

THE IMPORTANCE OF NON-OFFICIAL WORKS ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES TO THE UNGEGN ACTIVITIES

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- 1- So for the UNGEGN activities are kept within the frame of the geographical names authorities. The question is : why not also give a suitable attention to the non-official studies on geographical names that are done in various parts of the world ?
- 2- In Saudi Arabia, as an example, the efforts made by the authorities on geographical names is paralleled by remarkable non-official works. The following is an example of these non-official works :
 - 2-1- Mu'jam Al-Bilād Al-Arabiya As-Saudiya which is a comprehensive geographical dictionary covers most of Saudi Arabia. This is written by Hamad Al-Jāsir and others.
 - 2-2- Mu'jam Ma'ālim Al-Hijāz by Atig Bin Ghaigh Al-Bilādi. This is a place name dictionary on the Hijaz region.
 - 2-3- Mu'jam Al-Asmā' Al-Jughrafiya Al-Maktūba 'la-Kharā'it Al-Mamlaka Al-Arabiya As-Saudiya Magās 1 : 500,000, by the submitter of this paper. This is an automated gazetteer based on academic research.
- 3- In view of what was mentioned above, it is suggested that :
 - a- The UNGEGN encourage reporting by the experts on the non-official studies, which may be of importance for the standardization of geographical names, and not limit their reports and papers to the official works only.
 - b- The UNGEGN consider honouring one individual in every coming United Nations Conference on the standardization of geographical names for his non-official serious work that provides considerable help to the standardization of geographical names.