



UNITED NATIONS GROUP OF EXPERTS ON
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(formerly
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Secretariat of the Group of
Experts on Geographical
Names
Room DC2-1640
United Nations
New York, NY 10017
USA

Tel: 212 963 3042 or: 212 963
5951

Fax: 212 963 9851

E-mail: Javier@un.org
and Laaribi@un.org

Preface

Message from the Chairperson

Dear Colleagues

Twenty-third UNGEEN Session

We are now only months away from our next UNGEEN session, to be held at the Vienna International Centre (VIC) from Tuesday March 28 to Tuesday April 4, 2006. I hope as many of you as possible will be able to participate in this session, to help UNGEEN address the issues of geographical names standardization and to extend the follow-up of resolutions from the Eighth Conference held in Berlin in 2002.

For further information about Vienna you may wish to consult various websites, including:

- the UNGEEN website (unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo) for details of resolutions, documents, etc.;
- the UN Office Vienna site (www.unvienna.org/unov/index.html) for information about the centre in Vienna; and
- the Vienna city site (info.wien.at) for details about accommodation and attractions.

Information about registration, etc. will, nearer the time of the meeting, be posted on the

UNGEEN website. When arranging for hotels, you may find it helpful to know that the VIC is located by the Kaisermühlen-Vienna International Centre station on the U-Bahn, Line 1 (U-1).

UNGEEN Working Groups

I am pleased to tell you that during 2005, the Working Group on Exonyms met in Slovenia (May); the Working Group on Country Names will meet in Greece (November); the Working Groups on Evaluation and Implementation and on Publicity and Funding will be meeting in the Republic of Korea (November); and members of the Working Group on the Promotion of Indigenous and Minority Group Names participated in the Conference on names in multilingual areas organized by the Dutch- and German-speaking Division in the Netherlands (April). An UNGEEN training course has been offered in Indonesia, hosted through Bakosurtanal (the National Geospatial Infrastructure Coordination Agency) and coordinated

through the Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy.

Those Working Groups that have not recently met in person are encouraged to maintain contact by e-mail to prepare for the UNGEEN session in Vienna.

UNGEEN Divisions

Since the last UNGEEN session, several Divisions have met (or are about to meet) - including, Arabic Division, Asia South-East and Pacific South-West Division; Baltic Division; Dutch- and German-speaking Division; Norden Division; Romano-Hellenic Division, United States of America/Canada Division ... and maybe others. Some Divisions have worked through e-mail to develop various projects and to discuss issues of common concern.

Other activities

Geographical names experts have also been active organizing and/or participating in international meetings, such as those of cartographers (e.g.

ICA), geographers (e.g. IGC), and onomasticians (e.g. ICOS).

During the year I am pleased to have worked with the UNGEGN Secretariat on various topics of interest and concern to us. In particular I trust we have made some headway towards publication of two UNGEGN manuals; development of an UNGEGN database; updating the UNGEGN website; provision of support for toponymy training courses; and preparation for the Twenty-third UNGEGN session.

Continuing need for toponymic data

The need for world response to various crises in recent times has underlined the importance of clear geographical names references for use in very practical situations - search and rescue, aid distribution, rural and urban reconstruction, and so on. The media, cartographers, planners and others involved in providing and using basic data relating to these activities need easily retrievable, accurate and up-to-date information. We have enormous opportunities to be of assistance by providing

such geographical names information ... with energy and enthusiasm, I hope we can make a difference.

I look forward to our meeting in Vienna, and to making progress in preparation for the Conference in 2007.

With kind regards,

Helen Kerfoot

*Chairperson, UNGEGN
Ottawa, Canada
hkerfoot@nrcan.gc.ca*

News from Headquarters

From the Secretariat

Dear UNGEGN experts,

The 23rd Session of UNGEGN, Vienna, Austria, 28 March – 4 April, 2006

As all of you know, the Twenty-third Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names will be held in Vienna, Austria, from 28 March to 4 April 2006, in accordance with ECOSOC decision E/2004/303. The “Note Verbale”, the “Documentation for the Conference” and the Provisional Agenda for the UNGEGN Session have been sent to the Permanent Missions of Member States to the United Nations, normally to be dispatched to their national Geographical Names Authorities. A copy of the “Note Verbale” (EC/DESD/GEGN(23)), sent to your Permanent Mission, as well as copies of the Provisional Agenda (GEGN/23/1) and the Documentation for the Conference (GEGN/23/2) are enclosed with this Newsletter. More detailed information about the Session is available on our UNGEGN website: (<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geo/info/>).

Training Course in Indonesia

As recommended by the 8th UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names in Berlin in 2002 and the 22nd session of UNGEGN in New York in 2004, the UN continues to support UNGEGN training courses; the last training course on toponymy that the UN Statistics Division supported was held in Indonesia (11-22 September, 2005). Further details on the training course are included in the report of the Convenor of the Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy published in the current issue.

