. Elle a également remercié l'Institut National de Cartographie et la Division Afrique Centrale du GENUNG pour leur initiative louable avant d'exhorter les stagiaires camerounais à mettre rapidement en pratique ce qu'ils ont appris durant les six jours de formation.

Parmi les recommandations, l'on retient principalement la mise en place effective de structures opérationnelles de gestion des noms géographiques dans chaque pays de l'Afrique centrale, et le renforcement de la coopération entre la Commission Economique des Nations Unies pour

l'Afrique (CEA) et le GENUNG à travers la Task Team for Africa.

Michel Simeu-Kamdem

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East Central and South-East Europe Division

Joint meeting of East Central and South-East Europe Division, Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers, and EuroGeoGraphics

UNGEEN - EuroGeographics joint meetings

From 9th to 11th February 2011 in Zagreb, Croatia were held joint meetings:

- 20th Session of the East Central and South-East Europe Division (ECSEED),
- Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers (WG TDFG),
- EuroGeoGraphics - EuroGeoNames workshop (EGN).

In the past ECSEED hosted more joint meetings. In the Table 1 is an overview of the joint meetings. More ECSEED countries are also members of EuroGeoNames (EGN) system of European geographical names infrastructure (see Fig. 1), and there is a tradition of joint activities between ECSEED and EGN.

Table 1. Overview of the ECSEED joint meetings

| Nr. | Joint meeting | Location | Year | Date |
|-----|--|-----------|------|-----------------|
| 1 | ECSEED and Soviet Union Division Session | Budapest | 1975 | 13-16 January |
| 2 | 16th ECSEED Session and Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers | Ljubljana | 2001 | 18-20 April |
| 3 | 18th ECSEED Session and Working Group on Exonyms and the EuroGeoNames Project | Prague | 2007 | 16-18 May |
| 4 | 20th ECSEED Session and Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers and EuroGeoNames workshop | Zagreb | 2011 | 9 – 11 February |

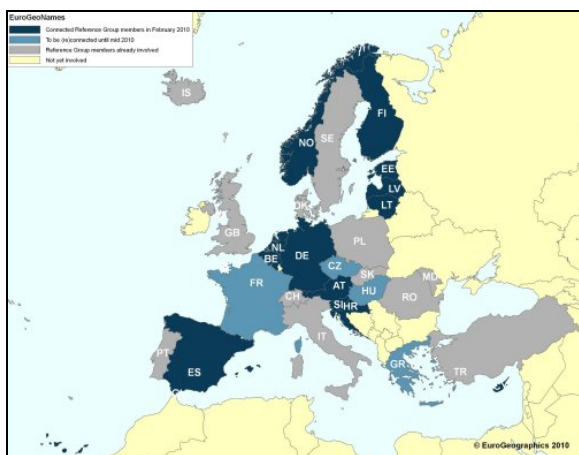


Figure 1. ECSEED Division member countries and EuroGeoNames countries.

The 20th ECSEED Session was attended by 43 participants. There were 37 participants from 12 ECSEED Division countries and 5 from non ECSEED countries: Austria (1), Canada (1), Estonia (1), United Kingdom (1) and USA (1). There are 30 documents submitted to the Session. The complete list of the participants, list of the documents, agendas, program and other details about joint meetings are given on the ECSEED website <http://ungegn.cgi.hr>.

At the 20th ECSEED Session was concluded that Slovenia will be the next ECSEED Division chairing country.

New edition of ECSEED overview document is introduced on the Session. It is

giving the main information about Division and its member countries. It is introducing ECSEED Division and division member countries. It has been prepared by Division experts. The first edition of the ECSEED overview document was introduced at the 19th ECSEED Session in 2008 in Zagreb (Doc Symbol: ECSEED/Session.19/2008/1). The second, corrected edition was introduced at the 20th ECSEED Session in 2011 in Zagreb (Document Symbol: ECSEED/Session.20/2011/1). It could be downloaded from Division web site http://ungegn.cgi.hr/ungegn20/list_of_documents20.html. The latest version can be downloaded from the Division main website <http://ungegn.cgi.hr/index.html> as "ECSEED overview".

ECSEED Division website <http://ungegn.cgi.hr/> is the main Division information point. It is continuously updated and changed. After the website is established, the changes are made after discussions on the Division Sessions and informal meetings and after national experts' contributions. The division website is central point for getting data about: ECSEED, the main national data, standardizations bodies, experts, organization of ECSEED Sessions and other Division activities. The page "Experts/Delegates" has been changed mostly, and it is the most accurate ECSEED Experts/Delegates list.

To find documents/reports/contributions submitted to previous ECSEED Division Sessions is not an easy task. In order to systematize ECSEED Division documentation at the 19th ECSEED meeting (2008, Zagreb) the unified identification of the ECSEED Division documents and the unified first page of the ECSEED Division documents were introduced. Using this system each division document, submitted to the Division Session can be uniquely identified.

The Twentieth Session of the ECSEED of the UNGEGN made the following recognitions, conclusions and recommendations:

- (a) The Session recognized positive achievements and the progress made in the work of geographical names standardization by participating countries.
- (b) The submitted national reports and documents contain a lot of information referring the various items of the agenda, and the Session recognized the importance of the submitted documents by evaluating the progress made by participating countries.
- (c) The Session recognized the importance of geographical names, and the necessity to continue the important work on standardization of geographical names and to encourage the countries that have not yet done so to establish national geographical names boards.
- (d) The ECSEE Division Chairman recommends the usage of a system of single layout for the ECSEED documents with the unified first page on the ECSEED documents and unique index number.
- (e) The Session concluded that the countries will send national contributions (half-page reports) to the Division Chairman to implement them in to the ECSEE Division Report of 26th UNGEGN Session.
- (f) The Session encourages the countries of the Division to file their credentials as soon as possible with the United Nations in New York for participation at the 26th UNGEGN Session in Vienna in May 2011.
- (g) The ECSEE Division Chairman recommends continuous changing

and updating of the ECSEED countries data in East Central and South-East Europe Division overview document.

- (h) The Session notes the value of the Division web site and suggests its continuity and ongoing updating. The Session recommends the inclusion of documents on the history of the Division.
- (i) The Session concluded that Slovenia will be the next ECSEE Division chairing country, after the next UN Conference on standardization on Geographical Names in 2012.
- (j) The next informal meeting of the Division will be held during the 26th UNGEGN Session in Vienna.



Figure 2. Participants.

WG TDFG meeting was chairing Convenor of the Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers of the UNGEGN Pier-Giorgio Zaccheddu. The first presentation was given by UNGEGN Chair Kerfoot on the topics UN global geographical information committee (GGIM) and the upcoming UN global forum. The presentation was introduction in the topics UNGEGN and other UN bodies. During the Meeting was discoursed UNECA initiative, SALB, EGN and The Location Lingo projects and Unicode, OGC i ISO standardization. More about WG TDFG

meeting will be given by Convenor of the Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers of the UNGEGN Pier-Giorgio Zaccheddu.

