

4 August 2017

Original: English

**11th United Nations Conference on the Standardization
of Geographical Names**

New York, 8 -17 August 2017

Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

**Reflection on the past, present and future: the fiftieth anniversary
of the United Nations Conference on the Standardization
of Geographical Names**

50 years of UNCSGN: Honouring some of those who got us here

Submitted by UNGEGN Bureau **

*E/CONF.105/1

**Prepared by Peder Gammeltoft, Convenor, Working Group of the Publicity and Funding



UNCSGN50TH ANNIVERSARY

Honouring some of those who got us here

First draft

UNCSGN 50th Anniversary

Honouring some of those who got us here

*Prepared by Peder Gammeltoft,
Convenor, Working Group on Publicity and Funding*

The year 2017 not only marks the year of the 11th UNCSGN Conference, it also marks 50 years of *United Nations Conferences on Standardization of Geographical names*. This is no small achievement for an expert group like UNGEGN to survive this long and still remain as relevant and true to the original objectives of the expert group.

There is thus every reason to celebrate this occasion and, indeed, this is the reasoning behind this publication also. We can now look back at 50 years of continuous progress in furthering the national and international standardization of geographical names. However, these 50 years would never have come about if it was not for the big efforts of experts from all over the world having attended, presented, debated and advanced geographical names standardization at 30 UNGEGN Sessions and 11 UNCSGN Conferences – as well as at regional and national level. As with all organizations, there are some who stand out for us all – some who have made an extraordinarily large impact to UNGEGN and UNCSGN. This is a tribute to them from us today. Without them UNGEGN would not be what it is today and because of them:

We are like dwarfs sitting on the shoulders of giants. We see more, and things that are more distant, than they did, not because our sight is superior or because we are taller than they, but because they raise us up, and by their great stature add to ours.
John of Salisbury: *Metalogicon* (1159).

This paragraph was written more than 850 years ago but it is just as relevant for us now as then. In the following, we present some of those giants we can now proudly perch on the shoulders of and look far into the future.

There are many more people to honour than the 30 people mentioned here – we invite you all to submit more additional people who have contributed to what we are today in UNGEGN and thus thoroughly join the celebration of the UNCSGN 50th anniversary!!

Dirk Pieter Blok · Netherlands

UNGEGN Chair 1982–1987/UNCSGN President 1982



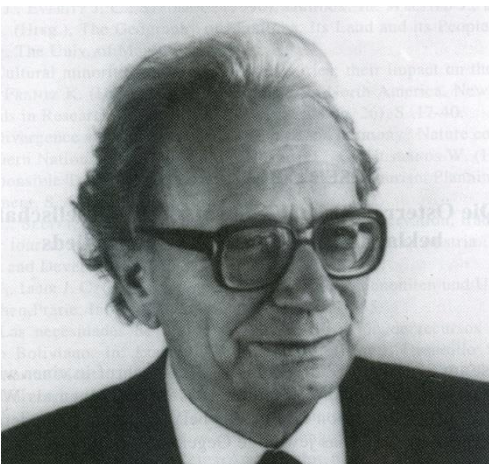
Dirk Pieter (Dick) Blok received his PhD in Medieval History from Utrecht University in 1960, and became director of the *Meertens institute* (for Research and documentation of Dutch language and culture) of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences 1965–1984, from 1980 Professor in settlement history and toponymy at Amsterdam University. From 1962–1973 he was secretary of the commission appointed to standardize Dutch geographical names, and this involvement with geographical names led to his delegation by the Netherlands to the first UNCSGN. At home Blok chaired both the Place Name Commission of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Sciences and the Commission on Foreign Geographical Names of the Dutch Language Union for an extended number of years.

Blok had a number of roles in UNGEGN, ranging from rapporteur over UNGEGN Chair to UNCSGN President. He is especially known for his involvement in getting a number of crucial resolutions accepted, such as the resolutions on the acceptance of the Pinyin conversion system (III/8), national standardization (against name changing by occupying powers, III/16) Reduction of exonyms (IV/20), Toponymical guidelines (IV/4), as well as the acceptance of the GOST 1983 conversion system for Russian Cyrillic (V/18).

