

UNITED NATIONS

**GROUP OF EXPERTS ON
GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES**

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REPORTS OF THE WORKING GROUPS .

Report of the Working Group on Publicity and Funding

(Submitted by United Kingdom)**

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REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON PUBLICITY AND FUNDING

Prepared by Dr D M Munro

Summary

The Report of the Working Group on Publicity and Funding outlines the activities of the Working Group since the 20th Session of the UNGEN in 2000 in working with other Place Name experts to make the work of the UNGEGN more visible and to support the production of publications and promotional material.

The publication of a French language version of the promotional brochure, the development of an UNGEGN website, the holding of a Special Session on Geography and Place Names at the 29th International Geographical Congress and the hosting of a reception in the presence of HRH The Princess Royal for members of the UNGEGN visiting London have all served to heighten the visibility of the UNGEGN and the standardization of geographical names. Support is currently being sought for the publication of a book on *United Nations Documents on Geographical Names* by Dr Peter Raper, Chairman of the UNGEGN.

The Working Group on Publicity and Funding was set up following the 1992 UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names. Its aims are to work with other Place Name Experts and with the UN Secretariat in making the activities of the UNGEGN more visible and, where appropriate, to seek funds to support the production of relevant publications and promotional material.

Consistent Use of Place Names

Following the publication in English of the promotional brochure *Consistent Use of Place Names* tabled at the 20th Session of the UNGEGN, the Working Group welcomed the publication of this brochure in French. Printed by the Francophone Division of the UNGEGN with generous support from the National Geographical Institute of France, copies were sent to the Secretariat and each Division. The Working Group would welcome the opportunity to assist with the publication of this brochure in other languages.

UNEGN Website

The 7th United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names held in 1998 recommended that the UNGEGN Secretariat establish an UNGEGN Website. Ms Helen Kerfoot, Vice Chairman of the UNGEGN and a member of the Working Group on Publicity and Funding assisted the UNGEGN Secretariat in developing a website which can now be visited at: <http://esa.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/> This is now a focal point for the dissemination of information about the standardization of geographical names.

29th International Geographical Congress

At the 29th International Geographical Congress held in Seoul in August 2000 and attended by 2,340 delegates and participants, representatives of the Working Group took part in a Special Session on 'Geography and Place Names'.

Support for Meetings of UNGEGN Working Groups

Meetings of the Working Group on Country Names and the Working Group on Romanization Systems were hosted by the PCGN in London in May 2001. A particular highlight of the week was a reception to welcome Members of the UNGEGN held at the Royal Geographical Society in the presence of Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal who had graciously accepted an invitation from the Chairman of PCGN and the Working Group on Publicity and Funding to attend. It was apparent that Her Royal Highness was very interested to learn of the work of the UNGEGN, particularly its endeavours to reach out to developing countries. Such countries are frequently visited by Her Royal Highness and are of special interest to her. Through this event, the PCGN and Working Group on Publicity and Funding were able to provide an especially valuable service in promoting the work of UNGEGN.

United Nations Documents on Geographical Names

The Chairman of the Working Group has received from Dr Peter Raper, Chairman of the UNGEGN, a proposal for the publication of a 450-page authoritative publication entitled *United Nations Documents on Geographical Names* containing UN resolutions on geographical names, rules and procedure for UNGEGN Sessions and UN Conferences, guidelines for establishing training courses and national geographical names authorities, and technical information on toponymic terminology, romanization systems, toponymic data exchange and country names. The Working Group is currently trying to obtain support for the printing of this publication.