
United Nations
Group of Experts on
Geographical Names

Working Paper
No. 48

Eighteenth Session
Geneva, 12-23 August 1996

Item 8
of the Provisional Agenda

**MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON TRAINING COURSES
IN TOPONYMY**

**REPORT OF THE CONVENOR OF THE WORKING GROUP ON
TRAINING COURSES IN TOPONYMY 1994-1996**

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Report of the Convenor of the Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy

International Training Courses held

1. UNGEGN stimulates the organisation of training courses in toponymy in order to increase awareness of the need for geographical names standardization and, more specifically, to help fill the need for qualified personnel. The general model of such courses is a two-week programme of lectures, alternated by exercises and fieldwork, and completed by instruction in digital processing techniques. As since 1982 at least 11 of these courses, meant for an international audience, have been held, a suitable collection of lecture notes, manuals, fieldwork guides, etc has been built up, from which prospective lecturers might draw their inspiration.

2. Since the seventeenth session of UNGEGN the convenor has been informed about international training courses or workshops in toponymy held in Wellington (New Zealand), Pretoria (South Africa) and Lima (Peru)

On 14 and 15 November 1994, a Geographic Names Workshop was held in Wellington, New Zealand, with lecturers from Canada, Israel and New Zealand. A report was produced from the lectures and handouts by the local organizer, George Benwell, and sent to the convenor by Surveyor General W.A. Robertson.

From July 31 - August 11, 1995 the first Advanced Training Course in Toponymy was held, with heavy emphasis on computer processing and geographical names file production. An extensive report will be submitted by the initiator, UNGEGN chair dr P.E.Raper. The lecturing team consisted of experts from South Africa and the United States. The local organizer, Dr Lucie Möller sent the convenor the available course material afterwards.

By receiving copies of the course material, the convenor is enabled to pass on this information to other interested parties.

The seventh PAIGH course in Applied Toponymy was given at the Instituto Geografico Nacional in Lima, Peru, under auspices of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History, with instructors from the United States and Honduras.

International training courses planned

3. A toponymic training course for the South East Asia/South West

Pacific region was planned for June/July 1996 in Darwin. At the request of the Australian Intergovernmental Committee on Surveying and Mapping the convenor advised on training course programme contents, structure and organisation.

There has been no follow-up in the organisation of training courses in toponymy at the International Institute for Aerospace Survey and Earth Sciences (ITC) in the Netherlands. Eventual plans to hold a training course in toponymy there would have to be negotiated anew.

Training material

4. Prior to the eighteenth session of UNGEGN, all toponymy course instructors/lecturers were asked to bring along any training material available, for presentation in Geneva during the session and, if possible, for documentation by the convenor.

A list of training material is already available at the Geonames Canada World Wide Web site, and at the 'Toponymy Courses' site. It is suggested to publish news on forthcoming toponymy courses as well both at this site as well as in the Newsletter. At the Toponymy Courses site ([HTTP://NVKserver.frw.ruu.nl/nvk/toponymycourses.html](http://NVKserver.frw.ruu.nl/nvk/toponymycourses.html)) the contents of all the available toponymy training course material available at the convenor's will be listed. This material consists of proceedings from courses held in Cisarua (1982), Québec (1988), Cipanas (1989), Pretoria (1992, 1993, 1995) and Wellington (1994). This site will be open by August 15, 1996.

Working group composition

5. The Working Group on training courses in toponymy consists of:

Mr H.Dorion
Mr N.Kadmon
Ms H.Kerfoot
Mr F.J.Ormeling (convenor)
Mr R.Payne
Mr P.Raper