The 8th UN Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas, New York, 27 June – 1 July 2005

The 8th United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas took place in New York, 27 June - 1 July 2005. Mr. Sievers, Vice-Chair of UNGEGN, participated in the Conference and stressed the importance of geographical names as a key component of a National Spatial Data Infrastructure. The text of the resolutions adopted by the Conference and endorsed by

ECOSOC are posted in our website under “Geographic Information Systems” item. Further details, including the Report of the Conference, will be made available on our website.

Other activities

Among other activities carried out by the UNGEGN Secretariat, I would like to mention that two technical manuals were compiled and sent to the UN Editorial Section to be published in the next few months, and a UNGEGN database on country and city names is under development.

I would like to thank all who contributed to this Bulletin. I would appreciate receiving your further contributions by early January 2006 (but no later than 1 February), to enable us to distribute the next Bulletin by early March 2006.

I look forward to meeting you in Vienna.

Amor Laaribi

*UNGEGN Secretariat
United Nations Statistics Division
Two UN Plaza, DC2-1640
New York, NY 10017, USA
Fax: (212) 963 9851
E-mail: Laaribi@un.org*

From the Divisions

Division Francophone

Quelques nouvelles concernant l'état d'avancement des diverses actions importantes entreprises par la division francophone (rappelons que le programme de travail de la division francophone est consultable sur notre site <http://www.divisionfrancophone.org>)

Base des exonymes

Depuis 2002, le projet s'était quelque peu arrêté, mais le voici relancé avec un fructueux échange entre Danielle Turcotte, coordonnatrice du Québec, et Pierre Jaillard, coordonnateur français. Une réunion avec M. Henri Dorion à Paris a permis de régler des questions de principe, en particulier les exonymes issus de translittération.

Le corpus de cette base a une triple finalité : permettre d'abord d'alimenter la base de données de la Division francophone, la gestion du dictionnaire de M. Dorion et enfin la possibilité d'extraire les informations destinées à enrichir le site internet de la CTQ. Il est possible que d'autres sous-produits pourraient également être développés.

Cours de toponymie sur le Web

Le plan du cours a été établi et un premier prototype a été réalisé ; il sera consultable sur le site de la division. Ce prototype

se veut simple, souple et facile d'emploi. Il a vocation à être enrichi pour devenir un site complet traitant les divers aspects de la science toponymique : linguistique, géographie, histoire, politique, gestion toponymique aux niveaux national et international. Nous souhaitons que ce cours puisse être utile à l'ensemble des pays de la francophonie. L'enrichissement de ce cours se fera en fonction des appuis financiers que nous pourrions trouver.

Etat des lieux concernant la gestion des processus toponymiques

Une enquête a été lancée auprès des pays francophones afin de recueillir des informations sur la gestion toponymique de chacun, son état d'avancement, son organisation, etc.

Les premiers résultats sont à paraître dans le journal de liaison de la division francophone : le bulletin d'information toponymique n°3, qui sortira dans les prochains jours.

Glossaire des termes dialectaux

En 1963, la Commission de toponymie de l'Institut géographique national de France (CT IGN France) a publié un « Glossaire des termes dialectaux » permettant de trouver le sens d'un très grand nombre de toponymes de France. Ce recueil est une liste alphabétique comprenant des milliers de noms de lieux ou toponymes régionaux, et fut établi par M. André Pégorier, ingénieur géographe, qui travailla sans relâche avec MM. Nédélec et Mestralet, ainsi qu'avec son équipe, à dépouiller systématiquement un grand nombre de dictionnaires et de glossaires établis par des érudits régionaux..

En 1997, l'IGN a estimé qu'il y avait un grand intérêt à mettre à jour cet ouvrage, qui est un hommage au patrimoine linguistique bien vivant de notre pays. Une nouvelle version actualisée a donc été éditée.

En janvier 2004, nous avons eu la tristesse d'apprendre

le décès de Monsieur Pégrier, qui fut l'un des co-fondateurs du Groupe d'experts des Nations Unies pour les noms géographiques (GENUNG). En effet, en 1960, à la suite de l'invitation à New York du Secrétaire Général de l'Organisation des Nations Unies (ONU) de «détacher un expert pour participer aux travaux d'un petit groupe de consultants choisis dans les pays ayant la plus grande expérience des problèmes de nomenclature géographique », le directeur général de l'IGN proposa de déléguer M. André Pégrier. Celui-ci prépara une communication sur les « Solutions apportées par l'IGN aux problèmes de toponymie cartographique ». C'est en compagnie de cinq autres experts, venus des États-Unis, du Royaume-Uni, d'Iran, du Guatemala et de Chine, que M. Pégrier, rapporteur de cette session, contribua à la création du GENUNG, autorité actuellement reconnue à l'échelon international.

