United Nations Conferences and UNGEGN: publications and communications

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(UNEGGN Chair, 2002-2012)
Outreach to disseminate and promote work of UNGEGN and member states

- taken various forms over the years
- paper documents to Internet communication
- building on the work of those before us

UNEGGN website: unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNEGGN/
Terminology

- 1971 ... Definitions working group
- 1984 ... Publication, *Glossary 330*
- After hiatus, WG re-established in 1989 as Terminology WG
- 2002 ... Publication of enlarged *Glossary of Terms* ...
- 2007 ... Further terms defined and move towards database

6 language volumes + Korean

Convenors: Page, Lewis, Kadmon, Nyström
Reports – UNGEGN, Conferences

- UNGEGN
  - 2 meetings (in 1960s) and 29 sessions
    - Report for each + documents

- 10 Conferences
  - 1-7 ... Vol. I report; Vol. II technical papers
  - 8-10 ... Report and documents on web

- Now good reference collection of these documents can be downloaded from the UNGEGN website – over 4000 documents (follow up of resolution VII/14)

- Plus Excel compendium of all documents presented to Conferences and UNGEGN
Resolutions

- 207 resolutions from 10 Conferences
  - Compendium, by subject category, since 1987
    - English, French, Spanish, Arabic + Portuguese
  - Online database since 2010
    - Republic of Korea – English, French, Spanish ... Arabic

Max de Henseler and Alan Rayburn, 1987
Standardization: instructions

- Resolution I/4 ... authorities, collection, office treatment, multilingual areas, gazetteers

- UN’s *World Cartography*
  - 1986 Vol. XVIII ... Technical studies
    - Orth, Breu, Blok, Ormeling Snr, Payne
  - 1990 Vol. XXI ... “Organization and functions of a National Geographical Names Standardization Programme: a manual” Orth

- UNGEGN publications
  - 2006 ‘green basic manual’
  - 2007 ‘brown technical manual’
  - 2017 ‘blue training manual’
Toponymic guidelines

Over 40 countries have toponymic guidelines
Communication between experts - 1

- Early days by letter, then fax, then email
- Chair’s newsletter ... *Breu*
- 1987 ... Resolution V/24 .. UNGEGN *Newsletter*
  - Approx. 2/year; changes in design and content to current inclusion of themes; 52 issues
  - Changed to UNGEGN *Information Bulletin* in 2003
  - Orchestrated by UNGEGN Secretariat
    - *Stabe/Javier; Laaribi; Zewoldi; Warschburger; Blake/Frani*
UNEGGN Information Bulletin

- Layout changes
- Title change
- Colour and illustrations
- Thematic sections

1988
1998
2003
2007
2014
1996 ... “red book” to collect basic information for experts ... Raper

2002 ... UNGEGN Website
- Expanded in content; design changes
- UNGEGN Secretariat is focal point
- Now the primary source of our information
Making our work better known

- Ongoing liaison with IHO, SCAR, ICA, various standards organizations, etc. and now UN-GGIM
- Brochures (urged by Beatrice Labonne, UN)

- Media Kit
  - cover + 10 themed pages

- Promotional items

2001
6 UN languages
+ 8 more

2007

2012

2009-14
Endonyms and UN language forms

Started in 2004 to provide standardized data to the public; ongoing project

- Conceptual work: Laaribi and Marxgut
- Now nearly 6000 records, including 3477 cities
- 51 Romanization systems
- 1100 sound files for 42 countries
Publications: UNGEGN inspired

- Working Group on Exonyms
  - Prolific publication programme from meetings

- Working Group on Toponymy Training
  - Various paper and CD publications from courses

- Country and Division publications
  - Very useful items on policies, names history, heritage
  - CD-ROMs, TV series for publicity
  - Seminar series

- Individual publications
  - Academic presentations
  - Books, e.g. *Toponymy, the lore, laws and languages of geographical names*
À l’avenir ... promouvoir la communication et bâtir un monde plus pacifique

unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNEGE
Thank you to all!