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Agenda Item 6(c)

The Toponymy Courses at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Presented by Mr. N. Kadmon (Israel)

THE TOPONYMY COURSES AT THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM

Paper presented by N. Kadmon (Israel)

Several agencies in Israel, apart from the Government Names Commission, systematically or regularly engage in toponymic activities. Among these are governmental and other public institutions such as the Ministry of the Interior, the Central Bureau of Statistics and local authorities, but also map publishers such as the Government Department of Surveys (the "Survey of Israel") and private map and atlas publishing houses. Most of these conduct in-house or on-the-job training.

A course in toponymy at academic level is given at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem within the Geography Department (which is part of the Faculty of Social Sciences). This course is facultative for third-year students of Bachelor of Arts or Science (i.e. undergraduate) studies, as well as for Master of Arts or Science (i.e. postgraduate) study programmes. It is a one-semester (4 month) course of 2 hours of frontal lectures per week, plus practical work assignments, and is usually held in alternating years. The course is widely map-bound and cartography-oriented, and is recommended among others to advanced staff of cartographic institutions and geographical name authorities. The average intake is 25 students, and among these are usually some students from outside the Geography Department and the Faculty of Social Sciences.

The course provides a general introduction to toponymy (Part A) with, among others, the following subjects:

Toponyms as identifiers

Change of toponyms in time and space

Names generation and collection

Legal Status of toponyms

Names standardization - national and international

Exonyms

The five means of names storage

Writing systems - logographic, syllabic and alphabetic

Unwritten Names

Toponyms in multi-lingual countries

The four phases of names treatment: geographical, administrative, linguistic and technological

The interaction of maps and gazetteers

Computer-assisted treatment of names

Automated plotting and names placement

Part B of the course deals specifically with toponymy.

Further details can be obtained from the Secretary of the Geography Department, the Hebrew University, 91905 Jerusalem, Israel.