Monsieur Pégrier était né à Toulouse, le 17 janvier 1918.

En son honneur et en témoignage du respect envers l'œuvre accomplie, l'IGN déciderait de lui dédier la prochaine mise à jour, qu'il sera possible de consulter sur le site www.ign.fr

Pierre Planques

*Président de la division francophone
Conseil général des Ponts et Chaussées
Tour Pascal B
92055 La Défense cedex
pierre.planques@equipement.gouv.fr*

Arabic Division

Report of the Arabic Division meeting held in Tripoli, Libya, 18-20 April, 2004

A three-day meeting, held by the Arabic Division of the UNGEGN and hosted by the Survey Department of Libya, took place in Tripoli, from 18 to 20 April 2004, in pursuance of UNGEGN resolutions, including the recommendation on the UN-approved Amended Beirut system for the Romanization of Arabic taken at the 8th United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names in Berlin in 2002. Nine Delegations representing Algeria, Egypt, Arab Emirates, Jordan, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Morocco, Sudan, Syria, and Tunisia participated at the meeting.

Agenda items discussed

The main objective of the Conference was to unite the rules and mechanisms of writing the geographical names in the Arab world, with respect to the production of maps, atlases, and gazetteers, in order to facilitate the correct handling of such names in the written form, useful for many users, including the media, throughout the Arab world and Worldwide.

More specifically, the Conference addressed the following issues:

- The national experience in the field of standardization of geographical names.
- The systems of transferring the Arabic characters into Roman characters (transliteration).
- The academic dimension of geographical names.
- The technical methods used in producing maps and writing geographical names.
- The Arabic cooperation in the field of the geographical names.

Findings

The meeting findings include:

- Emphasis on the importance of such types of conferences and meetings. Meeting of the Arabic Division should be held periodically in various Arabic countries.
- Communication and coordination between the Arabic countries and the responsible institutions for the exchange of experience and data, and for the achievement

of complementarity in the geographical names.

- Unification of the methods of writing non-Arabic names using Arabic alphabet (names of countries, capitals, and the large natural features).
- Giving more attention to the production of national and historical atlases.
- Establishment of a geographical names database in each Arabic country.
- Awareness about the importance of geographical names in each Arabic country, and encouraging the scientific research in this field.
- Establishment and activation of national committees in the field of geographical names in each Arabic country.

Recommendations:

The meeting took the following decisions:

1. The meeting unanimously decided on the appointment of Dr. Eng. Anwar Siala, from Libyan Arab Jamahiriya as the president of the Arabic Division; Dr. Saif El Qaidi, from Arab Emirates as Vice-President; and Dr. Abdul Hadi El Tazi, from Morocco, as

- Honorary President in appreciation of his significant contribution in the field of geographical names at Arab and international levels, and in recognition of his status as the founding father of the Arabic Division.
2. It has been agreed to replace the Roman letter (z) equivalent to the Arabic letter (ز) to become (dh) and to put the dash (-) under the mentioned letter instead of the dot (.) in the approved method of the UN. The Arab League Organization will be contacted to take the appropriate measures in this concern, according to recommendation No. 7 of the 7th Conference of the United Nations on the Standardization of the Geographical Names in 1998. The Arabic Division welcomes any suggestions or modifications to Beirut amended method. It also confirms that its future meeting will be held under the umbrella and supervision of the Arab League Organization and in the League's office in Cairo or in any Arab host country.
 3. The Division suggests that each Arabic country prepare an index of its geographical names including the urban centres (towns, villages and population complexes) and the main natural features, in order to enable the exchange of such indexes for the sake of fixing the writing of geographical names in the maps and atlases produced by the Arabic countries.
 4. Starting the preparation of the dictionaries of geographical names in the Arabic world, i.e. the names connected to valleys, hills and natural phenomena.
In this concern, it has been decided to form a committee:
 - Mr. Ibrahim El Zugarti, Chief (Jordan)
 - Mr. Izzudin El Amri, Member (Morocco)
 This committee should follow-up this issue and submit a report in the coming meeting. The members of the Arabic Division should provide them with the needed data about their countries.
 5. Assignment of Dr. Seif El Gaidi (from Arab Emirates) and Mr. Jamal El Fawar (from Morocco) to create the Arabic Division website.
 6. The members have suggested making contacts with the Arabic and Islamic Organizations of the same nature, i.e. ALESCO, ASESCO etc.
 7. Formation of a committee to be headed by Mr. Ibrahim Atoui (Algeria) and membership of Mr. Ibrahim El Zugarti (Jordan) and Mr. Mohammed El Hayan (Morocco) to prepare the Statutes and Rules of procedure for the Division.
 8. The meeting has surveyed the obstacles preventing some Arabic countries from attending the Geographical Names Conferences, including visa issues.
 9. The members asked the President of the Division to make contact with embassies and national organizations in Arabic countries in order to prepare a list of the experts and active people in the geographical names field in the Arab world.
 10. The members decided to contact the Arab League to adopt the programs and plans on the awareness about the Geographical Names by selecting an annual day for this purpose in coordination with the Arab League Organization and by the encouragement of the academic institutions to carry out research studies and produce posters on Geographical Names.
- The members agreed to send a copy of the report of this meeting to the UN and Arab League Organization.