EuroGeoGraphics - EuroGeoNames workshop (EGN) was chaired by David Overton EuroGeographics Services Development Manager. Development of EuroGeoNames (EGN) was presented at the meeting. More presentations introduced practical procedures of connecting countries in to the EuroGeoNames service. Presentation ESDIN: A European Spatial Data Infrastructure introduced INSPIRE projects and EuroGeoNames as integral part of it. During the EGN workshop some of the

countries showed interest to connect in to the EuroGeoNames service.

More details about joint meetings, documents and presentations could be found on the meeting websites <http://ungegn.cgi.hr/ungegn20/session20.html>.

The joint meetings in Zagreb was interesting event because having together spirit of global, regional and national standardization of geographical names.

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Norden Division

News from the Norden Division Meeting in Uppsala, October 29, 2010

As announced in the latest UNGEGN-Bulletin, the last Norden Division Meeting was scheduled for October 29., 2010, and to be held in Uppsala, Sweden, in conjunction with a meeting in the UNGEGN Working Group on Terminology and a joint WG/divisional symposium, October 27.–29. The Norden Division Meeting discussed a number of points relevant to the standardization of geographical names datasets in the Nordic countries provided by the National Mapping Agencies. Additionally, the coming UNGEGN Session in Vienna in May 2011, as well as the nature and extent of contribution by the Norden Division and its members. The major issue of the meeting was, however, the question of the implementation of INSPIRE and EuroGeoNames services in the Norden

Division area and its National Mapping Authorities, particularly in which way this work contributed to the standardization of the available geographical names datasets provided by the National Mapping Authorities.

Additionally, reports from meetings in Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation and the Working Group on Publicity and Funding were presented, as was the news of the new UN-expert group: Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management – GGIM, and the possibilities of funding persons from other UNGEGN member countries to enable them to participate in the coming UNGEGN-Session.

New Internet applications from the Norden Division area

Also in connection with the arrangement in Uppsala, October 27.–29., a number of new and updated homepages and internet applications were presented:

- The Danish Place-Names Commission has developed a new application – www.stednavne.info – of authorized geographical names, i.e. geographical names whose written form has been sanctioned by the commission. The application contains some 25.000 geographical names and allows for various kinds of searches, including searches limited to specific administrative areas (municipal as well as parish) as well as to specific feature types. The search results can be viewed in list-form as well as on an interactive map.
- The Norwegian Mapping Authority has updated its interactive application with georeferenced geographical names, now called Norgeskart (Map of Norway): www.norgeskart.no. The new application features a number of different maps, current as well as historical, as well as an improved map search facility.
- An update of the Swedish geographical names homepage KartSök och Ortnamn (MapSearch and Place-Names) by the national Swedish Mapping Authority,

Lantmäteriet, is also under way and due for release in 2011.

Additionally, attention must also be drawn to the new Faroese application www.kortal.fo, at which it is possible to search 14.000 geographical Faroese names and view their positions on interactive maps. The site is Faroese only.

Norway hopes to fund participation from other UNGEGN member countries

The Norwegian Mapping Authority/ the Ministry of the Environment has asked the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to help fund three participants from UNGEGN member countries who are otherwise unable to attend the 26. UNGEGN Session in Vienna owing to a lack of funding possibilities.

Next Norden Division Meeting

The next Norden Division Meeting will be held in connection with the 26. UNGEGN Session in Vienna, Austria, 2.-6. May 2011. The meeting agenda is at present not complete but subjects concerning the status of INSPIRE and EuroGeoNames services in the Nordic Division area, as well as developments with the Norden Division Homepage will be discussed.

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Portuguese-speaking Division

Report of the Portuguese-speaking Division (DPLPng)

In 2009, Brasil made available the official website of the Portuguese-speaking Division (DPLPng) – www.dplpng.ibge.gov.br . At present, the site is being improved and Brazil is receiving, for publication in the site, the result of the work carried out in the lusophone countries concerning the tasks assigned in the first meeting of the Division, in August, 2007, which are:

- the glossary of generic terminology of the geographic names used in the country's official mapping;
- the glossary of terminology used in the country members of the DPLPng in the official languages of the UN;
- the list of the abbreviations and acronyms used in the official mapping;

- the list of exonyms used in each county member, and
- the list of the names of the cities with more than 100,000 inhabitants, and how these names are pronounced.

As part of the improvements, the site is also collecting the links to the geographic name databases of the countries which have already developed them and the list of the national authorities of the countries which already have one, as well as the links to their respective sites.

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From the Working Groups

Working Group on Exonyms

Trends in Exonym Use: Proceedings of the 10th UNGEGN Working Group on Exonyms Meeting, Tainach, 28-30 April 2010

As the first volume of the new toponymic book series “Name & Place” edited by Peter JORDAN and Paul WOODMAN (publisher Dr. Kovač, Hamburg) the book “Trends in Exonym Use. Proceedings of the 10th UNGEGN Working Group on Exonyms Meeting, Tainach, 28-30 April 2010” (328 pages), edited by Peter JORDAN, Hubert BERGMANN, Caroline BURGESS and Catherine CHEETHAM was recently published and can be ordered on the publisher’s website (www.verlagdrkovac.de). Authors and co-editors will receive their complementary copies at the 26th UNGEGN Session in Vienna.

The **contents of this volume** reflect recent discussions in the Working Group of Exonyms as conducted at its 10th Meeting in Tainach (Austria): on divergent positions with reference to the endonym/exonym divide, on the formulation of guidelines ensuring a politically sensitive use of exonyms, on practice, policies and trends of exonym use in various countries and regions. In addition this book comprises contributions with a focus on exonym use in a specific field such as name servers, country names, in a certain language for a certain country, for sea bodies and in dictionaries. In a kind of appendix its highlights place names in their cultural

environment without special regard to exonyms.

