

---

**United Nations  
Group of Experts on  
Geographical Names**

**Working Paper  
No. 83/Corr.**

**Twentieth Session  
New York, 17 – 28 January 2000**

---

Item 8  
of the Provisional Agenda

**MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON TRAINING COURSES IN TOPONYMY**

**Report of the Convenor of the Working Group on Training  
Courses in Toponymy 1998-2000**

# Report of the Convenor of the Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy 1998-2000

## International Training Courses held

1. UNGEGN stimulates the organisation of training courses in toponymy in order to increase awareness of the need for geographical names standardization and, more specifically, to help fill the need for qualified personnel. The general model for such courses is a two-week programme of lectures, alternated by exercises and field work, and completed by instruction in the field of digital processing techniques. As since 1982 at least 14 of these courses, meant for an international audience, have been held, a suitable collection of lecture notes, manuals, fieldwork guides, etc. has been built up, from which prospective lecturers might draw their inspiration. The titles of this material have been listed at the toponymy courses website, which can be found under the UNGEGN site.
2. Since the 19<sup>th</sup> session of the UNGEGN the convenor has been informed about international training courses or workshops in toponymy held in Lima, Guatemala, Windhoek, Pretoria and Ottawa.

In 1998 the 10<sup>th</sup> course in Applied Toponymy was organised by the Panamerican Institute for Geography and History (PAIGH) in Lima, Peru. In 1999 the eleventh PAIGH course in Applied Toponymy was given at the Instituto Geografico Nacional in Guatemala City in Guatemala (July 5-16, 1999) under auspices of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History, with instructors from the United States. More than 35 participants were taught.

From April 14-19 1998 UNGEGN Chairman Peter Raper and Dr Lucie Moeller presented a UN Training Workshop on Geographical Names in Windhoek at the invitation of the Government of Namibia, with 32 participants. The workshop was also sponsored by UNESCO.

The seventh UN Training Course on Geographical Names was held in Pretoria from July 20-25, 1998 in Pretoria, South Africa, with 38 participants from 4 Southern African countries.

Prior to the International Cartographic Conference of the International Cartographic Association, held August 16-20 1999 in Ottawa a Geographical Names Workshop was held, organised by the host country.

## International training courses planned

3. Prior to the 8<sup>th</sup> UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names in Berlin in 2002 an international training course in toponymy is planned at the International Institute for Aerospace Survey and Earth Sciences (ITC) in Enschede, Netherlands and the Bundesamt für Kartographie und Geodäsie in Frankfurt, Germany. The modalities of this course are still to be established, but it is the idea that about 20 experts from developing countries, that will consecutively participate in the Berlin conference, will be invited to participate.

## **Web course in toponymy.**

4. Although progress is not as quick as expected, work is now being undertaken in conjunction with the Commission on Education and Training of the International Cartographic Association to establish a web course programme for toponymy. This will be part of a larger programme in cartography, but it will be possible to access it separately. The programme will be used as starting point for the participants in the course to be held at ITC, and will be available prior to that event.

## **Composition Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy**

5. The Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy consists of:

Mr H.Dorion

Mr N.Kadmon

Ms H.Kerfoot

Mr F.J.Ormeling (convenor)

Mr R.Payne

Mr P.Raper