Dr. Anwar Abdallah Siala
Chair, Arabic Division
Mr. Ibrahim El Zugarti
Rapporteur

Dutch- and German-speaking Division (DGSD)

EuroGeoNames – Progress report

(cf. *UNGEEN Newsletter No. 29*)

Phase 1: Survey/inventory on geographical names data (SI-EGN) in Europe

With reference to resolution no. 6 adopted at the 8th United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, the project EuroGeoNames (EGN) was initiated to better integrate geographical names data into national spatial data infrastructures as well as in the European Spatial Data Infrastructure, which will be established as a result of the Inspire initiative (Infrastructure for Spatial Information in Europe). Furthermore, EGN aims at linking official geographical names sources across Europe and setting up a customisable and interoperable Internet service that will enlarge the availability and accessibility of geographical names, and therefore provide the geoinformation sector and other communities with a powerful tool for referencing and information management.

As a preparatory measure (Phase 1) of the EGN project a survey/inventory on geographical names data (SI-EGN) in Europe was recently conducted under the

umbrella of EuroGeographics, the association of national mapping and cadastral agencies (NMCAs) in Europe. A questionnaire was sent to all member organisations of EuroGeographics aiming at investigating the availability, quality, accessibility and responsibility for national official geographical names data. Organisations of 28 countries participated by filling in and returning the SI-EGN questionnaire: Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Germany, Denmark, Netherlands, Belgium, Great Britain, Ireland, France, Spain, Portugal, Switzerland, Austria, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Slovenia, Croatia, Albania, Bulgaria, Turkey and Cyprus. That is, all present EuroGeographics member organisations apart from Russia, Romania, Moldova, Serbia and Montenegro, Greece, Malta, Northern Ireland, Luxemburg, and all EuroGeographics associate members apart from Italy and Kosovo participated. The results are not representative

for South, South-Eastern and East Europe, therefore.

As a first result it can be stated that - as expected - the methods/solutions of keeping and maintaining geographical names data in the respective European countries are very heterogeneous. In some cases various feature categories of geographical names (e.g. populated places and administrative units) are often not yet based on the same data model and are therefore not yet compatible with each other.

Keeping and maintaining of geographical names in one stand-alone database is most common in Europe (17 organisations). 11 organisations reported that geographical names were already integrated in their national spatial data infrastructures, and it was remarked that more countries were working towards this solution. From 9 countries it was reported that names of various feature categories (e.g. hydrography, administrative units, etc.) were kept distributedly under the responsibility of

various national authorities. Analogue geographical names repositories are available from only 3 countries, one of which is providing nothing else than an analogue gazetteer.

Regarding the willingness and readiness to cooperate in the EuroGeoNames project, very encouraging reactions were received from an overwhelming majority of those having

participated in the survey/inventory. 24 organizations would allow the EGN project to use extracts of their database during a test phase; 3 did not yet know and only 1 answered "no".

The analysis and evaluation of the results took place in summer 2005, and the report was prepared in September as a draft version, in order to be sent out to

those that responded to the questionnaire to check the correctness of the questionnaire interpretation. It is expected that a final version of the report will be available at the 23rd UNGEGN session in Wien 2006.

Fejvan Ormeling, Pier-Giorgio Zaccheddu and Jörn Sievers
DGSD

Geographical names in the German coastal area

Under the convenorship of Dieter Grothenn, the Ständiger Ausschuss für geographische Namen (StAGN) dealt with a map project on the geographical names connected with the German coastal area. The collection of these names is primarily based on material provided by the Bundesamt für Seeschifffahrt und Hydrographie (Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency). The geographical names of the German coastal area are shown on four map sheets at the scale of 1 : 200 000. The sheets are: Niedersachsen, containing 355 coastal names

Schleswig-Holstein (West), containing 272 coastal names
Schleswig-Holstein (East), containing 154 coastal names
Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, containing 596 coastal names.
The coastal names shown on the maps are also provided in a listed form printed on the back of the maps. This list contains the following information:

