

**Twenty-third Session  
Vienna, 28 March – 4 April 2006**

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**Item 7 of the Provisional Agenda:  
Activities relating to the Working Group on Training  
Courses in Toponymy**

**Mozambique (Africa South Division)  
Report on Training Courses**

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## **Mozambique (Africa South Division) Report on Training Courses**

### **(1) UNGEGN Training Course on Toponymy held in Mozambique 17-24 September 2004**

The United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names together with the Government of Mozambique from 17 to 24 September 2004 in Maputo, organized and sponsored the Eighth Course on Geographical Names for the Africa South Division. The Course was held at the ex-National Directorate of Geography and Cadastre (DINAGECA). The course took place, taking in account the revitalization and coordination of geographical names activities in Africa, an issue of special concern, and one that the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) had requested the assistance of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names in addressing.

#### **Objectives of the Course**

The objective of the course was to introduce participants to **a)** the importance of standardized geographical names for various applications **b)** concepts and understanding of process of standardization **c)** the UNGEGN and UN Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names and to resolution **d)** means of establishing names authorities **e)** collecting, researching, treating, standardizing and dissemination names and **f)** to promote cooperation and training course opportunities between divisions of UNGEGN, especially the member countries of the Africa South Division.

#### **Attendance and Lectures**

Twenty six (26) participants from Botswana, Egypt, Mozambique, and South Africa attended the course, and most of them already had some familiarity with geographical names work. The lectures were:

Ms Helen Kerfoot (Canada) Chairperson of the UNGEGN.

Professor Ferjan Ormeling (Netherlands), Convenor of Working Group on Training Course in Toponymy.

Dr. Andreas Illert (Germany).

Dr. Peter E. Raper – (South Africa); and

Dr. Lucie A. Möller (South Africa).

## **Programme**

The course programme was divided for the following modules:

- Standardization and the UNGEGN.
- UN Conferences on the standardization of geographical names.
- Rational for names committees.
- Establishment of National Names Authorities and functions.
- Practical standardization.
- Introduction to Toponymy Terminology and gazetteers.
- Toponymy guidelines for map and other editors.
- Office treatment and dissemination of geographical names recoding and storage, data base management, digital production of lists and gazetteers.
- Research into geographical names, identifying primary and secondary sources and their applications.
- Multilingual situations.
- National considerations.
- Orthographic rules, etc.
- International issues, languages, scripts, transliteration and transcriptions, endonyms, exonyms, transboundary features, etc.
- Reference and geographical coordinates systems.
- Preparation workshop for field work:
- Collection procedures.
- Planning.
- Materials and practical considerations.
- Compiling lists for data capture.
- Language issues.
- GPS use.
- Practical field work exercise in the area of Marracuene District (30 km north of Maputo City).
- Digital data capture, preparation of gazetteer, populating the data base with entries from the field work exercise and other sources
- Mock Committee meeting, introducing policies and principles, agenda, minutes, decision making, linguistic and other considerations in the standardization process.
- Technical visit to DINAGECA, demonstration of equipment and techniques.
- Evaluation and graduation. The graduation ceremony with presentation of certificates was done by Mr. José Elias Mucombo, National Director of DINAGECA, on behalf of the His Excellency the Minister of the Agriculture, Dr. Helder Muteia.

## **Course Facilities and Materials**

For each participant, the training course included ongoing networked computer access. A manual was prepared especially for the course by Dr. Peter Raper and Dr. Lucie Möller. As well, earlier data sets, etc. were available to all students. This information was published in the UNGEGN Information Bulletin nr. 29 in January 2005.

## **(2) UNGEGN Training Course in Toponymy to be held in Mozambique** 18 to 25 September 2006 (Maputo – Mozambique)

The United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) together with the Government of Mozambique, in pursuance of resolution V/21 of the Fifth Conference on Education and Training is organizing the ninth Course on Toponymy for the Africa South Division. The course will take place from 18 – 25 September 2006 at the National Directorate of Local Administration/National Directorate of Geography and Cadastre in Maputo. The course will be sponsored by the United Nations and by the Government of Mozambique.

The aim of the Course is to promote United Nations programs for the standardization of the geographical names and encourage countries of the Africa South Division to be more active in the implementation of the UN Resolutions and Conferences for the standardization of geographical names. On this regards participants from the Africa South Division of the UNGEGN as well as from all the Member States of the UN are kindly invited to this toponymy-training course.

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