Blok was active in the first 5 UNCSGN Conferences and all UNGEGN Sessions in-between – the fifth conference in Montreal in 1987, was the first one where he was without a function, allowing him to play the role of elder statesman, advising on current issues and how to go about in reaching goals.

Josef Breu · 1914–1998 · Austria)

UNGEGN Chair 1977–1982



In 1969, Josef Breu initiated the foundation of the Austrian Board on Geographical Names (Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Kartographische Ortsnamenkunde, AKO) which functions as a clearinghouse for the main Austrian federal and provincial authorities and institutions of science and research as well as of private publishers concerned with geographical names. Breu held the chair here until 1982. In 1975, he published *The Gazetteer of Austria*, edited in accordance with the recommendations of the United Nations. From 1976 until 1982 he held the chair of the Permanent Committee on Geographical Names, which promotes and coordinates the standardization of toponyms in the German-speaking countries. In 1977, Josef

Breu was elected Chair of UNGEGN, where he had been active for several years, having, among other things, a leading role in the establishment of UNGEGN's Toponymic Guidelines.

Caroline Burgess · United Kingdom

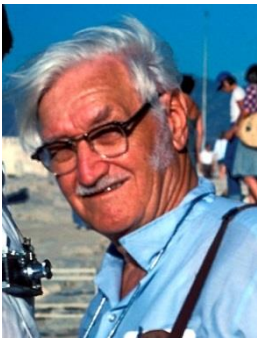


Caroline Burgess was a Toponymist 1992 to 2009 and since Head of the United Kingdom's Permanent Committee on Geographical Names, 2009–2013, advising the British government on policies and procedures for the proper writing of geographical names for places and features outside the United Kingdom, excluding those of the Antarctic. She was an active member of UNGEGN from 1994 to 2013 and participated at 8 Sessions of the UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN 17, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 26, 27) and 3 UN Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names (8th, 9th and 10th UNCSGN).

She was a key contributor to the UNGEGN *Technical reference manual for the standardization of geographical names* and was an active participant in several working groups: Toponymic Data Files & Gazetteers, Romanization Systems, Exonyms and Country Names. She undertook a great deal of valuable editorial and rapporteurial work at Conferences and Sessions, facilitating out-of-session discussions to ensure agreement on Reports was reached with her notable diplomatic skills and engaging manner.

Meredith Burrill (USA)

UNGEGN Chair 1960–1977/UNCSGN President 1967



Meredith (Pete) F. Burrill was executive secretary of the United States Board on Geographic Names for more than 30 years. Graduated as a PhD in Geography from Clark University, Worcester, Ma., Burrill came into contact with geographical names in 1943, when he became Executive Secretary to the Board of Geographic Names under the Department of the Interior. Under his direction, a staff of 175 experts in geography, linguistics, languages and map-making identified and Romanized some two million Asian place names. After WWII, Burrill supervised a board of experts from nine Federal agencies charged with establishing standard names for all Federal maps and publications. Seeing the importance of common international standards

from this work, he helped persuade the United Nations to establish UNGEGN, a task which was underscored with the 1st UNCSGN Conference held in Geneva in 1967. Even after he retired from United States Board on Geographic Names in 1973, he continued to represent the United States at the United Nations.

Rolf Böhme · 1917–1997 · Germany

Rolf Böhme graduated as Dipl.Ing. in 1948 and was employed initially with the private Land Survey Office (later renamed Land- und Seevermessung Oro-Hydrographie) in Frankfurt am Main. He joined the German

Institute for Applied Geodesy (Institut für Angewandte Geodäsie, IfAG) in 1956 and remained there until his retirement in 1982. From 1972 Böhme was appointed Scientific Director in charge of practical cartography in IfAG, and from 1979 Head of the whole Cartography Division.



Over the years Böhme became increasingly involved in geographical names, and he gained considerable experience and expertise in automated name processing. In 1977, he became involved in UNGEGN and was the Convenor of the Working Group on Automated Data Processing, 1977–1982, and Vice-Chair of Technical Committee II. He represented West Germany at the UNCSGN Conferences in Athens (1977) and Geneva (1982), and he took part in the first Training Course in Toponymy in Cisarua (Indonesia) organised by F.J. Ormeling Sr. in 1982.