1. Name, gender,
2. Allonym (if available)
3. Feature type
4. Co-ordinates
5. Extension of the feature in kilometres
6. Extension class (serves to facilitate the feature's generalisation for different map

scales)
7. Administrative affiliation
More information (in German language) under:
http://www.lgn.niedersachsen.de/master/C8834798_N8831355_L20_D0_I7746208.html
and under:
<http://www.lverma-mv.de/Gebietskarten>
K200

Jörn Sievers,
UNGEEN Vice-Chair,
and **Bernd E. Beinstein**
Ständiger Ausschuss für geographische Namen (StAGN)
stagn@bkg.bund.de

Report on the Training Course on Toponymy, Enschede, Frankfurt am Main, Berlin

11 August – 6 September 2002 now available

In connection with the Eighth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names a Training Course on Toponymy was organized and conducted by the Governments of the Federal Republic of Germany and The Netherlands in close co-operation with the Secretariat of the United Nations and the Working Group on Training Courses of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN).

The report on this course is published by the Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy,

Frankfurt am Main, Germany, as Volume 28 of the series "Mitteilungen des Bundesamtes für Kartographie und Geodäsie".

<http://www.bkg.bund.de/GI/Shop/index.html>

- Wissenschaftliche Veröffentlichungen
- Mitteilungen aus dem Bundesamt für Kartographie und Geodäsie

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This publication has served as a useful teaching material for several other Training Courses:

- Khartoum, Sudan, February 2003 (as a draft version)
- Maputo, Mozambique, September 2004

- Bathurst, Australia, October 2004

- Malang, Indonesia, September 2005

Also, it will be used at the Training Course to be held in connection with the 23rd UNGEGN session 2006 in Vienna, Austria.

Jörn Sievers,
UNGEGN Vice-Chair,
and **Bernd E. Beinstein**
Ständiger Ausschuss für geographische Namen (StAGN)
stagn@bkg.bund.de

UNGEGN brochure now available in German

To better promote the important work of the UNGEGN in German-speaking countries the Ständiger Ausschuss für geographische Namen (StAGN, Permanent Committee on Geographical Names) prepared a German version of the UNGEGN

brochure. Layout and content of the original version, existing in the six official UN languages, have been retained.

The brochure can be downloaded under www.stagn.de

Jörn Sievers,
UNGEGN Vice-Chair,
and **Bernd E. Beinstein**
Ständiger Ausschuss für geographische Namen (StAGN)
stagn@bkg.bund.de

Report on the International Conference on Minority Names/Indigenous Names and Multilingual Areas, Ljouwert/Leeuwarden, Frisia, the Netherlands, April 14-16 2005

Ljouwert/Leeuwarden, in the heart of the Frisian language minority area in the Netherlands, was the venue of a short international conference on minority names, indigenous names and geographical names in multilingual areas, organized jointly by the Frisian Academy and the Dutch- and German-speaking Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN). The Frisian Academy (Fryske Akademy) is the research institute for the Frisian minority language and culture, and is an affiliate of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Sciences. At its premises in Ljouwert/Leeuwarden, the 32 participants were welcomed on April 14, 2005 by Hans Mol (chair of Onomastics section, Royal Netherlands Academy of Sciences), UNGEGN chair Helen Kerfoot, Bill Watt (co-chair of the UNGEGN Working Group on the Promotion of Indigenous and Minority Group Names), Ferjan Ormeling (chair of the UNGEGN Dutch- and German-speaking Division), and Karel Gildemacher (onomastician at the Frisian Academy and local organizer).

The first session paid homage to the host organisation, by focusing on the rendering and use of minority language geographical names in Frisia, by Arjen Versloot and Karel Gildemacher.

In the second session, the collecting, and presenting of geographical names, for safeguarding the cultural heritage of minority groups were dealt with, with Muhammad Jalaal Hashim and Herman Bell (on Nubia), Bill Watt (on South Australia) and Ulla Swedel and Lennart Dehlin (on Northern Sweden) as contributors.

The reparation of minority names and indigenous names was the next theme, with contributions by Peeter Päll (on Estonia), Reina Boerrigter (on Dutch street names) and Kaisa Helander (on the legalization of Saami place names in Norway). Other legal aspects were dealt with in the 4th session, to which Peter Jordan (on the Romanian place names act), Kaarina Vuolab (minority languages in Finland), Maciej Zych (on Polish legislation regarding minorities), Jörn Sievers and Pier-Giorgio Zaccheddu (on incorporating minority toponyms in German databases) contributed.

Bilingual mapping was addressed by Inge Bily (on Lusatia), Nico Bakker (on Frisia) and Teemu Leskinen (on Finland), while minority names outreach programmes were dealt with by Helen Kerfoot (on Canada), Helge Paulig and Raphael Schäfer (Lusatia) and Teemu Leskinen (on the multilingual names register of Finland).

