

UNITED NATIONS

Group of Experts on
Geographical Names (UNGEGN)

Working Paper
No. 59

Twentieth Session
New York, 17 – 28 January 2000

Item 6
of the Provisional Agenda

**REPORTS OF LIAISON OFFICERS, REGIONAL MEETINGS AND
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

Second International Symposium on Geographical Names "GeoNames 2000"
Frankfurt am Main, 28 - 30 March 2000

Submitted by: Jörn Sievers, Chairman, and Bernd Edwin Beinstein, Secretary,
Ständiger Ausschuss für geographische Namen (StAGN), Frankfurt am Main

Second International Symposium on Geographical Names "GeoNames 2000"
Frankfurt am Main, 28 - 30 March 2000

The Ständiger Ausschuss für geographische Namen (StAGN) will organize a symposium on national and international standardization of geographical names to be held in Frankfurt am Main from 28 to 30 March 2000.

The Symposium will focus on the difficult and dualistic problem of avoiding the use of *exonyms* for the reason of being unequivocal in cartography as well as recommending their use if they form living and vital parts of languages, thus fostering the mother tongue. Similar considerations will be dedicated to the question of applying *romanization systems* for transcribing names from non-Roman scripts to the Roman alphabet. Furthermore, the items *concepts of names data bases* and the *status of national standardization* as well as the implications of the *orthographic reform of the German language* on the spelling of geographical names will be dealt with. The theme, *pronunciation* as an aid to the correct spelling of foreign names and its rendering on the Internet, will be treated in conjunction with a visit to the German broadcasting station 'Hessischer Rundfunk', including a lecture on and a demonstration of the pronunciation data base of the German broadcasting association ARD.

In this regard the Symposium will endorse and support the United Nations in their efforts to promote standardization in this field. At the same time topics are being prepared for further discussion at the 8th United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names to be held in the German Capital Berlin in the year 2002.

The Symposium will be supported by the Dutch- and German-speaking Division (DGSD), the Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Vermessungsverwaltungen der Länder der Bundesrepublik Deutschland (AdV, the association of survey administrations of the German states), the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Kartographie (DGfK, the German Society for Cartography), the Austrian Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Kartographische Ortsnamenkunde (AKO, Board on Geographical Names), the Nederlandse Taalunie (Dutch language committee), the German broadcasting station 'Hessischer Rundfunk', and the publisher of German language dictionaries 'Dudenredaktion'.

The Symposium will be hosted by the Bundesamt für Kartographie und Geodäsie (BKG, the Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy), in conjunction with the 107th session of StAGN and a meeting of the DGSD.