Rolf Böhme was also active in the International Cartographic Association (ICA), where he became Honorary Member in 1984.

Gordon F. Delaney · Canada



Gordon Delaney spent over twelve years in the Canadian Department of Agriculture before becoming responsible for the nomenclature on maps produced by the Department of Mines and Resources. He became a specialist in cartographic typography and later Chief of the Toponymy Division, with responsibilities of Executive Secretary of the Canadian names board. Delaney was one of Canada's first contributors to the substantive tasks of UNGEGN. In the 1970s, he coordinated the activities of the Working Group on Names of Undersea Features, including establishing suitable naming policies; also he contributed to the Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy.

Henri Dorion · Canada

UNGEKN Chair 1987–1991



Henri Dorion has had a varied career and was widely respected as a geographer, a university professor, President of the Commission de Toponymie du Québec, Chair of the Canadian names board, Director of Research for the Musée de la Civilisation du Québec, and representative of the Québec government overseas. Also, Henri is an accomplished linguist, and participated in the activities of UNGEGN over a number of years. He was convenor of the Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy in the late 1980s to be UNGEGN Chair 1987–1991, promoted the work of the Group. In recent years he has been involved with creating an inventory of French exonyms around the world, as well as online toponymy training in French.

Jean-Paul Drolet · Canada

UNCSGN President 1987



Jean-Paul Drolet was Assistant Deputy Minister in the Government of Canada and long-time Chair of the Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names, 1964–1988. He was a mining engineer by training and his early career was with mineral prospecting companies in Quebec. Yet, Jean-Paul became a staunch advocate for Canada’s participation in UNCSGN and UNGEGN, attending several conferences himself as head of the Canadian delegation (from 1967 through the 1980s). He was responsible for Canada hosting the Fifth UN Conference at the International Civil Aviation Organization headquarters in Montréal in 1987, and was elected President of the Conference.

P J M Geelan · United Kingdom



P J M (Pat) Geelan was the Secretary of the United Kingdom’s Permanent Committee on Geographical Names, advising the British government on policies and procedures for the proper writing of geographical names for places and features outside the United Kingdom, excluding those of the Antarctic, from 1955 to 1979.

Pat was a founder member of the Group of Experts in 1967 and brought great energy to UNGEGN and, continued as an active member until 1979, participating in 8 Sessions (UNGEEN 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8) and 3 Conferences (1st, 2nd and 3rd UNCSGN, including being the co-organizer of the 2nd Conference (in London)).

Pat had a key role in establishing and maintaining the Working Group on Romanization Systems and throughout the years of his participation in UNGEGN undertook much valuable editorial and rapporteurial work at Conferences and Sessions.

Dietmar Grünreich · Germany



Dietmar Grünreich was President of the Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy (BKG) 1999–2011, under his leadership BKG organized the 8th UNCSGN held in Berlin 2002, he initiated Resolution VIII/6 - Integration of Geographical Names Data into National and Regional Spatial Data Infrastructures. This has been a milestone and has influenced the establishment of regional spatial data infrastructures (like INSPIRE in Europe) and it supports UN-GGIM activities as geographical names are definitely pertinent to geospatial information management.

Isolde Hausner · Austria



Isolde Hausner was chair of the Austrian Board on Geographical Names from 1997 to 2007. From 1997 until 2007 she was a Permanent Member of the Permanent Committee on Geographical Names and contributed essentially to UNGEGN. She was appointed coordinator of the Toponymic Guidelines for Map and Other Editors for International Use in succession to Josef Breu and Peter Raper. She played a decisive role in bringing a UNGEGN session to Austria for the first time and the 23rd UNGEGN Session in Vienna was certainly a highlight of her UNGEGN engagement. Together with Peter Jordan, she organized a UNGEGN training course preceding the Session.

