Advanced toponymy courses

Submitted by the Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy**

Summary***

The present report is intended as a discussion paper for a meeting of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy, to be held during the Tenth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names. It contains a list of the new course elements that were added to the standard toponymy course contents, developed in the period from 1982 to 2002. The elements were added during the past decade because of new requirements perceived on an ad hoc basis.

At the meeting, the elements would be grouped, analysed and, on the basis of a set of criteria drawn up for possible evaluation, used as building blocks for an advanced toponymy course programme. Such an advanced course would last two weeks, but elements could be selected to create a shorter programme. The purpose of the meeting would also be to assess the availability of lecturers to prepare syllabuses in advance of actual courses.

Until now, lecturers have been seconded by their employers to attend the courses, local organizers have paid for local transportation, accommodation and meals, and sponsors have been sought to cover the cost of airfares.