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-Bilâd Al-Arabîya As-Saudiyâ* which is a comprehensive geographical dictionary covers most of Saudi Arabia. This is written by Hamad Al-Jâsîr and others.

2-2- *Mu'jam Ma'âlim Al-Hijâz* by Atig Bin Ghaigh Al-Bilâdî. This is a place name dictionary on the Hijaz region.

2-3- *Mu'jam Al-Asmā' Al-Jughrafiya Al-Maktûba 'la-Kharā'it Al-Mamlaka Al-Arabîya As-Saudiyâ Magâs 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.