

**Twenty-fifth session
Nairobi, 5 – 12 May 2009**

Item 9 of the provisional agenda

Activities relating to the Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy

Training Courses in Geographical Names in Jordan *

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Training Courses in The Hashemite
Kingdom of Jordan in the
Field of Geographical Names
(Item9 of the Initial Agenda)

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Secretary of the Jordanian Committee
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Preface:-

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan is considered one of the first Arab countries who paid distinctive attention to the field of geographical names. The Jordanian National Committee of Geographical Names was officially formed in 1948, and reactivated in 2000 to include representatives of official concerned ministries and official departments.

The Royal Jordanian Geographic Centre (RJGC) was chosen to be the headquarter of this commission headed by Director General of (RJGC). This Committee is provided with all financial and administrative abilities by (RJGC). The most important duties are:

- Unifying writing geographical names.
- Encourage practical and theoretical researches and studies related with geographical names.
- Sustaining and publishing the Jordanian Geographic Names Index.
- Cooperate with concerned authorities in geographical names.
- Providing information bank for the new or alternative geographical names .
- Spread the principles and systems of uniting Arab Geographical names by publishing books, periodical publications and other, also to use the different media.

It is worth to mention that the Jordanian Committee on Geographical Names holds its meetings monthly and regularly to discuss the concerned matters and take appropriate actions.

Training Courses:-

The National Committee on Geographical Names concentrates nowadays on holding instructive courses on geographical names for concerned individuals in different ministries and institutions to be aware of the importance of geographical names in all fields of life. The Committee held many courses for the Ministry of Public Works & Housing, Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, Ministry of Municipalities, Tourism Organizing Authority, Land & Survey Dept., Civil Status Dept., Royal Jordanian Geographic Centre, Press and others. The work of these ministries and institutions requires to deal with geographical names in Jordan.

It is worth to mention that many courses in the field of geographical names were held for many Arab trainees. These courses are always mentioned in the annual plan of the (RJGC).

Aims of Courses:

- Identify the importance of geographical names.
- Identify the various (Romanization) systems of transferring letters and voices from Arabic language to Roman letters, and concentrate on the united Arab system agreed upon in Beirut Conferences.
- Identify the role of the United Nations in the field of geographical names.
- Identify the Jordanian Committee and its role in the field of geographical names.

Period:

Two days as it is just an identifying course.

Costs:

These courses are free of charge.

Method:

The course is based on lectures offered by specialists in the National Committee on Geographical Names in addition to practical training on the unified Arab Romanization system.

Subjects:

The course includes the following:

- 1- Geographical name, concept and relation with daily life.
- 2- Basics in Arabic Language.
- 3- Principle of naming geographical names.
- 4- Romanization system (identifying the previous systems and the unified Romanization Arab system).
- 5- Non-Arab names and how to deal with it.
- 6- Changing geographical names and declare new names.
- 7- United Nations and geographical names.
- 8- The National Committee on Geographical Names (constitution, duties, mission ---ext).

In the endeavor of the National Committee on Geographical Names to develop and progress the field of training and achieving goals, the trainees in each course are asked to fill in certain forms about the importance of the course to their work, number of participants in each course, benefits of the course, course method and other notes.