



**FIRST REGIONAL
TRAINING PROGRAMME
IN TOPONYMY,
INCLUDING MARINE
TOPONYMY**

March 20, 2018

**PRESENTED BY: Cecille Blake,
UNSD**

**At the DUSIT THANI,
Metro Manila, Philippines**

THE NEW UNGEEN

UNGEEN Secretariat Support

Communication and Publicity

- Printing of publications
- Preparation of Bulletin
- Maintenance of UNGEEN website

Convening and hosting Bureau meetings and Sessions

- Strengthening UNGEEN and UN-GGIM Relations

The New UNGEEN

Communication, Plans for 2018

- **Printing of publications**
 - 2 main brochures are to be revamped in support of rebranding the NEW UNGEGN
- **Preparation of Bulletin**
 - Issue 54 – May 2018 – “Geographical names supporting sustainable development”
 - Issue 55 – November 2018 – Legislation on geographical names
- **Maintenance of UNGEGN website**
 - Plans to upgrade the UNGEGN World Geographical Names database
 - to create an application program interface, geospatially enabled,
 - updated map,
 - linked to UNSD’s M49 database which provides country codes – enables link to statistical data.
 - Hope to also include the status of national names authorities.





Convening and hosting of Biennial Sessions

- In consultation and collaboration with UNGEGN Bureau and Session Secretary, coordinates the preparation and convening of Sessions
 - Agenda
 - Rules of Procedures
 - Organisation of Work
 - Report
 - Exhibition, special presentations, and side events
 - Conference services – interpretation, live streaming
- Organizes virtual Bureau and Working Group Convenors meetings between sessions

The New UNGEEN

- Why a New UNGEEN
- Creation of New UNGEEN
- Current Activities
- Strengthened UNGEEN, UN-GGIM relations



Why a New UNGEGN?

efficient and
effective
meetings

A **blurring of the differences** between the conferences and sessions

The 5-yearly conference cycle time frame between **establishing strategic directions** is too large a gap in this modern spatial world.

Increasing cost pressures in the United Nations and in Member States. The proposal will save the UN between \$250 000 and \$630 000 over a 10-year period, with a comparable saving to delegates for accommodation, meals and absence from work place

The need to align UNGEGN's directions with UN-GGIM's to **maximize benefits to be had from a synergistic relationship** between the two bodies



Creation of New UNGEGN

Economic and Social Council Resolution

2018/2, 10 November 2017

The resolution - *Future organization and methods of work of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names*

- Discontinues the UNCSGN and the UNGEGN in their current format.
- New body will be named the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names
- The new UNGEGN will convene biennial sessions, over a period of five days, beginning in 2019
- Has full authority to set its strategic direction and adopt resolutions to be submitted to ECOSOC
- New rules of Procedure are to be drafted by the Bureau in consultation with Member States to be presented to ECOSOC for adoption in advance of 1st UNGEGN Session in 2019
- The elected Bureau of the Group of Experts is to oversee the 2017–2019 transition

Current Activities

Preparation of the Rule of Procedure – 20 April 2018

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- Identification of the structure of the Bureau, election methods and terms of service;
 - Operational structure of the Group of Experts, including the role and scope
 - Retaining working groups and divisional structures
 - Preparation of a draft agenda for the first session,
 - Ongoing review processes
 - Participation.



Strengthened UNGEGN – UN-GGIM Relations

- Relationship of UNGEGN with UN-GGIM – “Building bridges” a cooperation model – approved by both bodies
 - Based on 5 common principles and a model for cooperation at the Global, Regional and Member State levels
- UNGEGN and UN-GGIM Members agree to establish and continue cooperation and collaboration
 - communicate the benefits of names standardization and geographic information management
 - Included in the agenda and represented at each others Sessions
 - Participate in the UN-GGIM working group on Fundamental Geospatial Data Themes



Join in promoting the standardization of geographical names

Contribute	Contribute to advancing the UNGEGN work programme
Engage	Actively engage in your Division's activities
Join in	Participate in UNGEGN meetings and working groups
Write	Contribute your national experiences and articles to the Bulletin
Monitor	Monitor the UNGEGN website for latest geospatial activities https://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/default.html
Tweet	Tweet, retweet and follow at @UNSD_GEGN





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