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1. The endonym/exonym divide

JORDAN, Peter (Austria): The endonym – name from within a social group

KLADNIK, Drago & URBANC, Mimi (Slovenia): Nature of endonyms: The Slovenian per-spective

BOHÁČ, Pavel (Czech Republic): Why do transboundary features cause a real problem in “exonymy”? Remarks to the relation feature vs. name

CHOO, Sungjae (Republic of Korea): The name of sea as a transboundary feature

ZYCH, Maciej (Poland): Polish geographical names of undersea and Antarctic features. The names which “escape” the definitions of exonym and endonym

PÄLL, Peeter (Estonia): Conversion of scripts, and exonyms

ZAGÓRSKI, Bogusław (Poland): Endonyms versus exonyms: A case study in standardization. With a list of names of Arab countries and their major cities

2. Practice, policies and trends of exonym use in various countries and regions

DORION, Henri (Canada): Policies and practice of exonym use in a bilingual context – the example of Québec

MATTHEWS, Philip W. (New Zealand): Endonyms and exonyms in New Zealand: An overview

PAIKKALA, Sirkka (Finland): Practice, policies and trends of exonym use in Finland
ZYCH, Maciej (Poland): Polish lists of geographical names of the World, Vol. 11, Europe – part 1

SYVAK, Nina (Ukraine): Names of orographic features (oronyms) of the Ukrainian Carpa-thians and border regions of the Romanian Carpathians on geographical maps

HORŇANSKÝ, Imrich & MIKLUŠOVÁ, Eva (Slovakia): Exonym standardization practise and exonym use in Slovakia

AZCÁRATE, Margarita & ALBERT, Teresa (Spain): Practice and trends of unofficial Spanish endonyms in bilingual aeras

BATLLE, Maria del Mar (Spain): Exonym usage in Catalonia [Catalunya]

BATLLE, Maria del Mar (Spain): Use of exonyms and endonyms in the road signs of Spain

ORIEBY, Eman Ahmed (Egypt): Practice of exonym use on/in Egypt

JAILLARD, Pierre (France): Que normaliser en toponymie, pourquoi et comment?

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3. Exonym use in various fields

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WOODMAN, Paul (United Kingdom): Bilingual toponymy in Carinthia – observations from the outside

BELL, Herman & SABBĀR, Halīm (United Kingdom): Nubian geographical names on both sides of an international border

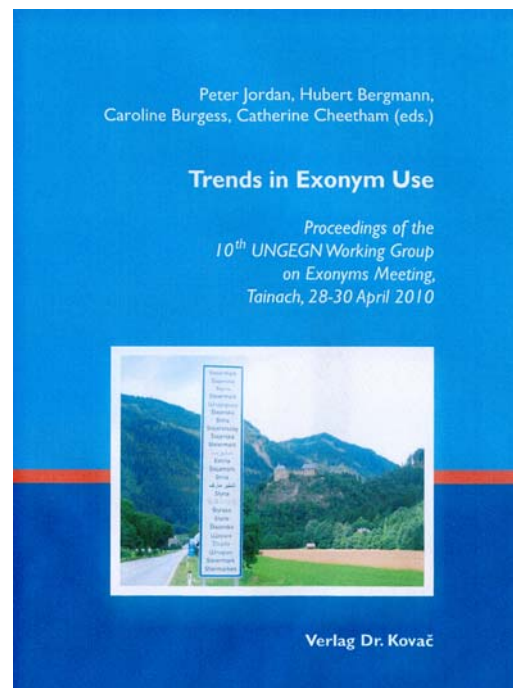
SABBĀR, Halīm (United Kingdom): The toponymy of Ishkéed and the revitalization of an endangered Nubian language

JAČEVA-ULČAR, Elka (FYR of Macedonia): Names of populated places in Albanian translation according to the Law on Territorial Organisation of the Republic of Macedonia of 2004

CREȚAN, Remus (Romania): Linguistic layers of toponyms in Romania

Peter JORDAN (Co-convenor)

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11th Meeting of the Working Group on Exonyms, Vienna, Sonnenfelsgasse 19, Theatersaal, 4 May 2011, 7 p.m.

In conjunction with the 26th UNGEGN Session in Vienna, but outside the UN facilities, the Working Group on Exonyms will hold its 11th Meeting on Wednesday, 4 May 2011 at 7 p.m. The venue is “Theatersaal” (Theatre Hall) of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna, 1st District (downtown), Sonnenfelsgasse 19 (see map below). It is the same location, where the DGSD GeoNames meeting in 2008 took place, in which some of you took part. It can be reached in about 15 minutes from the Vienna International Center, the venue of the UNGEGN Session, by underground line No. 1. Take the direction towards “Reumannplatz” and get off at “Schwedenplatz” (see map). Then take a short walk through the winded streets of one of the most historical parts of Vienna.

The meeting in the duration of about two hours will give us the opportunity to discuss current questions of our Working Group more thoroughly and to define its future directions. All UNGEGN experts are welcome, the meeting is not at all confined to explicit Working Group members. After the meeting we can go for a supper to one of the smart restaurants nearby.

Provisional agenda

1. Opening
2. Approval of the agenda
3. Approval of the summary report, 10th Meeting in Tainach
4. Current questions of the WG: endonym/exonym divide, criteria for the use of exonyms, trends in exonym use, need for a third term for features beyond any sovereignty
5. Future directions
6. Next meeting
7. Closure

Peter Jordan (Co-convenor)

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Venue of the WGE Meeting in the Vienna city centre



Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers

Meeting of the Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers, Zagreb, 10 Feb 2011

A meeting of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers (WGTDFG) was held in conjunction with the 20th session of the East Central and South-East Europe Division and a EuroGeoGraphics - EuroGeoNames workshop at the Hotel International, Zagreb, Croatia, 9th – 11th February 2011. The Working Group session was attended by more than 40 participants from 19 countries.

The Convenor opened the meeting by thanking the hosts and organisers and by summarising the Working Group's activities since the last meeting in Nairobi, May 2009, noting the amended objectives and updated website contents (www.zrc-sazu.si/ungegn/WG_TDFG/gazetteers.htm)

The UNGEGN Chair reported on an initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management (GGIM) being promoted by the UN Statistics Division and Cartography Section and described its relationship to other UN programmes dealing with geospatial data. The Working Group recognised the importance of co-operating with the planned GGIM committee of experts and providing input into its meetings, whilst emphasising that UNGEGN had different responsibilities and its own mandate, including the work of the WGTDFG, must be preserved. The WG suggested that the role of UNGEGN could be promoted within the GGIM arena, by contributing a presentation and poster board to the forthcoming GGIM forum in Seoul in October 2011 and through the eventual

provision of UNGEGN material to the group. Standardised geographical names could also usefully be promoted as an example of an important component of any spatial data infrastructure.

The Working Group discussed its preparation for the forthcoming 26th UNGEGN session, Vienna, 2nd – 6th May 2011, noting the reduced duration of the meeting. The presentation of reports on national database activities would be discouraged, with the WG's focus to be on the provision of information to support national digital data processing and international interoperability. It was possible that a summary of the content of papers could be compiled or specific topics chosen as principal items for discussion. The WG's approach would be finalised once papers submitted under the relevant agenda item had been received. Members should also put forward suggestions to the Convenor by email. The WG considered the organisation of a workshop during the UNGEGN session on the implementation of the INSPIRE² geographical names specification, its schema being deemed a potential model for international use. It was identified not to be necessary for European participants, but perhaps could be of value in conjunction with the Africa GeoNyms database/gazetteer project. It was agreed that a workshop would be held to address the promotion of nationally standardised geographical names in a world increasingly dependent on web-based digital data which were often "crowd-sourced" and unauthorised. The UNGEGN Chair and WG Convenor would consult the WG and draw up a potential framework for such a

² The legal framework for a European Spatial Data Infrastructure

workshop. The availability of free and easily-accessible authorised geographical names data was seen as a key driver in encouraging the use of nationally-standardised names.