Botolv Helleland · Norway

UNCSGN President 2012



Professor Botolv Helleland has worked with geographical names and language standardization his entire career, ever since graduating in Name Research in 1970 from Oslo University. He is one of those who have always had an international outlook at the same time as being true to his native Hardanger in Western Norway. Helleland has had a variety of posts in national and international organizations, ranging from Head of Institute of Name Research at Oslo University and State Geographical Names Consultant since 1984, via Vice-Presidency of the International Council of Onomastic Sciences (ICOS) during two periods, to Norwegian UNGEGN representative since 1987. He has had a number of substantial positions in UNGEGN, the most significant of which was President of the 10th UNCSGN Conference in New York 2012.

Erfried Haack · German Democratic Republic and Germany



Erfried Haack represented both the German Democratic Republic (GDR) and, after the unification, Germany, serving as, among other things as Vice-Chair of Technical Committee IV at the 3rd UNCSGN Conference.

Being a senior official in the Administration of Surveying and Mapping of the Ministry of the Interior of the GDR and Chair of the Permanent Toponymic Commission of the GDR until 1990, Haack was one of the first within the UNGEGN community to submit a Toponymic Guidelines (for the GDR) in 1981.

Helen Kerfoot · Canada

UNGEGN Chair 2002–2012/UNCSGN President 2007



Helen Kerfoot worked as a researcher with the Geological Survey of Canada and as a secondary school teacher before joining the Secretariat of the Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names in 1976. She became Executive Secretary of the Committee in 1987. Since then she has participated in six UN Conferences and all UNGEGN Sessions. Helen was elected Vice-Chair of UNGEGN in 1991, Chair from 2002–2012, and President of the 9th UNCSGN Conference. During these years she participated actively in delivering toponymy training courses, directed the publication of a number of manuals and brochures to assist UNGEGN's endeavours, worked to establish the UNGEGN web site, and supported the activities of various divisions and working groups, including particular interaction with the Task Team for Africa.

Ki-Suk Lee · Republic of Korea



Mr. Ki-Suk Lee is Professor Emeritus of Seoul National University and a member of the National Academy of Sciences, Republic of Korea. He attended all UNGEGN Sessions and UNCSGN Conferences from 1994 to 2012 as a delegate of the Republic of Korea. As the convenor of the Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation from 2002 to 2012, he contributed to evaluating the efficacy of UNGEGN and Conferences and the implementation of resolutions by organizing a series of Working Group meetings; Seoul, 2011, 2005, 2003; Vancouver, 2010; San Francisco, 2008; Honolulu, 2007. During his convenorship, an online searchable database of UNCSGN resolutions was initiated and is now available in English, French and Spanish. At the High-Level Forum on GGIM held in Seoul, October 2011, his Working Group organized presentation sessions and exhibition on the importance of geographical names and UNGEGN activities, and contributed to bridging the two expert groups. He has also been the acting chair of the Asia East Division (other than China) since 2000.

During the entire period of his academic career as a geography professor, he was an outstanding teacher and researcher of urban and social geography, geography education, cartography and toponymy. He has long been a member of the Korea Committee on Geographical Names, of which he was the chair from 2010 to 2016.

H A G Lewis · 1912-2002 · United Kingdom

UNCSGN President 1972



Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua. Ut enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exercitation ullamco laboris nisi ut aliquip ex ea commodo consequat. Duis aute irure dolor in reprehenderit in voluptate velit esse cillum dolore eu fugiat nulla pariatur. Excepteur sint occaecat cupidatat non proident, sunt in culpa qui officia deserunt mollit anim id est laborum.

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua. Ut enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exercitation ullamco laboris nisi ut aliquip ex ea commodo consequat.

L Mavridis · Greece

UNCSGN President 1977



Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua. Ut enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exercitation ullamco laboris nisi ut aliquip ex ea commodo consequat. Duis aute irure dolor in reprehenderit in voluptate velit esse cillum dolore eu fugiat nulla pariatur. Excepteur sint occaecat cupidatat non proident, sunt in culpa qui officia deserunt mollit anim id est laborum.

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua. Ut enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exercitation ullamco laboris nisi ut aliquip ex ea commodo consequat.