The final session was on recent developments in dealing with minority names, with contributions by Isolde Hausner, the new chair of the UNGEGN Dutch- and German-speaking Division, by Bill Watt (on the effectiveness of the UNGEGN Indigenous and Minority group working party), Greg Windsor (on the recognition of Aboriginal place names in New South Wales) and by Ferjan Ormeling (on developments in Europe since 1980).

Conference participants were received by the provincial authorities of Fryslân (as is the official name of Frisia (in both Dutch and Frisian) and by the Frisian Academy; a toponymical excursion was held on Saturday April 16, which toured the 'Terpen' area, where in the early Middle Ages artificial mounds had been built to serve as a refuge against inundations. These old drainage patterns are still reflected in the placenames.

The Dutch- and German-speaking Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) started this initiative to have scientific symposia or conferences, to prepare for the decision-making process during the sessions of UNGEGN and the UN Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names (UNCSGN).

Since the 8th UNCISG, held at Berlin in 2002, a working group was set up to deal with the promotion of minority group names and indigenous names. There had been attention for this aspect also within the framework on the discussion on multilingual areas, but the discussion has only picked up momentum since the cultural heritage aspect was linked to it. Since then it has become politically correct to talk about minority names and indigenous names within the UNGEGN. The activities of the new Working Group on this theme, co-chaired by Brian Goodchild and Bill Watt, are focused on gathering information on recognising and recording indigenous and minority group geographical names, with a view to presenting policies and practices of UN Member States and creating some

benchmarks against which future trends can be monitored. In order to further these objectives, and with the support of the new working group, DGSD organised its 3rd International Geographical Names Symposium, Geonames 2005, around this theme.

Frisia provided a fitting location for illustrating this theme and the developments that are taking place. Right up to the 1990s there were internal regulations for the Topographic Survey in the Netherlands that forced topographers collecting geographical names in that area to translate them into the Dutch majority language. Since then, much has changed. In the major part of Frisia, municipalities now standardise the geographical names within their area in Frisian, and these Frisian name versions are now incorporated by the

Topographic Survey in its maps and databases.

Apart from DGSD and the Frisian Academy, the conference was further sponsored by the Nederlandse Taalunie (the supranational institution in charge of all matters regarding the Dutch language, in which Belgium, the Netherlands and Suriname cooperate) the Frisian provincial government and by Utrecht University. The UNGEGN bureau helped us to publicize the event, and the staff at the Fryske Akademy helped with the registration and the catering.

It is expected that the proceedings of the meeting will be published in December 2005.

Ferjan Ormeling

*Convenor of the WG on Training Courses in Toponymy
f.ormeling@geog.uu.nl*

**Training Course on Toponymy, Vienna, Austria
16- 27 March, 2006**

A UN-supported “Training Course on Toponymy” will take place from 16 to 27 March 2006 at the Federal Office for Metrology and Surveying, Vienna/Austria, prior to the 23rd UNGEGN session, which is convened from 28 March to 4 April 2006 in the UN Office at Vienna. This course is organized jointly by the Austrian Academy of Sciences (Working Group for

Cartographic Toponymy) and the Federal Office for Metrology and Surveying, and sponsored by various federal and scientific institutions of Austria.

The course will especially be addressed to young professionals from countries in East- and Southeast Europe, from the Caucasus region and Central Asia. This course mainly aims at

promoting UN programmes for the standardization of geographical names and encouraging countries to take part in the UNGEGN sessions and the UN Conferences for the Standardization of Geographical Names. Participants from all the other Member States of the UN are kindly invited to join this training course.

A globalized world needs standardized geographical names to enable communication and orientation on all levels. Since the 1960s the United Nations Economic and Social Council has taken up this topic to deal with national and international problems involved with the standardization of geographical names and to encourage countries to develop their own programmes. The programme of the above announced training course imparts in single modules all relevant technical and scientific information for the standardization of geographical names. Under the teaching materials the outstanding publication "Training Course on Toponymy", compiled and edited

by Ferjan Ormeling, K. Hans Stabe and Jörn Sievers, Frankfurt am Main 2003, will have a prominent place.

Isolde Hausner,

Chair, Dutch- and German-speaking Division

Contact: isolde.hausner@oeaw.ac.at

From the Working Groups

Working Group on Exonyms

Summary Report on the 4th Meeting of the Working Group on Exonyms
Ljubljana, Slovenia, 19th – 20th May 2005

This two-day meeting was arranged by the UNGEGN Working Group (WG) on Exonyms and hosted by the Anton Melik Geographical Institute of the Scientific Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts in Ljubljana, Slovenia. The two days of meeting were very well-organised and profitable, and provoked much interesting and fruitful discussion. The following outcomes and action items emerged:

- The definitions of endonym and exonym from the 3rd WG Meeting in New York (2004) were accepted by consensus and will be presented to the next UNGEGN session and to the WG on Terminology. These are:

Endonym Name of a geographical feature in an official or well-established language occurring in that area where the feature is located.