The Convenor reported on national and regional projects involving gazetteer applications and services, describing the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) provision of a free tool to create names databases within the context of an African spatial data infrastructure. The UNGEGN Chair outlined the UN's Second Administrative Level Boundaries (SALB) project, accessible at www.unsalb.org, where registered users could download administrative division data provided in collaboration with National Mapping Agencies of UN member states. The unit names were currently limited to Roman script forms. The Working Group recognised that this database was an extremely valuable resource, but expressed concern at its frequent omission of diacritical marks and special letters which formed an integral part of the names.

The UNGEGN Chair reported on a proposal for a UN Spatial Data Infrastructure gazetteer project for disaster management, which would link names information being held in different UN agencies' systems and would exploit crowd-sourced data and create a common vocabulary. The Working Group recognised the value of such data coordination, but expressed concern that the information would be difficult to maintain and that the appearance of such a resource could give the incorrect impression that the data comprised UN-approved names. The project coordinators would be invited to give a presentation on the project at the forthcoming UNGEGN session.

The Convenor provided an overview of the EuroGeoNames (EGN) project, the leadership of which had passed to EuroGeoGraphics. The national datasets of 14 countries had hitherto been connected, with a further 6 envisaged for 2011; an EGN reference application is available at www.eurogeonames.com/refappl.

The UNGEGN Chair gave an update on UNGEGN's relationship with Google. Recent mapping projects had focused on Sudan:

<https://sites.google.com/site/mapyourworldcommunity/> and <https://sites.google.com/site/mapyourworldcommunity/events/sudan>, and a Sudan Mapping Conference was soon to be held in Washington DC. A presentation on Google's activities was anticipated at the next UNGEGN session.

Mrs Burgess summarised the Location Lingo project (www.locationlingo.net) which had been initiated by the English Project in conjunction with Great Britain's Ordnance Survey (OS) to collect locally-used toponyms via an online form. The data collected during this short project would be carefully scrutinised in an attempt to isolate the many spurious names provided, and the remaining information would be published by the English Project. Ordnance Survey had been keen to monitor the success of collating data submitted by the public in this way and was assessing the process and results in order to undertake a more formal data collection procedure in the future. OS planned eventually to compile a gazetteer of alternative unofficial names used in Britain which could assist, for example, the emergency services.

Mr. Leskinen described recent changes to the licensing arrangements for access to Finland's National Land Survey (NLS)

datasets and services. As of 1st January 2011, the Geographic Names Register (GNR) could be accessed free of charge through the NLS web feature service interfaces and small-scale general map products could also be downloaded. Details were available at <http://www.nls.fi> > Data and services > Datasets free of charge.

Mr Palmer explained recent activities in the United States in establishing a Web Feature Service Gazetteer (WFS-G) as a future means of accessing the Board on Geographic Names' domestic and world names databases, both of which had separate interfaces. Mr Palmer also reported that the United States had assisted the Afghan Government in setting up a geographical names board and was providing information on database models.

The Convenor outlined Working Group participation in international meetings, detailing input into a Toponymic Training Course in Cameroon (22nd -28th November 2010). This WG involvement supported its objective to promote and provide consultancy and technical advice to national standardisation programs and to toponymic training courses in developing countries including the establishment of multipurpose toponymic database solutions in the context of spatial data infrastructures. Future meetings with relevant agenda items included the Association of American Geographers (AAG) meeting in Seattle, United States, 12th – 16th April 2011; the International Cartographic Conference in Paris, France, 3rd – 8th July 2011; a European State of the Map Conference in Vienna, Austria, 15th – 17th July 2011; and the International Congress of Onomastic Sciences in Barcelona, Spain, 5th – 9th September 2011.

The Convenor is a liaison member of the International Organization for Standardization's Technical Committee 211 Geographic information/Geomatics (ISO/TC 211); currently one standard of particular relevance to the Working Group is ISO/DIS 19142 Geographic information - Web feature Service (WFS). The Convenor is also registered as an observer for the Open Geospatial Consortium Standards Working Group for developing a Gazetteer Profile of a WFS, but this appeared currently to be inactive.

As the Working Group's point of contact for Unicode liaison, Mrs Burgess summarised the Working Group's involvement in text encoding issues and reported that contacts with the Unicode Consortium had been re-established. Information on its Common Locale Data Repository (CDLR) project as well as on developments in the Unicode Standard would be sought from a Unicode representative who had been invited to attend the 26th UNGEGN session. The WG would inform Mrs Burgess of any text encoding issues encountered in their geographical names work in order to compile a list of required encodings for submission to Unicode.

The Working Group reviewed UNGEGN's World Geographical Names Database and noted the new design of the UNGEGN website. The Working Group's website would be updated and members were asked to send contributions to the Convenor. The next meeting of the Working Group would be held during the 26th UNGEGN session in Vienna. Members were encouraged to consider organising future joint meetings with other UNGEGN working groups or divisions.

Keys outcomes, actions and decisions

- The Working Group recognised the importance of co-operating with the planned UN GGIM committee of experts and providing input into its meetings, but was keen to emphasise that UNGEGN had different responsibilities and its own mandate, including the work of the WGTDFG, must be preserved.
- The WG suggested that the role of UNGEGN could be promoted within the GGIM arena:
 - by contributing a presentation and poster board to the forthcoming GGIM forum in Seoul in October 2011;
 - through the provision of UNGEGN material to the group;
 - through the promotion of standardised geographical names as an example of an important component of any spatial data infrastructure.
- For the forthcoming 26th UNGEGN session, the WG noted:
 - the presentation of reports on national database activities would be discouraged;
 - the WG's focus would be on the provision of information to support national digital data processing and international interoperability;
 - the WG's approach would be finalised once papers submitted under the relevant agenda item had been received; members would put forward suggestions to the Convenor by email;
 - a workshop would be held to address the promotion of nationally standardised geographical names in a world increasingly dependent on web-based digital data which were often "crowd-sourced" and unauthorised; the UNGEGN Chair and WG Convenor would consult the WG and draw up a potential framework for such a workshop.
- The availability of free and easily-accessible authorised digital geographical names data was seen as a key driver in encouraging the use of nationally-standardised names.
- The WG recognised that the UN's SALB database was an extremely valuable resource, but expressed concern at its frequent omission of diacritical marks and special letters which formed an integral part of the names.
- The WG supported the proposal for a UN Spatial Data Infrastructure gazetteer project for disaster management, but expressed concern that the information would be difficult to maintain and that the appearance of such a resource could give the incorrect impression that the data comprised UN-approved names; the project coordinators would be invited to give a presentation on the project at the forthcoming UNGEGN session.
- The WG would inform Mrs Burgess of any text encoding issues encountered in their geographical names work in order to compile a list of required encodings for submission to Unicode.
- The WG would consider how liaison activities relating to ISO, OGC and Unicode should be reported to the 26th UNGEGN Session.
- The Working Group's website would be updated and members were asked to send contributions to the Convenor.
- The Convenor would compile a report for 26th UNGEGN session on Working Group activities by 25th February 2011.
- The next meeting of the Working Group would be held during the 26th UNGEGN session in Vienna.

