

New York, 26 February-9 March 1979
Agenda item No. 10 (e)

WORKING GROUP ON TRAINING COURSES

1. The working group, comprising Messrs. Ormeling (Convenor), Lewis, Rayburn, Adebekum and Absaloms (Rapporteur) held one meeting during the meeting of the eighth session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names.
2. The Group adopted Mr. Ormeling's proposal that the approach to the training courses should be changed so that the courses are organized on a regional basis rather than transport both students and lecturers to the Netherlands. The need for such a training course was reiterated in view of the problems faced by developing countries in collecting and processing the geographical names.

To meet these needs, the Working Group considered and recommended the following:

- (a) The course should be based on the program outlined during the Sixth Session of the UNGEGN in 1975 (ESA/RT/5/GN/4, 17.6.75).
- (b) The courses should be organized on a regional basis with a toponymic task force of international experts as lecturers, preferably members of UNGEGN, to be invited through the official channels. In principle, travel and accommodation expenses of lecturers are expected to be met by their respective governments. To this end, the members of the UNGEGN recommended as lecturers Messrs. Absaloms, Blok, Breu, Földi, Meynen, Randall, Rayburn. It was also agreed that each division, which in its opinion could contribute to the training course, should also be invited to designate other lecturers.

- (c) The venue for the first training course is proposed to be in the Southeast Asia Division as this Division has repeatedly offered to host such a training course. The chairman of the Working Group will visit southeast Asia next April and can discuss the matter with local officials.
- (d) The Working Group proposes the timing of the course for August 1980.
- (e) The course would be offered in English, with local authorities providing interpretation as required.
- (f) It is hoped that the host division country will provide the meeting facilities, local transportation for both students and international lecturers and possibly accommodation.
- (g) In principle the Pilot Training Course is intended for students of the southeast Asia Division, the number of which would not exceed 50. Later Training Courses could be held in other interested Divisions with the experience gathered in southeast Asia.
- (h) It was suggested that the Proceedings of the course might be recorded in video tape for use in future courses or for teaching purposes in colleges.
- (i) The invitation to and information on the course to both international lecturers and students in the Division should be through both the official and direct channels.