Exonym Name used in a specific language for a geographical feature situated outside the area where that language is spoken, and differing in its form from the name used in an official or well-established language of that area where the geographical feature is located.

- The inclusion of exonyms in the UNGEGN database was welcomed, and an outline of the discussion and conclusions would be presented to the UNGEGN Chair. The WG supported a reduction in the number of name category fields from three to two: Endonym and Variant.
- The EuroGeoNames database project was supported by the WG, and the question of furnishing it with exonyms was discussed.
- The production of lists of exonyms in accordance with

UN Resolutions was encouraged, especially to support the two database projects above.

- A request was made for contributions to the website of the WG:
<http://www.zrc-sazu.si/wge>

The Working Group agreed to hold its next (5th) meeting on the evening of Monday 27th March 2006, this being the day before the start of the 23rd UNGEGN session in Vienna. The following (6th) meeting would possibly be hosted by either Korea (Republic of) or Greece.

PCGN, United Kingdom

On behalf of the WG Co-convenors:

Milan Orožen Adamič

milan@zrc.sazu.si

Peter Jordan

Peter.jordan@osi.ac.at

Working Group on Country Names

Report

The Working Group on meeting in Lefkada, Greece on Country Names is convening a November 14-15, 2005. The focus of the meeting will be on updating and improving the

UNGEEN “List of country names” document. Discussions will include potential format changes to the document, updating the country names to conform to recent changes, and the establishment of Unicode-compliant digital fonts for the many scripts used in the document.

Also, the Working Group will compare discrepancies between country names listed in the UNGEEN document and those found on the United Nations Terminology website (<http://unterm.un.org/>), with a

view towards resolving any differences between them. It is hoped that the results of the meeting will allow the Working Group to submit the updated document to the 23rd Session of UNGEEN in Vienna in March 2006.

The Working Group gives its sincere thanks and appreciation to the Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs for its gracious offer to host the November meeting.

Earlier this year the Working Group submitted to the

UNGEEN chair an updated abridged version of the country names document for inclusion into the forthcoming UNGEEN Technical Manual.

The Working Group invites any interested experts to become a member of the group. Please contact the convenor at the address below for any questions.

Leo Dillon

Convenor

Working Group on Country Names
dillonli@state.gov

Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy

Report on the 3rd UN International Training Course on Toponymy in Indonesia, Kota Batu, Malang, East Java, Sept. 11-22, 2005.

42 participants from 7 countries converged on the Kota Batu mountain resort in East Java to attend the 3rd UN Toponymy course organised jointly by Indonesia’s Geospatial Infrastructure Coordination Agency Bakosurtanal and the prestigious Institut Teknologi Nasional (ITN) in Malang, with financial support by UN Statistics Division, on behalf of the Asia Southeast and Pacific Southwest Division of United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEEN). There was an international lecturing team, organised by the convenor of the

relevant UNGEEN WG, with lecturers from Indonesia (3), Australia, Germany and the Netherlands (2) who presented an intensive 11-working days programme in which all aspects of the collection, processing and presentation of geographical names were dealt with.

The programme was chaired by Prof. Jacub Rais, member of the Indonesian Academy of Sciences. New items on this course, as compared to previous ones, were the emphasis on geographical names research, the Excel database instruction, the actual production of various types of gazetteers and the highlight – the

printing of maps on which the collected place names had been digitally inserted.

Indonesia has a crash programme to name some 7000 small islands, which has to be completed in 2007 by the regional authorities, and therefore the lectures and exercises were recorded on video in order to serve as well for the training of the regional island survey teams. But the course had a wider scope, and also addressed issues like atlas register production, regional languages and toponymic guidelines, besides name standardisation in general.

The opening session took place at the campus of the National Technical University (ITN) in Malang, and the meeting hence moved to Kota Batu above Malang. The fieldwork took place in the Singosari administrative area, some 20 km from Malang, and seat of the 13th century Javanese empire, where old temples stood in a partly urbanised, partly rural environment on the slopes of the Arjuna volcano, 600-800m above sea level, with temperatures agreeable for traversing the area on foot. After welcoming us to the area the local authorities provided us with informants and guides.

The important technical support for the course (computers, all the software needed and GPS) were provided by ITN, while Bakosurtanal provided us with first class digital map files of the area, also a novum in the course.

Bakosurtanal had liaised with the UNSD and had distributed the invitations (in the first place to ASEAN countries, but there were also participants from Australia, Pakistan and Sri Lanka). ITN had organised the venue, and the logistics. Germany and Canada had made available teaching material. At the closing ceremony the participants received a CD with all the presentations and gazetteers and maps produced.