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Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy

UNGEEN Toponymy Course, Yaoundé, 22-27 November 2010

The UNGEEN Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy has been busy organizing toponymy courses in Africa; after an initial focus on Southern Africa (courses there started in 1992) in 2003 a course was held in Sudan (East Africa), in 2004 and 2006 again in Southern Africa (Mozambique), in 2007 in Tunis (North Africa), in 2008 in Ouagadougou (West-Africa), in 2009 again in East-Africa (Nairobi) and in 2010 in Yaoundé (Central Africa). All African divisions have at least had one toponymy course now.

At the request of the Institut National de Cartographie (INC) and with the help of the UNGEEN Task Team for Africa a 6-days course was set up given by a team of both African and overseas experts (Brahim Atoui (chair, UNGEEN Task Team for Africa), Helen Kerfoot (UNGEEN chair), Ferjan Ormeling (chair, UNGEEN Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy), Claude Obin Tapsoba (Chair, UNGEEN Africa-West Division), Michel Simeu Kamdem (Chair, UNGEEN Africa-Central Division) and Pier-Giorgio Zaccheddu (Chair, Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers); there were also two local ad-hoc contributors (Dr Bindom and Fernand Isseri). With their help the programme (see next page) was realised:

The course was held at the Hotel Franco in Yaoundé, and was locally organised by the staff of the Research Section of the Institut National de Cartographie, headed by Dr Michel Simeu Kamdem and his adjoint Fernand Isseri. Everything needed for such a course was provided for, such as interpreters (the course was held in French but was also accessible for anglophone participants from West-Cameroon), copying services, data projection and microphones, GPS receivers, as well as computers for the hands-on exercises with the database systems. In order to realise an optimal use of the available time catering had been organised for the lunches so that the students did not have to leave the premises for their meals, as well as for coffee and tea.

When the participants registered they received handouts and a conference bag; at the end they were provided as well by a CD-ROM which contained all the ppt-presentation, most of the texts and photographic documentation of the fieldwork. The fieldwork itself was held in the Mfou area, 20 km south of Yaoundé, where apart from the prefect and the mayor, the municipal authorities in charge of the urban infrastructure were interviewed; we were also able to visit the bloc chiefs and traditional chiefs of nearby villages whom we could interview about the names in use, their spelling, their origin and meaning. The INC also organised the transportation and catering during the fieldwork.

| Jours | Sessions |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Lundi Mondy | Session d'ouverture (Opening session) - allocutions des responsables locaux et internationales - présentation des participants |
| | Session 1: Fonctions des noms géographiques (<i>Functions of geographical names</i>) 1.1. Fonctions des noms géographiques (<i>Functions of geographical names</i>) 1.2. Résolutions et terminologie (<i>Resolutions and terminology</i>) |
| | Session 2: Le processus de nomination (<i>The naming process</i>) 2.1 Le processus de nomination (<i>The naming process</i>) 2.2. Standardisation des noms géographiques (<i>Standardization of geographical names</i>) 2.3. Rôle du GENUNG, documentation, ressources (<i>Contributions of UNGEGN, documentations and resources</i>) |
| Mardi Tuesday | Session 3 Les Bureaux de noms géographiques (<i>National names authorities</i>) 3.1 Modèles de gestion des autorités toponymiques nationales (<i>Operating models for national agencies</i>) 3.2 Fonctions et devoirs des agences nationales (<i>Functions and duties of national agencies</i>) 3.3 Régions multilingues (<i>Multilingual regions</i>) |
| | Session 4 Le traitement des noms dans le bureau (<i>Office processing of geographical names</i>) 4.1. Recueil des noms de lieu au bureau (<i>Names processing in the office</i>) 4.2. Standardisation par l'autorité nationale (<i>Standardization by the national committee</i>) 4.3. Toponymie Sub-saharienne (<i>Sub-Saharan Toponymy</i>) |
| Mercredi Wednesday | Session 5: Préparation aux travaux de terrain (<i>Field work preparation</i>) 5.1 Caractéristiques des langues locales (<i>Characteristics of local names</i>) 5.2 Introduction a la problématique (<i>Field work preparation</i>) 5.3 Aspects géographiques de la région à visiter (<i>Geographic description of the fieldwork region</i>) |
| | Session 6: Les questionnaires (<i>Field work forms</i>) 6.1. Effectuation des travaux de terrain/établissement du cahier de terrain (<i>Practical preparations</i>) 6.2. La localisation des données - GPS (<i>Localizing the data with GPS</i>) 6.3. L'usage prévue des données (<i>Intended use of the names data</i>) |
| Jeudi Thursday | Travaux de terrain (<i>Fieldwork</i>) |
| Vendredi Friday | Session 7: Bases de données (<i>Data bases</i>) 7.1 Traitement des noms collectionnés pendant les travaux de terrain (<i>Processing of names collected during fieldwork</i>) 7.2 Les logiciels des bases de données (<i>Characteristics of databases</i>) 7.3 Constitution des bases de données (<i>Realisation of databases</i>) |
| | Session 8: Production des index toponymiques (<i>Production of gazetteers</i>) 8-1 Entrée des noms dans la BD (<i>Entering the names in the database</i>) 8-2 Entrée des noms dans la BD (<i>Entering the names in the database</i>) 8-3 Production d'un modèle d'écriture digital; incorporation dans Google Earth (<i>Production of a Google Earth map with the geographical names collected</i>) |
| Samedi Saturday | Session 9: Application des gazetteers (<i>Digital applications</i>) 9.1 - Problèmes toponymiques pour les atlas scolaires (<i>Small- scale applications</i>) 9.2 - Diffusion des résultats et coopération interafricaine (<i>Cooperation within Africa and Forwarding the results</i>) |
| | Session finale - Séance de clôture (<i>Closing session</i>) |



Interviewing local informers at Mfou

Four countries participated in the course, that is Algeria, Cameroon, Chad and the Democratic Republic of Congo, and although over 40 people participated at some stage, 33 were able to attend and actively participate in the whole programme and each received a diploma. The course received ample publicity, as its opening and closing ceremonies were attended by the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Scientific Research and Innovation, as well as foreign diplomats.

