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Reports of the division

**Jordan's Activities in the Field of Geographical Names *
(Annex to Arabic Division Report CRP. 10)**

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The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

Royal Jordanian Geographic Centre

National Committee on Geographical Names

**Jordan's Activities In The Field Of Geographical Names
(2004-2005)**

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Jordan's Activities In The Field Of Geographical Names (2004-2005)

Introduction:

Royal Jordanian Geographic Centre adopts and heads the National Committee on Geographical Names which was formed according to a resolution issued by Prime Ministry with the participation of many ministries, departments and related authorities. It's duties concentrate on unifying Geographical names writing in Jordan, perpetuate and publish the Jordanian Geographical Names Index, nominate the proposed, and substitute new names of geographical sites for the Prime Ministry, approve the system of writing names in Roman Letters, provide information bank for substitute or new names includes historical events, martyrs, political, literary and social personalities that had played distinguished role in social life, and to follow up new events in Arab countries and world related to geographical names.

The committee has the right to cancel or stop using any new names until it be licensed by the Committee.

The Committee holds its meeting periodically every month, urgent meetings are to be held upon request. The Royal Jordanian Geographic Centre is obliged with the committee's resolutions and works on activating it directly by its products and holding training courses in this field.

The most important works during the last two years:

A. Accomplished projects:

1- New Names:

1-1 New building centers and quarters:

Population and economic activity increase has imposed the appearance of new quarters, outskirts or building centers which took its names from geographical landmarks or were named by official or private authorities. The committee had studied these names and took its decisions according to bases and principles adopted by its internal system.

1-2 Lands Basin :

Department of Lands and Survey is the official authority responsible for real states, so it is provided with all charts and maps of parcels, private and public properties (state properties), but these information are not available about most Jordanian Badia which covers about 75% of Jordan's total area. The Department of Lands and Survey divided this area into 10x10km units (which means that the area of every unit is 100km²), every unit was named after natural or human landmark existed in this unit, if it is not possible it was given appropriate name, there were about (370) names.

The names of parcels were presented to the National Committee on Geographical Names according to the formal procedures, and the following decisions were adopted after study:

- 1- Names were adopted without any change.
- 2- Names were recommended to delete a syllable which represents the complex public name; wadi, jabal, tal, Aynext.
- 3- Limited number of Names were asked to be changed due to its contradiction with bases and principles adopted by the Committee in its internal system (for example to be improper, very public or difficult in pronunciation ... ext.).

Number of Basins names Approved by
the Committee According to Governorates

| AL-MOHAFADHA (Governorate) | NO. of NEW NAMES |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Al - 'Āsima | 25 |
| Az-Zarqā' | 25 |
| Al-Mafraq | 106 |
| Al-Karak | 10 |
| Ma'an | 145 |
| At-Tafila | 10 |
| Al-'Aqaba | 49 |
| Total | 370 |

Names of Basins that was Changed

| NO. | FORMER NAME | RECENT NAME | AL-MOHAFADHA | RESON OF CHANGE |
|-----|----------------------------|---------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| 1 | At-Tarīq Al-Isminī | Mazāri' Ash-SHahbā' | Ma'ān | General name |
| 2 | THawrayn | Wādī Al - Mimlih | Ma'ān | unappropriate |
| 3 | Rijlat Al-Hirār | Shu'ayb Zāyid | Al-'Aqaba | unappropriate |
| 4 | Qulayb Al-Būliyat | Al- Qulayb | Al - 'Āsima | unappropriate |
| 5 | Al -Qlījlāniya | Al- Qlīqlāniya | Al - 'Āsima | difficult |
| 6 | At-Tarīq Al- KHalfi | Al- Mubārak | Al-'Aqaba | General name |
| 7 | KHunayzīira | Midān Al- KHayl | Al-Karak | unappropriate |
| 8 | Tarīq Ash-Shīdiya Al-Qadīm | Al-Marmak | Ma'ān | General name |

2- Atlas of Jordan and the World (Arabic and English):

Royal Jordanian Geographic Centre produced Atlas of Jordan and the World on 2002 according to the information of 2001. This Atlas contains maps and information about Jordan, Arab countries, world, continents and oceans. It includes 128 A3- pages: 14pages about Jordan, 33pages about Arab countries and the world, 3pages bout oceans, 23pages about continents, 20 pages about world, 12pages information and tables, 6pages about flags of the countries. Recently, this Atlas was updated and reprinted.

