

**Twenty-second Session,
New York, 20-29 April 2004**

**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 2002-
2004***

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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 one such a course, meant for an international audience, has been held each year, 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 twenty-first session of UNGEGN the convenor has been informed about international training courses or workshops in toponymy held in Khartoum (Sudan), and Quito (Ecuador)

The first UN Toponymy course for East Africa was held in Khartoum, Sudan, from January 29-February 7, 2003. The Sudan Ministry of the Environment and Physical Development had invited the UNGEGN Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy, local organizer was Eng. Nasr Ibrahim al-Hassanain, General Secretary of the Sudan Committee on Geographical Names and expert of Sudan in UNGEGN.

This 10-day introductory course was presented by a 5 lecturers team to a group of 46 participants, that also joined the fieldwork on the banks of the River Nile 40 km north of Khartoum. BKG in Germany had made available the 2002 UNCSGN Toponymy course manual, and travel and accommodation of 2 of the 5 lecturers had been sponsored by the United Nations Statistics Division.

The 15th PAIGH course in Applied Toponymy, sponsored by the Pan American Institute of Geography and History, with a training team directed by Roger Payne, was held in Quito, Ecuador, June 23-July 4, 2003. 22 students from the National Mapping Agency and the Navy participated.

International training courses planned

3. The 16th PAIGH course in Applied Toponymy, sponsored by the Pan American Institute of Geography and History, is tentatively scheduled for sometime in August or September, 2004, probably in Aguascalientes, Mexico. The course will be directed by Roger Payne, Executive Secretary, U.S. Board of Geographical Names (rpayne@usgs.gov).

4. A toponymic training course for Southern Africa will be held from September 13-24 2004 in Maputo, Mozambique, at the National Directorate of Geography and Cadastre. To enable interested participants to attend the Names Society of Southern Africa Congress to be held in Maputo, it was planned immediately preceding that conference. Local organiser of the training course will be Mr Luis Abrahamo, vice-chair of the Africa-South Division, UNGEGN (abrahamo@dinageca.gov.mz).

5. Another UN-supported Training Course in Toponymy will be held from 12 to 24 October 2004 at Charles Sturt University, Bathurst near Sydney, organised jointly by

the Asia-Pacific Institute for Toponymy at Macquarie University and the New South Wales Geographical Names Board. Participants will also get practical experience from attending a meeting of the Geographical names Board of New South Wales, after a full briefing on its work and from fieldwork in the surrounding region. Local organiser is Flavia Hodges (fhodges@hmn.mq.edu.au)

Training material

6. The organisation of training courses in toponymy has been much eased by the fact that both the UNGEGN and Germany have made available in 2004 manuals on the collection and procession of geographical names.

Since the Eighth UN Conference, UNGEGN experts have been working on texts for two manuals on the standardization of geographical names, to be published by the United Nations, in response to resolution VIII/15. One text is a "basic manual" on the national standardization of geographical names. The second is a technical reference manual on romanization, toponymic data transfer standards and formats, and country names in the language(s) of the countries concerned.

Both manuals will provide useful instructional materials. However, the basic manual will be of particular assistance for training purposes. The content is divided into two parts. Part I, "The basics of a national programme for geographical names standardization", by Donald Orth (United States) is a completely revised and updated text, based on his original work published in *World Cartography* in 1990. Essentially this addresses the establishment of national names authorities, collection of names in the field, and maintenance of toponymic records. As a follow up at a more detailed level on technical and cultural aspects of toponymic administration, Part II contains further readings in geographical names administration, written by various UNGEGN experts.

Production of both manuals, in the six languages of the UN, is included in the UN Statistics Division publication plan for the 2004-2005 biennium. We look forward to timely progress with these useful tools for standardization. Once the publications are issued by the United Nations, it would be expected that the text could be included as pdf files on the UNGEGN website.

7. The Bundesamt für Kartographie und Geodäsie (BKG) will publish in 2004 the lectures held during the DGSD Toponymy course held in Enschede/Frankfurt/Berlin at the occasion of the 8th UNCSGN in Berlin, August 2002, as publication number 28 of the BKG (2004). A preliminary version of this manual was used successfully at the Khartoum course. The Bundesamt für Kartographie und Geodäsie has made available for toponymy courses CD-ROMs and A3 prints of the toponymical exhibition held in Berlin at the occasion of the 8th UN Conference on the standardization of geographical names. This exhibition has a high educational impact.

8. The International Cartographic Association (ICA) has produced a toponymy module as a part of a cartography web course, made available by the ICA Commission on Education and Training (CET). This was produced by Antal Guszlev and ICA-CET chair Laszlo Zentai. It will be possible from April 2004 onwards to access the course at the ICA-CET website <http://lazarus.elte.hu/cet/>

Other, previously produced training material and manuals are listed on the toponymy courses website <http://toponymycourses.geog.uu.nl/>

Working group composition

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

Mr B.Atoui

Mr H.Dorion

Mr N.Kadmon

Ms H.Kerfoot

Mr F.J.Ormeling (convenor)

Mr R.Payne

Mr.P.Raper

Ms. Lucie Möller