Apart from the big investment in time and equipment made by the Institut National de Cartographie and by the Ministry under whose aegis it operates (the Ministry of Scientific Research and Innovation, which also was able to provide the travel costs for one of the foreign lecturers), the course had been made possible by UNSD which was able to cover the travelling costs of representatives from the Democratic Republic of Congo and Chad, as well as the travelling costs of three of the lecturing staff (from the Netherlands, Germany and Canada). Costs for the accommodation and meals of these five individuals were covered by the Government of Cameroon. In addition a second student from DRC received assistance from a grant from La Francophonie. The lecturing staff were able to participate thanks to the cooperation of the Bundesamt für Kartographie und Geodäsie (Frankfurt, Germany), the Institut Geographique National Burkinabé (Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso), the Institut National de Cartographie et de Teledetection (Algers, Algeria), Natural Resources Canada (Ottawa, Canada) and Utrecht University (the Netherlands).

Ferjan Ormeling

Convenor, UNGEGN WG on Training
Courses for Toponymy

From the Countries

Brazil

Training Courses

The training programs on geographic names in Brazil have assumed greater importance at the moment, when nine Brazilian states (São Paulo, Paraná, Santa Catarina, Rio de Janeiro, Espírito Santo, Pernambuco, Mato Grosso do Sul, Roraima, Distrito Federal) are elaborating their cartographic planning and have established covenants with the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE) to carry out the mapping of their territories. In order to guarantee the quality of the work, the Reference Center on Geographic Names of IBGE organized and implemented the II Course on Technical Rules for the Standardization of Geographical Names which took place in Rio de Janeiro from August 16th to 18th, 2010. The course is part of IBGE's annual training program (PAT) and was attended by IBGE's personnel from the states of Rio de Janeiro and Bahia.

As part of the same training program, the Reference Center also offered the course of Introduction to Standardization of Geographic Names, from 30th November to 2nd December 2010. Seventeen civil servants from IBGE from the states of Rio de Janeiro and Pernambuco attended the course, which included a one day activity of field work on collection of geographic names and practical exercises on the standardization of geographic names in the office.

The attendees of both courses received lectures on the concept of geographic names, the process of collection, the need for standardization and on the technical rules for this procedure.

The main instructors of the courses were Dr. Eng. Cláudio João dos Santos and linguist Márcia Mathias. In the first event, systems analyst Graciosa Moreira presented the trainees to the Geographic Names Database of Brazil (BNGB) and cartographer Paulo Santos lectured on collection of geographic names. In the second course, applied linguist Ana Cristina Resende dealt with the trainees' practical experiences in the field and in the office.



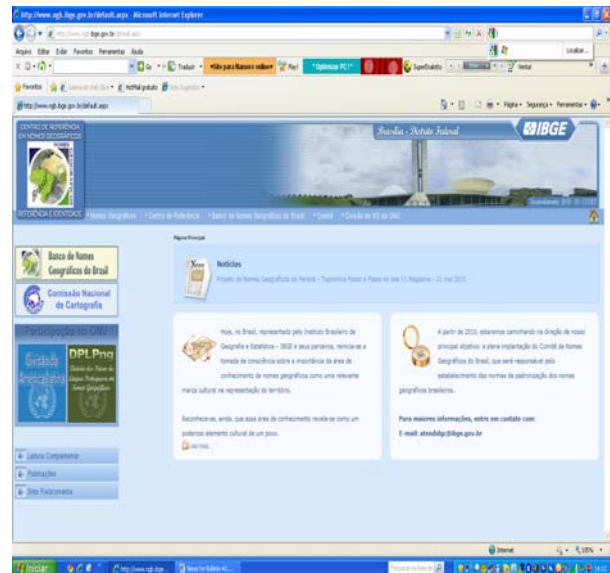
II Course on Technical Rules
for the Standardization of Geographical Names



Course: Introduction to the Standardization of Geographic Names

The website Geographic Names of Brazil

The website Geographic Names of Brazil (www.ngb.ibge.gov.br) was improved and assumed a more informational role. It aims at reaching the society as a whole, with texts which explain the concept of geographic names and their importance for the society as well as the advantages which come from their standardization, and thus helping raise the awareness of the Brazilian population on the theme.



The site also brings, among other features, a list of the Brazilian exonyms for the countries which compose the United Nations, the names of all Brazilian administrative regions, states and municipalities, as well as a list of all the courses, training programs and events carried out by the Reference Center on Geographic Names of IBGE with their respective materials and photographs, all the papers presented by Brazil in the UNGEGN sessions and conferences, and links to sites of Brazilian institutions that could be of interest to those dealing with geographic names.

The Committee of Geographic Names - CONCAR

The Committee of Geographic Names of the National Commission on Cartography –

Cuba

La comisión Nacional de Nombres Geográficos de la República de Cuba

La comisión Nacional de Nombres Geográficos de la República de Cuba, ha venido desarrollando a lo largo del presente año una serie de actividades en conmemoración del XXX aniversario de su creación lo que conllevó a la realización de talleres, conferencias, exposiciones y presentación de Diccionarios Geográficos territoriales en diferentes provincias del país.

Como colofón a las actividades desarrolladas a lo largo y ancho del país en ocasión del citado onomástico tuvo lugar una actividad central en el Aula Magna de la Universidad de San Gerónimo de La Habana, le adjuntamos el artículo publicado en la prensa nacional donde se destacan algunos de los resultados de nuestro trabajo.

CONCAR, held its third meeting on 8 December 2010 and is now working on the final edition of its principles, policies and procedures concerning geographical names. For more detailed information on the activities of the Committee access <http://www.concar.ibge.gov.br/detalheEntidades.aspx?cod=8>

Glossary and Gazetteer

IBGE intends to launch two publications this year: a Glossary of the generic terminology used in the Brazilian official mapping system in the 1:1000,000 scale is expected for the first semester and the Gazetteer of the geographic names used in this same scale is expected for the second semester. Both publications will be made available both in printed and digital formats.

Ana Cristina da Rocha Bérenger Resende
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Los miembros de la Comisión Nacional de Nombres Geográficos de la República de Cuba, nos encontramos enfrascados en la actualización y enriquecimiento de nuestra obra mayor el Diccionario Geográfico de Cuba donde pretendemos aglutinar información sobre aproximadamente el 80 por ciento del patrimonio toponímico cubano.

Le agradezco encarecidamente la atención que nos pueda dispensar.