Emil Meynen · 1902–1994 · Germany



Emil Meynen graduated in Geography from University of Cologne in 1935 and in 1950, he founded the German Association for Applied Geography (Deutscher Verband für Angewandte Geographie (DVAG)) with Walter Christaller and Paul Gauss. Meynen was appointed honorary professor at the University of Cologne in 1955, and in 1956 became director of the Institute of regional Studies (Institut für Landeskunde)) in the Federal Agency of Regional and Spatial Research (Bundesanstalt für Landeskunde und Raumordnung). He became one of the leading post-WWII German geographers and spatial planners and was Chair of the Permanent Committee on Geographical names (StAGN) 1959–1976. Meynen was

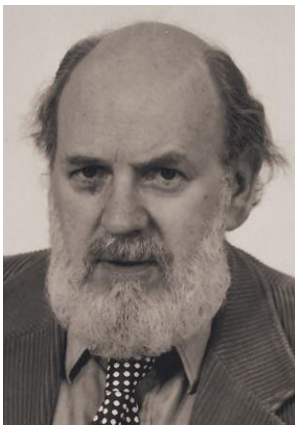
one of the founders of UNGEGN and the leading German UNGEGN expert for many years. He was Vice-President of the 2nd UNCSGN in London 1972.

David Munro · United Kingdom



David Munro was the Chairman of the United Kingdom's Permanent Committee on Geographical Names from 1999 to 2009, and an active member of UNGEGN from 2000 to 2009. He participated at six UNGEGN Sessions (UNEGN 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25) and two UNCSGN Conferences (8th and 9th UNCSGN) and chaired the UNGEGN Working Group on Publicity and Funding for a decade from 2002 to 2012, a role which he undertook with energy and enthusiasm. Munro was a significant driver in the preparation of the UNGEGN Media Kit.

F J Ormeling · 1912–2002 · The Netherlands



Ferdinand Jan (Fer) Ormeling graduated in geography from Utrecht University. From 1947–56 he was director of the Geographical Institute, Topographical Survey Indonesia, where, in 1955, he got his PhD at the University of Indonesia on a thesis about the economic development of Timor. From 1956–64 he was atlas editor at Wolters publishing company, Groningen, Netherlands. In 1964 he was appointed Professor of Economic geography at Amsterdam University, and in 1971 he was appointed professor of Cartography, ITC, Enschede, where he set up a new cartography department where he lectured until his retirement in 1982. He was President of the Netherlands Cartographic Society and of the Royal Netherlands Geographical Society. After the successful organization of the International Cartographic Conference in Amsterdam, 1967, he was elected

Secretary General and subsequently President of International Cartographic Association 1968–1988. He edited 9 editions of the Grote Bosatlas, the main school atlas of the Netherlands 1956–1976. His work as editor of this atlas got him delegated to the 1st UNCSGN Conference in Geneva in 1967.

Ormeling served as Convenor of the Working Group on Education and Training 1973–1986 and co-organised toponymy courses in Indonesia (Cisarua 1982), Morocco (Rabat 1985) and Indonesia (Cipanas 1989). In his work with toponymic education, Ormeling proposed a working group on training courses in toponymy in 1973, and was elected chair of this WG, which he led until 1987.

The following resolutions on toponymic education and training were instigated by Ormeling: II/18 (on the proposed Netherlands/UN training course in 1974), III/15 (for sharing resources for the realization of toponymy courses), IV/5 (enticing universities to set up toponymy courses), IV/6 (having courses similar to the successful pilot course in Indonesia), V/21 (soliciting for courses by other divisions and VI/13, recommending UNGEGN financial support for the organization of international toponymy courses. Ormeling was also a staunch proponent of the reduction of exonyms and as such contributed to the acceptance of resolution III/19 on the production of lists of exonyms (as a first step towards reduction) and of resolution IV/20 on the reduction of exonyms.

Peter E Raper · South Africa

UNGEGN Chair 1991-2002/UNCSGN President 1998



Dr. Peter E Raper joined the Onomastic Research Unit of the Human Sciences Research Council in 1970 and thus began a life-long career in geographical names research and standardization. He became president of the Name Society of South Africa in 1989, a position he held until 2006. A long-standing member of UNGEGN, Raper was Chair of UNGEGN for more than a decade – from 1991 to 2002, during which period he also held the presidency of UNCSGN in 1998.