It is worth to mention that Romanization System of mentioned names was used (English copy) according to the system adopted by the Royal Jordanian Geographic Centre which based on the Arabic System of Romanization (Naqharah).

3- Updating (Window To The World Book) (3rd addition):

Due to developments and changes in the world political map, and in order to update statistical data ,it was necessary to update this book, for providing the recent and suitable information to all society members about world countries.

This book contains some information about world countries such as; the country formal name in (Arabic and Roman letters) the reason of

naming, independence date, membership in the international and regional organization, Geographical site, Geographical coordinates, area, landscape, climate, natural plants, population density and growth, mortality and fertility averages, languages, religions, economy (currency, exchange rate, agricultural and industrial production, main imports and exports, gross national product per individual), and a separate map for each country.

This updated and developed copy includes the most recent information obtained in the third quarter of 2004, also a new part about subordinates and main districts for non neighboring countries, flags, and a colored map of the world. This book contains 520pages of medium size. First edition was issued in 1984 and the second in 2000.

4 - Maps, Charts and publications:

Several maps of different scales were produced for various areas of Jordan and different purposes. These maps includes names data base, some have names in Arabic language and Roman letters, such as the map of Jordan transports scale 1/750000, Petra Tourist map scale 1/5000, Irbid 1/10000, Rum Tourist map 1/38500, As Salt (English) 1/10000, As Salt Tourist map 1/7500, Ma'an Tourist Map (Arabic& English) 1/7500, Amman Tourist map 1/25000, and other different maps and charts. These maps are considered an important reference and data base of geographical names in Jordan.

5 - Repeated names of mosques:

The National Committee on Geographical Names is interested in the repeated names of mosques which considered against the instructions issued by the council of Islamic Awqaf, Affairs and Sacred Places. It was agreed with the Ministry of Awqaf to avoid this repetition and reconsider the repeated names.

6 - Tripoli Conference- Libya:

Jordan had participated in the 1st Arab Geographical Names Conference and the meeting of Arab Group of the UN experts which was held in Tripoli – Libya during the period from 18-20/12/2004. Working paper about Jordan experience in the field of geographical names was presented in addition to two working papers about Romanization.

7- Romanization Arab System (Naqharah):

Meetings and conferences of the Arab group either on the level of UNGEGN or the bilateral communications between the Arab Group members considered Beirut amended system of Romanization (Naqharah) which was certified in Tripoli Conference/ Libya in 2004 to be the only accredited Arab System.

B. The under process projects:

1- Digital Atlas of Jordan and the World (Arabic and English):

Producing digital copy of Atlas of Jordan and the World (Arabic & English):

Royal Jordanian Geographic Centre is preparing a digital copy (Computarized copy) of Atlas of Jordan and the World (Arabic&English).

2- Building centers in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan:

Building centers in Jordan were documented according to the administrative divisions of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (system No.35 of 2000). This documentation includes information about geographical co-ordinates, JTM, height above sea level, name in Arabic language and Roman letters according to Arabic alphabets and within the administrative division itself.

This documentation also includes maps of administrative divisions show the sites of building centers.

3- Review the internal system of the National Committee on Geographical Names:

The internal system of the National Committee on Geographical Names in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan is now being reviewed to be presented to the concerned authorities for actual execution in Jordan after being granted the legal form.

4- Website of the National Committee on Geographical Names on Internet:

We are now preparing the website of the NCGN on Internet through the website of the Royal Jordanian Geographic Centre (<http://www.rjgc.gov.jo>).

C -Proposed Projects

1- Exchanging of geographical names among the Arab Group:

In order to unify geographical names writing in Arab countries, as a result of geographical names experts meetings on international, and Arab level, and the execution of Arab Group decisions of the geographical names experts conference which was held in Tripoli – Libya, related with establishing a geographical names index to include building centers and basic natural landmarks in every Arab country aiming to exchange this information to control geographical names writing in maps, atlases and other paper and digital publications, Jordan will be the initiative in this concern by providing members of Arab delegations with a copy of (CD) about geographical names in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan during the 23rd conference of geographical names experts, hoping that this index to be published on the Internet through the website of RJGC to benefits the whole countries of the world.