Dirección de contacto.
Comisión Nacional de Nombres Geográficos
Ave. 19 y 84 Municipio Playa
La Habana
Código 11300

Coronel Eloy Luis Alum Ortiz
La Habana, 2 de noviembre de 2010
E-mail: onhg@enet.cu

Los nombres de Cuba

Celebran aniversario 30 de la Comisión Nacional de Nombres Geográficos. Se prepara nuevo diccionario

por **RENÉ TAMAYO LEÓN**

CON la preparación de un nuevo diccionario de nombres geográficos de Cuba, que dispondrá de varios miles de topónimos, con los principales accidentes geográficos del Archipiélago y otros, la Comisión Nacional de Nombres Geográficos (CNNG) llegó a su aniversario 30.

El onomástico fue celebrado en el Aula Magna del Colegio Universitario San Gerónimo de La Habana, en el Centro Histórico de la ciudad, con la participación de autoridades científicas, gubernamentales, estudiantes, y fundadores y miembros destacados del CNNG, quienes fueron homenajeados por las tres décadas de labor.

La Doctora Margarita Quintero López ofreció una conferencia magistral sobre los diccionarios geográficos, durante la cual anunció que actualmente se prepara este nuevo diccionario, fruto del trabajo de la CNNG y de otras instituciones.

En el año 2000 fue editado un primer volumen, el **Diccionario Geográfico de Cuba**, que, con alrededor de 4 000 topónimos, constituye una importante obra de consulta sobre el patrimonio geográfico y la cultura nacional.

La destacada geógrafa también hizo un repaso sobre los estudios al respecto en las provincias y en el municipio especial Isla de la Juventud, investigaciones que incluyen la edición de algunos diccionarios provinciales de nom-

bres geográficos, y contar a nivel nacional con un inventario de unos 25 000 topónimos.

El coronel Eloy Luis Alum Ortiz, presidente de la CNNG, recordó que la fundación de la Comisión, el 19 de octubre de 1980, fue parte del proceso de institucionalización de los esfuerzos para unificar los nombres geográficos.

«Desde entonces —dijo— se viene realizando un trabajo sistemático encaminado a recopilar, estudiar y normalizar todo el patrimonio toponímico» del país, lo cual, además de su valor histórico y cultural, tiene beneficios prácticos para toda la actividad económica y social de la nación.

Aunque parezca fácil, fijar los nombres geográficos es una tarea que requiere, además de profundas investigaciones, crear consensos y acuerdos de toda índole.

Así, recordó Alum Ortiz, durante estos 30 años «ha sido necesario articular diferentes tendencias y elementos, muchas veces antagónicos, relativos a cuestiones cartográficas, catastrales, geológicas, geofísicas, geográficas, históricas, culturales y de ordenamiento territorial».

Durante la ceremonia por el aniversario 30 de la CNNG, se presentó también el proyecto de curso de Universidad para Todos sobre toponimia. Los nombres geográficos de Cuba, título propuesto para el programa audiovisual, contará con 30 teleclases que permitirán difundir y educar a la población sobre esta riqueza cultural de la nación.

Latvia

Latvian geographical names on the Web (official resources)

Geographical Names Database, concise public version (5th edition): <http://vietvardi.lgia.gov.lv> contains 58 thousand names of 41 thousand geographical objects (data on 1st January, 2011). Official and unofficial names, toponymic synonyms, co-ordinates of the geographical features, possibility to see objects on maps at variable scales (1: 1 000 000 - 1:10 000), including orthophoto map at scale 1: 10 000. User interface is only in Latvian still (brief description in English at: http://map.lgia.gov.lv/index.php?lang=2&cPath=3&txt_id=24).

National Address Register Register maintains data on addresses containing names of 76 cities and towns, 109 counties, 499 civil parishes, 7.505 villages, 16.555 streets, 227.713 buildings and houses (data on 1st January, 2011). Available at: <https://www.kadastrs.lv/#>, the user interface is in Latvian and English.

The Test Version of the **Web map viewer „LGIA Karšu Pārlūks”** (published by Latvian Geospatial Information in February 2010) offers searching of geographical names on the latest maps compiled by LGIA (scales: 1: 1 000 000 - 1:10 000). The map viewer is available at: <http://kartes.lgia.gov.lv>, only in Latvian still (brief description in English at: http://map.lgia.gov.lv/index.php?lang=2&cPath=4&txt_id=88).

Actual List of administrative and territorial units (Classifier of Administrative and Territorial Units (ATVK 2011)) is available on the website of

the Central Statistics Bureau (see: <http://www.csb.gov.lv/node/29893/list>).

Schematic map of administrative units and List of administrative and territorial units with the latest changes enforced in 3th January 2011 are available at: http://www.likumi.lv/doc.php?id=218071&from=off#saist_3 (as annexes to the text of Law on the Administrative territories and Populated Places. NOTE: although there is also a link to the English translation of the Law, only the Latvian version of Law and Annexes are updated).

Dictionary “Latvijas ciemi” (Villages of Latvia, issued by LGIA in 2007) comprising 14 012 names of 8879 villages, is published on the Web as set of pdf files, (in Latvian with English Summary) at: http://map.lgia.gov.lv/index.php?lang=0&cPath=3&txt_id=96 (brief explanations in English at: http://map.lgia.gov.lv/index.php?lang=2&cPath=3&txt_id=96). NOTE: the administrative and territorial division used in this publication is not in force since the 31th December 2008.

The Concise Gazetteer of Latvia (scale 1:1 000 000, parallel texts in Latvian and English, with cartographic appendices) is available still at LGIA website (from the address: http://map.lgia.gov.lv/index.php?lang=2&cPath=3&txt_id=89).

NOTE: the administrative and territorial division used in it is not in force since the 31th December 2008.

Latvian geographical names from the Geographical Names Database are also available via the **EuroGeoNames**

Reference **Application** (see:
[http://www.eurogeonames.com:8080/Ref
App13/](http://www.eurogeonames.com:8080/RefApp13/))

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Special Projects and News Items

Names collection workshop: 25th UNGEGN, Nairobi, May 2009

In Nairobi during the 25th UNGEGN session one lunch break meeting (Friday, May 8th, 2009) was used for assessing the most difficult problems when collecting geographical names, in order to find out how to train surveyors/toponymists optimally. Experts from 5 countries (Ethiopia, Madagascar, Tunis, Indonesia and France) were asked to share their experiences. This report has been partly based on the notes made during this lunch meeting by Pier-Giorgio Zaccheddu, but the author is responsible for any mistakes made.

1. **In the presentation by Mr Solomon Kebede**, in charge of Geographical Names at the Ethiopian Mapping Agency (EMA) the following aspects were highlighted:

- The Ethiopian Mapping Agency has a long experience in the geographical names collection. It is focused mainly on the completion of the 1 : 50.000 map series. The field collection of geographical names is targeted at this map scale.
- Big problems of inaccessibility of some areas in Ethiopia exist. The country consists of many desert parts where it will be problematical to contact local informers.
- Problems on transliterations may be faced when names in other original languages occur, as Amharic is the major language spoken by all government officials.
- The administrative divisions have been changed which causes problems

when re-naming the divisions. Moreover, in the past these regions were only given numbers.

