
**UNITED NATIONS
GROUP OF EXPERTS ON
GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES**

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**Item 12 of the Provisional Agenda :
Activities relating to the Working Group
on Publicity and Funding**

Report of the Working Group on Publicity and Funding

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Funding.**

Report of the Working Group on Publicity and Funding

Aims

The Working Group on Publicity and Funding was established by the 6th UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names in 1992. Its aims are to work with other geographical names experts and with the UN Secretariat to (1) disseminate information, both of a popular and professional nature, on the work of the UNGEGN and the benefits to be derived from the standardization of geographical names and (2) investigate ways of ensuring that adequate funding is made available to support the activities of the Group of Experts.

Working Group Meetings

Two meetings of the Working Group were held during the 22nd Session of the UNGEGN in New York. Thereafter, members of the Working Group met during the 30th International Geographical Congress held in Glasgow in August 2004 and at a joint meeting with the Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation held in Seoul in November 2005.

Publicity - 30th International Geographical Congress

Experts have promoted geographical names issues at a number of conferences since the 22nd Session of UNGEGN, one of the most significant in terms of media impact being the 30th International Geographical Congress which was held in Glasgow in the United Kingdom in August 2004. Under the auspices of the British Cartographic Society, a session entitled *Toponymy: Current Issues with Geographic Names* took place during the congress. Attended by c.50 delegates, this session was chaired by the Convenor of the UNGEGN Working Group on Publicity and Funding, Dr David Munro. The following papers, some of which were subsequently published in the *Cartographic Journal*, were presented:

The Standardization of Geographical Names: Achieving the Impossible?

David Munro

Toponymy and Geopolitics: the political use - and misuse - of geographical names

Naftali Kadmon

Geographical Names: some current issues in the context of the United Nations

Helen Kerfoot

Toponymy for the Military

Yaives Ferland

The speakers met with representatives of the British press after the session and a wide range of articles subsequently appeared in newspapers in the United Kingdom and beyond. The session chairman was also invited to discuss geographical names issues in eight radio programmes broadcast that week. Of all the topical issues discussed at the 30th International Geographical Congress, the subject of geographical names attracted most attention from the media. The UNGEGN brochure, *Consistent Use of Place Names*, was made available at the congress along with CD-ROMs of the posters and digital

presentations of the Topical Exhibition presented at the 8th UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names held in Berlin.

Publicity - Activities of Working Group Convenor

In November 2004, the Working Group Convenor presented a paper on the *Standardization of Geographical Names* at the Tenth International Seminar on the Naming of Seas held in Paris. Other papers were also presented by UNGEGN experts at the 10th and 11th International Seminars in Paris and Washington. During 2005 Dr Munro was invited to give further presentations on the subject of geographical names to the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow and to Desk Officers in the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London. The Foreign Office was also the venue for a reception hosted by Foreign Office Minister Chris Mullin to mark a joint meeting of the US Board on Geographic Names and the Permanent Committee on Geographical Names for British Official Use held at the Royal Geographical Society in London during March 2005. Dr Munro was co-chairman of the joint meeting. In his capacity as Director of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society, the convenor responded to a draft consultation document from the Scottish Executive on the subject of a Geographic Information Strategy for Scotland and met with representatives in the First Minister's office to discuss geographical names issues and the possibility of establishing a names authority in Scotland. The Convenor has also discussed with the Scottish Association of Geography Teachers the possibility of producing a publication on place names for schools and is engaged with a schools project in the city of Edinburgh entitled "Around and About: Neighbourhoods and Cities in Evolution". Place names are one of the topics to be explored in this project.

Publicity - Activities of UNGEGN Experts

At the Joint Meeting of the Working Group on Publicity and Funding and the Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation held in Seoul, it was agreed that experts should continue to be encouraged to publicize UNGEGN activities and geographical names issues whenever possible. Some recent examples noted were Mr Hans Ringstam's publication about the UN, UNGEGN and geographical names, *Ortnamn och namnvård* (Gävle, Sweden), two recent publications edited by Mr Brahim Atoui and Mr Benramdane Farid, *Des noms et des lieux et des tribus* and *Recueil Bibliographique* (Oran, Algeria) and "Name research and teaching" in *ONOMA* 39, edited by Mr Botolv Helleland, to be published in 2006 by the International Council of Onomastic Sciences (ICOS).

Publicity - Consistent Use of Place Names

Following the publication of the English language version of the promotional *brochure Consistent Use of Place Names* in 2000, this document has been printed in several languages in addition to each of the official languages of the United Nations. A German version of the UNGEGN brochure was published in 2005. Those seeking to translate this brochure into other languages should contact the UNGEGN Secretariat for a draft format and approval to use the UN logo. UNGEGN brochures in all the official UN languages will continue to be available at UN sessions, conferences and other venues.

Publicity - Web-based Activities

Every effort is to be made to increase the visibility of the UNGEGN Website. Actions in this respect will include the creation of an UNGEGN link on the UN Statistics Division website home page and a reference to the UNGEGN website in the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs Newsletter. Other parts of the UN, such as the UN Dag Hammarskjöld Library, the UN Map Library and the UN Geographic Information Working Group (UNGIWIG), will be encouraged to show links to the UNGEGN website.

Experts who have not already done so, are encouraged to develop their own geographical names website. To assist with this, the Working Groups on Publicity and Funding and Evaluation and Implementation will work with the Secretariat to create an information sheet outlining the steps involved in creating a geographical names website.

Publicity - Recognition and Dissemination of UNGEGN Work

New Promotional leaflet: A new promotional leaflet aimed at GIS and mapping organizations is being prepared by the Working Group for publication in 2006-07.

Press Kit: A press kit for the use of experts and aimed at the media is being drafted. The Convenor of the Working Group would welcome interesting material from experts for inclusion in this publication.

Basic and Technical Manuals: An English version of the UN-edited basic manual should be available in 2006. The translated versions of the basic manual should be ready for the 2007 conference, together with the technical manual which is to be published in English only. After publication of the basic manual, a .pdf file will be made available on the UNGEGN website, with later development of the manual as a web-based learning resource.

Funding

Sources of Funding: With a view to helping identify additional sources of funding for geographical names projects, a paper will be prepared suggesting approaches that might be made to charitable foundations, bilateral aid programmes or sources of funding linked to other associated disciplines.

Training: Continued UN funding has been agreed to support fellowships for trainees attending geographical names training courses and consultants for training courses. Support for trainees from non-participating regions has again been made available for the training course associated with the 23rd UNGEGN Conference.

Publications for 2008-09: Experts should note that new UNGEGN publications wishing UN support should be supported by a resolution at the 2007 Conference in Vienna.