The evaluation at the end showed that participants would have profited even more from the course when they would have received the teaching material in advance, so that they could have prepared better for the issues discussed before coming to Indonesia. The fieldwork was considered too short, as the possibility to interact with the local population should be extended. The educational requirements for attending the

course (good knowledge of English, practical participation in toponymy programmes) could have been more clearly stated, but despite that fact the lecturers were happy with the level and enthusiasm of the participants. This enthusiasm was mirrored by the local inhabitants of the fieldwork area who gladly contributed when aware that the field workers were collecting the local names as part of their cultural heritage. Implementing a national names policy in conjunction with the national spatial data infrastructure, and the production of databases were suggested as possible themes for follow-up courses.

Ferjan Ormeling

*Convenor of the WG on Training Courses in Toponymy
f.ormeling@geog.uu.nl*

Working Group on Pronunciation

The Working Group on Pronunciation was formed in response to resolution 11 of the Eighth Conference (Berlin, 27 August - 5 September 2002), which noted that the transliteration of geographical names from the script of one language into another script, such as romanization, does not normally provide a guide to the correct pronunciation of such names by persons who are

unacquainted with the source language. A meeting of the Working Group was held during the 22nd UNGEGN Session (New York, 20-29 April 2004) where various issues pertaining to the subject were discussed. It was noted that the pronunciation of geographical names was a complex issue, at both national and international level. The meeting decided to investigate Naftali Kadmon's proposal that

countries should prepare national pronunciation guides, starting with English as the first phase.

After some delay, the Working Group will shortly be developing its work plan and it is proposed to convene at least one meeting during the 23rd UNGEGN Session in Vienna (28 March - 4 April 2006). A number of experts have expressed interest in participating in the Group, and

some have already made valuable contributions. These include Isolde Hausner, Naftali Kadmon, Herman Bell, Joern Sievers, Randall Flynn, Roger Payne, Lucie Möller, Ki-Suk Lee, Leif Nilsson, Gerd Quinting, Menelaos Christodoulou. Others interested in participating should contact the convenor.

Donall Mac Giolla Easpaig
Convenor of the WG on Pronunciation
dmaggiollaepaspaig@pobail.ie

Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation and Working Group on Publicity and Funding

A Joint Meeting of the Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation (Convenor Ki-Suk Lee) and the Working Group on Publicity and Funding (Convenor David Munro) will be held in Seoul, Republic of Korea, 28-30 November 2005. The coming joint meeting was planned at the 22nd session of UNGEGN in New York (2004) and the 30th International Geographical Congress held in Glasgow (2004). We welcome participation of members of these two working groups, as well as any experts from UNGEGN

divisions and member states accessible to Seoul.

Meeting Place: Convention Centre, Hoam Faculty House, Seoul National University

Accommodation: Hoam Faculty House

For further information about the meeting or costs for accommodation please contact:

Prof. Ki-Suk Lee
Convenor, UNGEGN Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation

Department of Geography Education
Seoul National University
Seoul, Korea 151-742

Tel. +82-2-880-7720(office)

Fax: +82-2-871-9167

Mobile: 82-16-262-8952

email: leekisuk@snu.ac.kr

or

Dr. David Munro
Convenor, UNGEGN Working Group on Publicity and Funding
e-mail: David.Munro@strath.ac.uk

Publications

New Dictionary of South African place names

The *New Dictionary of South African Place Names* by Peter E. Raper has now been published and is available at Exclusive Books and in other bookstores around the country; and on the Internet at www.kalahari.net and www.exclusivebooks.com.

Specifications: 17 x 24 cm; hard cover and dust jacket, xvii, 421 pages; bibliography. ISBN 1 86842 190 2. Published by Jonathan Ball Publishers, P.O. Box 33977, Jeppestown, 2043, South Africa.
Price R225.95

“This well-researched publication contains close on 8000 entries. It includes historical and archaic place-names as well as modern ones, incorporates name changes to

date and indicates indigenous names for places with European names. It also contains the results of original research and corrects errors and misconceptions of the past.

Incorporating data from as far back as 1486, this book encapsulates the toponymic, cultural and linguistic heritage of all the peoples of the sub-continent, past and present.

The information provided for each entry presented in a lively and interesting way, making this far more than just a dictionary. It contains a host of fascinating information, including the name; its status (official or unofficial); the province in which the place is situated; situation of the place in spatial terms, in coordinates of latitude in degrees and

minutes; variant spellings recorded for the name; the language(s) from which the name is derived; the meaning of the name and the reason for the name (if known).

All data was prepared in accordance with United Nations recommendations and complies with international standards of excellence, reliability and usefulness”.

Kindest regards

Lucie Möller

Names Research Institute

Pretoria

South Africa

E-mail: lamoller@absamail.co.za