- As misinterpretations of maps and aerial photography occurs, the EMA tackles the problem by inviting local people to mountain peaks and discussing with them locations and names.
 - Unwillingness exists in the rural community to provide information without remuneration.
 - Different names for the same watercourse exist within short distances. No organized methods exist to handle this. The cartographer decides upon the name within the field collection.
 - As the 1:50.000 series has to be completed first, geographical names revision has not yet been started.
- ➔ The major problem identified in names collecting was that organizational, linguistic and social-cultural skills are needed for the topographers! Because the EMA directs a centralized operation, it is difficult to contact people in rural areas where different languages are spoken.

2. **From the presentation by Mme Nivo Ratovoarison**, responsible for Projets toponymiques, at IGN Madagascar, the following comments were noted:

- Within the names collection work by the topographers a well-defined procedure has to be followed in order to provide the names to the mapping organization.
- After the field collection, the names are published in order to receive comments by the public. The names can only be approved if no comments/concerns are raised.
- But still problems of naming locations persist. This happens when multiple names for one location (allonyms) exist as well as the same name for different locations (homonyms).
- The decision procedure of the names committee when concerns are raised for a specific name/names was explained. Sometimes a debate on names has to be arranged with the local population.
- The local radio broadcasting service finally disseminates the approved name.

➔ The most pressing organizational problem identified was that more informants have to be involved. It was much appreciated that the local radio is disseminating the approved names.

3. **From the presentation by Mme Naima Friha**, Dep. Director, National Remote Sensing Center, Tunisia, the following comments were noted:

- Toponym collection is conducted in two ways: by evaluating documentation (old maps, etc.) and by field collection. Both ways are conducted by the surveying authority.
- Special forms have to be completed by the topographers when collecting

information associated with the geographical names.

- The names are collected supporting the pronunciation by the local inhabitants.
- Sometimes names of heroes who died recently (e.g. Yasser Arafat) are allocated to places/topographical objects.
- In the office the field collector has to codify the name in Arabic in order to be able to transliterate the names correctly into romanized forms.
- The approval of the name is done by the local administration. Sometimes different spellings exist on maps and on other sources (documents, sign posts, etc., sometimes even 6 different spelling forms may be encountered).
- The population is familiar with the French transliteration system, and this may cause problems and errors.

4. **From the presentation by Dr Jakub Rais**, Indonesian Academy of Sciences, the following comments were noted:

- Field collection for naming islands is one of the biggest challenges in Indonesia.
- Names from a 5.000.000 km² area have to be collected.
- 40 % of the islands already have names, so that 60 % still have to be named.
- The “Island Naming Process” Project was started in 1982.
- The procedure is to prepare the work by using satellite imagery and GPS mainly to record the surveyors’ tracks; field collection is made by visiting the islands. Historical information is collected as well as the meaning of the names.

- Meetings are organized with the village councils in order to organize the work plan for the field collection.
- Local people are involved in the collection and the explanation of the meaning of the names. The names are recorded in the local languages. Variant names in different local languages are collected too, but one name will be approved to be the official spelling.
- “Rocks” are included in the definition for “land” in Indonesia. So if they are not submerged during high tide, they count as islands and have to be named.
- Fancy names are not allowed and are rejected.

→ The most pressing problem identified was that operators need to be linguists as well, apart from needing much physical geography knowledge! The suggestion made during the discussion to put up name signs on all islands was accepted as useful.

5. **From the presentation by Mme Elisabeth Calvarin**, responsible Projects toponymiques, IGN France, the following notes were made, based on the field collection preparation and work for the toponymic training course in Ouagadougou:

- Before the topographer goes into the field, he prepares himself with all the

information he has been able to compile (e.g. maps, documents, etc.).

- A number of templates/forms for the fieldwork are prepared. Per municipality it is indicated who operates the field collection, and in special columns the coordinates, the names collected in the field, the names according to the inhabitants, the names according to local administrators, the names provided by informants, the spelling according to the proposal of the topographer, have to be filled in.
- In the field knowledgeable informants are contacted.
- The local inhabitants are asked for the names and for their meaning and pronunciation.
- The Toponymic Commission decides in the end upon the name proposed by the topographer.
- The last act of the topographer is to indicate the extent of the named object on the map by a polygon.

After these five presentations a more general discussion took place on the needs for special toponymic education of topographers.

The convenor of the UNGEGN Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy thanked all the presenters and all those participating in the discussion.

Ferjan Ormeling

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Name&Place: “Contributions to toponymic literature and research”

Launch of a new toponymic book series

The edition of the volume “Trends in Exonym Use. Proceedings of the 10th UNGEGN Working Group on Exonyms Meeting, Tainach, 28-30 April 2010” marks the launch of a new toponymic book series “Name & Place: Contributions to toponymic literature and research” edited by Peter JORDAN and Paul WOODMAN (publisher Dr. Kovač, Hamburg, www.verlagdrkovac.de).

Name & Place is a twice-yearly book series in English devoted to toponymy. It is open to all types of contributions to toponymic research and literature; these should be sent to the editors (peter.jordan@oeaw.ac.at, woodman@litstad.u-net.com).

Monographs as well as proceedings of meetings and conferences will find their home here. Young researchers and their doctorate theses are also very welcome. It is hoped that this series will prove to be a treasure trove of knowledge and inspiration on the fascinating relationship between name and place.

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Upcoming Meetings of Groups Associated with Geographical Names

American Association of Geographers

(AAG) – Annual meeting 2011
(http://www.aag.org/cs/annual_conference)
12-16 April 2011, Seattle, U.S.A.

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) – CODIST II

(<http://www.scidev.net/en/events/uneccodist-ii-meeting.html>)
2-5 May 2011, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

6th International Conference on ICT for Development, Education and Training

(<http://www.elearning-africa.com>)
25-27 May 2011, Dar es Salaam,
Tanzania

ICC 2011 – 25th International Cartographic Conference

(<http://www.icc2011.fr>)
3-8 July 2011, Paris, France

International Council of Onomastic Sciences (ICOS)

(<http://www.icosweb.net/index.php/home.html>) – 24th ICOS Congress,
4-10 September 2011, Barcelona, Spain

Africa GIS 2011

(<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/ggim/events.html>)
25-28 October 2011, Cairo, Egypt

UN Forum on Global Geospatial Information Management

(<http://ggim.un.org/forum1.html>)
25-28 October 2011, Seoul, Republic of
Korea

International Geographical Union (IGU)

(<http://www.igu-net.org/>)
Regional Conference 2011
14-18 November 2011, Santiago, Chile
International Geographic. Congress 2012
26-30 August 2012, Köln, Germany