Since the early 1990s, Raper has been involved in UNGEGN Toponymical Training Courses, thus helping to spread the awareness of the importance of geographical names standardization throughout Africa and thus furthering the work of UNGEGN

on this continent.

Alan Rayburn · Canada



Alan Rayburn started his career as an economic geographer, including undertaking a land-use study in what is now Sri Lanka. He was the Executive Secretary of the Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names (1973 – 1987) and the author of several books on the toponymy of Canada. He was an active participant in UNGEGN activities in the 1970s and 1980s, being elected as its rapporteur from 1982 to 1987 (including for the 5th Conference in Montréal in 1987). Alan was an active member of several Working Groups, including Toponymy Training, Automated Data Processing, and Undersea and Maritime Features. For several years he was Chair of the USA/Canada Division.

Klaus-Henning Rosen · Germany

UNCSGN President 2002



Klaus-Henning Rosen studied Law in Stuttgart and graduated there in 1969. He became an official in the Ministry of Justice, Labor and Social Affairs of Baden-Württemberg in 1970 and worked until 1973 as First Prosecutor in Stuttgart. From 1976 to 1989 he directed the personal office of the old Federal Chancellor Willy Brandt. From 1990 to 1991 he was an official in the Inner German Ministry, then 1991 to 2003 an official in the Federal Ministry of the Interior. From 1998 to 2003, he was Director-General at the German Federal Ministry of the Interior, in charge of civil protection and disaster relief. 1998–2003. It was in this capacity he held the chair as President of the 8th UNCSGN in Berlin 2002.

Jörn Sievers · Germany



Jörn Sievers represented Germany in UNGEGN Sessions and UNCSGN Conferences from 1989 to 2007, and acted as UNGEGN Vice-Chair 2002–2007. It was very much owing to his efforts that the 8th UNCSGN Conference was awarded to Berlin – and he chaired the organizing committee of this conference.

As the Head of Division at the Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy (BKG) until 2007, he invested much time and interest in name research into the Antarctica as well as in the standardization of geographical names. Sievers was also Chair of the Permanent Committee on Geographical names (StAGN) from 1994 to 2009. He is now playing a very active role as Honorary Chair of StAGN.

Hiroshi Tanabe · Japan



Professor emeritus Hiroshi Tanabe has an impressive track record of geographical research and education at the Universities of Tokyo, Keio, Teikyo and many other universities in Japan as well as abroad. In this capacity, he was instrumental the Founding of the Japanese National Committee on Place Names under the Science Council of Japan. Through his work he has tirelessly stressed the importance of the National Committee on Place Names to scientists and administrative bodies alike through his many articles on geographical names. Being the first Japanese academic geographer delegate to UNGEGN and UNGSGN, he presented important papers for the Working Group on Exonyms – thus helping bring awareness to the Japanese academic

sphere of the importance of geographical names.

Abdelhadi Tazi · 1921– 2015 · Morocco

UNCSGN President 1992



Professor Abdelhadi Tazi was a renowned scholar, writer, historian and former Moroccan ambassador to Iran, Iraq and Libya. He obtained his High degree Diploma in Theological studies from the University of Al Karaouine in 1947 and later graduated from Moroccan Institute of High Studies in 1953. After Moroccan independence, he was appointed Director of the Cultural Section in the Ministry of national Education in Rabat 1957. Tazi was ambassador of the Kingdom of Morocco in the Republic of Iraq 1963-1967 and 1968-1972, serving a brief period as Ambassador of the Kingdom of Morocco in Libya 1967-1968 and in Iran in 1979. In 1973, he became Director of the Institute for Scientific Research. His involvement in UNGEGN started in the 1970s and he submitted several papers on Moroccan and Arabic geographical names, and was crowned with his Presidency of the 6th UNCSGN Conference.

Alessandro Toniolo · Italy



Professor Alessandro (Sandro) Toniolo graduated from the University of Padua in 1956. From 1958 to 1963 he worked as a geographer with the De Agostini Geographic Institute in Novara and from 1963 to 1991 with the Italian Touring Club in Milan as geo-cartography editor, responsible for the *International Touring Club Atlas*, 1968–1977.

