



UNITED NATIONS  
CONFERENCE ON THE  
STANDARDIZATION OF  
GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

50<sup>TH</sup>

ANNIVERSARY



1967-2017

Promoting the collection, standardization  
and dissemination of geographical names



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PANEL DISCUSSION:

# Making Geographical Names Data Accessible and Available



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## PANELISTS:

- Mark Dyer, Chair, New Zealand
- Andreas Hadjiraftis, Cyprus
- Dody Sukmayadi, Indonesia
- Wendy Shaw, New Zealand
- Pier-Georgio Zaccheddu, Germany



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- Introduction of Topic
- Introduction of Discussion
- Questions from the Chair to the Panel
- Questions from the Conference to the Panel



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## DISCUSSION POINTS:

1. Institutional arrangements, please describe what they are and their effectiveness?
2. Feature types and extents necessarily draw on other datasets such as topographic and hydrographic datasets. Linking names to geographic features is fundamental in a digital age. What challenges and opportunities have you experienced?
3. Similarly, history, origin, and meaning are fundamental links to cultural, social, and economic elements of people and communities. How have you addressed this challenge in making names accessible and available?



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## DISCUSSION POINTS:

4. The extent to which gazetteers are made available to the public generally (as opposed to web services for the spatial industry)
5. Monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of gazetteer websites is critical to ensure we meet user needs. Are we doing enough to meet demand? Is there effective feedback loops? Do we know who our users are? Do we have a program to monitor accuracy and completeness? What of enhancements and upgrades for technology platforms?
6. How is trust built in the authoritative database? Is it simply accuracy and completeness or are there other actions required?