His engagement with UNGEGN began in 1979 with the participation in the activities of the Division of Languages Romance other than Latin-American (the earlier name of the Romano-Hellenic Division). Toniolo has attended several UNGEGN Sessions and still actively participates in the Working Group on Romanization Systems (transcription from Greek, Cyrillic, Arabic, Chinese scripts). Toniolo also drafted the first Italian edition of the *Toponymic Guidelines for Map Editors and other Editors*, under the auspices of the Italian Association of Cartography. The guidelines were presented at the 5th UNCSGN Conference in Montreal in 1987.

Since 1992, Toniolo has been teaching geography and toponymy at the Catholic University of Milan as well as other academic institutions. He is also a well-known author of many geographic and toponymic publications, mainly devoted to the standardization of geographical names, including the acclaimed monograph *I perché e i nomi della geografia (The why and the names of geography)* from 2005.

William Watt · Australia

UNEGN Chair 2012–



William (Bill) Watt has an excellent career relating to geographical names at a national as well as internationally. He has devoted much of his life and work in advancing the standardization of geographical names at national, divisional and global levels. In an UNGEGN perspective, Watt presented his first papers at the 5th UNCSGN Conference in Montreal in 1987 and has continuously attended the UNGEGN Sessions and UNCSGN Conferences since 2002, where he has acted as Convenor of the Working Group on the Promotion of Indigenous, Minority and Regional Groups since its creation until 2002 and UNGEGN Rapporteur 2007–2012. And since 2012, he has been chair of UNGEGN and run the Sessions expertly and established a clearer management of the organization.

Justus B Ch Wekker · 1920–1993 · Suriname



Justus B Ch Wekker graduated as a geodetic engineer at Delft University, PhD at Utrecht University. After Suriname's independence in 1975, Wekker represented Suriname at the UNGEGN from 1977 to 1982, and he authored the first Toponymical Guidelines for Map Editors and other Editors for Suriname in 1981 at the 9th UNGEGN Session, W.P. 12 – the first South American country to do so. At his instigation, a gazetteer of Suriname (*Lijst van aardrijkskundige namen in Suriname*) was published in 1984, revised 1986.

In the 1970s, Wekker organised a workshop on the collecting and processing of geographical names in Suriname, where Dirck Blok and F J Ormeling Sr participated as lecturers. The workshop involved an expedition by boat into the interior with the aim of visiting Maroon communities in order to collect their names. This workshop served as a test for the UNGEGN courses on Toponymic Training proposed by Ormeling Sr.

Paul Woodman · United Kingdom



Paul Woodman was a Toponymist, 1976–1979, and Secretary 1979 to 2009 of the United Kingdom's Permanent Committee on Geographical Names, advising the British government on policies and procedures for the proper writing of geographical names for places and features outside the United Kingdom, excluding those of the Antarctic. In relation to this work, Woodman has been an active member of UNGEGN since 1977 and participated in a no less than 13 UNGEGN Sessions (9, 10, 13, 14, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25) and 6 Conferences UNCSGN (3rd, 4th, 5th, 7th, 8th and 9th). With his extraordinary knowledge of global history, politics and language, he has made contributions on a vast variety of topics in plenary sessions. Additionally, he was the Rapporteur of UNGEGN from 1987 to 1991 – and

Editor-in-Chief of the 9th UNCSGN. Woodman had a key role in several working groups: Exonyms, Romanization Systems, Country Names and Terminology.

Though notionally retired, Paul Woodman continues to be very active in geographical names work, most particularly in the work of the UNGEGN Working Group on Exonyms, where he is the joint editor of the toponymic journal *Name & Place*, a product of the Working Group on Exonyms.

Thank you to all the contributors who made this publication possible – without you we would never have been able to produce anything as impressive as this:

- Catherine Cheetham, United Kingdom
- Sungjae Choo, Republic of Korea
- Peter Jordan, Austria
- Helen Kerfoot, Canada
- Ferjan Ormeling, The Netherlands
- Heather Ross, Canada
- Kohei Watanabe, Japan
- Pier-Giorgio Zaccheddu, Germany