

Twenty-fourth Session
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Item 3 of the provisional agenda
Report of the working groups

**Report of the Convenor of the Working Group
on Training Courses in Toponymy 2002-2007**

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Summary of the report:

1. The 8 UNGEGN-sponsored international training courses held since the 8th UNCSGN, in Khartoum (Sudan, 2003), Algiers (Algeria 2003), Maputo (Moçambique, 2004), Bathurst (Australia 2004), Malang (Indonesia 2005), Vienna (Austria, 2006), Maputo (Moçambique, 2006), and Tunis (Tunisia, 2007) and the 5 PAIGH training courses held since 2002, in Quito (Ecuador, 2003), Santo Domingo (Dominican Republic, 2004), Panama City (Panama, 2005), Santiago (Chile 2006) and Rio de Janeiro (Brazil, 2007) are described, and the international training courses currently planned (for Turkey and Western Africa) are mentioned.

Although it cannot be complete, the national training events held that came to the attention of the convenor are listed as well. The report continues with a description of the training material produced for future toponymy courses, especially the basic manual, *Manual for the national standardization of geographical names*, produced by UNGEGN, and the proceedings of the 2002 DGSD toponymy course held in 2002 in Enschede/Frankfurt/Berlin titled *Training course on toponymy*, publication number 28 of the Bundesamt für Kartographie und Geodäsie.

The report ends with an item on the production of posters publicizing the work of the Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy for the 9th UNCSGN and the composition of the working group.

Report of the Convenor of the Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy

International Training Courses held

2. 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.

3. Since the twenty-first session of UNGEGN the convenor has been informed about international training courses or workshops in toponymy held in Khartoum (Sudan, 2003), and Quito (Ecuador, 2003), Algiers (Algeria 2003), Maputo (Moçambique, 2004), Bathurst (Australia 2004), Santo Domingo (Dominican Republic, 2004), Malang (Indonesia 2005), Panama City, Panama, 2005), Vienna (Austria, 2006), Maputo (Moçambique, 2006), Rio de Janeiro (Brazil, 2007) and Tunis (Tunisia, 2007)

4. 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.

In Alger a toponymy course was organised by M Brahim Atoui and M.Henri Dorion at the Institut National de Cartographie et de Teledetection from 2-4 June 2003. Participants came from universities, research institutes and from several mapping organisations.

A UN-supported toponymic training course for Southern Africa was held from September 17-24 2004 in Maputo, Mozambique, at the National Directorate of Geography and Cadastre (Dinageca) on behalf of the Africa South Division. Interested participants were able as well to attend the Names Society of Southern Africa Congress held in Maputo, as it was planned immediately following that course. Local organiser of the training course was Mr Luis Abrahamo, chair of the Africa-South Division, UNGEGN.

Another UN-supported Training Course in Toponymy was 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 also attended a regular 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 was Flavia Hodges.

The 16th Geographic Names Course in Applied Toponymy, sponsored by the Pan American Institute of Geography and History, was held August 17-28, 2004, in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. The course was directed by Roger Payne, Executive Secretary, U.S. Board on Geographic Names.

Indonesia held its third UN-supported training course in toponymy near Malang, Indonesia (in the Batu mountain resort) on behalf of the Asia Southeast and Pacific Southwest Division, September 11-22, 2005. Apart from Indonesians it also attracted participants from Australia, Brunei, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Local Organiser was Prof Jacub Rais, member of the Indonesian Academy of Sciences and former director of the National mapping Organisation Bakosurtanal, and it was opened by its present director Ir Rudolf Matindas.

The 17th Geographic Names Course in Applied Toponymy, sponsored by the Pan American Institute of Geography and History, was held in Panama City, Panama from August 23-September 2, 2005. The course was directed by Roger Payne, Executive Secretary, U.S. Board of Geographical Names.

The UNGEGN Dutch- and German-speaking Division hosted another toponymy course linked to an UNGEGN session, 16-27 March 2006, just prior to the 23rd session of UNGEGN in Vienna in 2006. It was aimed especially at toponymists from Eastern Europe and Central Asia and was organised by the Austrian Academy of Sciences and the Austrian Topographic Survey. The organisation was directed by Dr Isolde Hausner.

The 18th Geographic Names course in Applied Toponymy sponsored by the Pan-American Institute of Geography and History was held in Santiago, Chile, from August 28 through September 8, 2006. The course was directed and coordinated by Roger Payne, chairman, WG on Geographical Names in the Cartography Commission of PAIGH.

The 9th UNGEGN Toponymy course for the Africa South Division was held from 18-25 September 2006 in Maputo, and was organised by the National Directorate of local Administration and the National Centre of Cartography and Remote Sensing. Local organiser was Mr. Luis Abrahamo, head of the Territorial Division and Toponymy Department, Ministry of State Administration. Participants from 7 countries took part in the course. The initiators of the courses in Southern Africa, Peter Raper and Lucie Möller, participated as lecturers.

The Centre Régional de Télédétection des États de l'Afrique du Nord (CRTEAN), the Organisation Africaine de Cartographie et de Télédétection (OACT) and UNGEGN organised, with support from the Office de la Topographie et de la Cartographie (OCT, the national mapping organization of Tunisia) a toponymy course in Tunis, April 2 - 6, 2007. It was attended by some 70 participants from 11 countries in Northern Africa and the Near East (Algeria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates). Arrangements for the course were facilitated by UNGEGN Vice-chair Mr Brahim Atoui.

The 19th Geographic Names course in Applied Toponymy sponsored by the Pan-American Institute of Geography and History was held in Rio de Janeiro, May 7-18, 2007. The course was directed and coordinated by Roger Payne, chairman, WG on Geographical Names in the

Cartography Commission of PAIGH.

International training courses planned

5. The Board of Experts for Geographical Names of Turkey is planning to organise a toponymy course, together with the national mapping agency, for Spring 2008. A toponymy course in Western Africa, in conjunction with the Division Francophone, possibly to be held in Ouagadougou in 2008 is currently under discussion.

National training events held

6. Every other year, a Course entitled "Introduction à la gestion toponymique" has been held at the Geography Department of Laval University (Québec, Canada). It has been held with the collaboration of the Commission de toponymie du Québec (professor : Henri Dorion) At Laval University, another course is given which does have an important toponymic content: Introduction à la carte du monde. More than 200 students attend that course every year (professor : Frédéric Lasserre). This course has been given for many years on the Québec TV network.

From 12-13 April 2005 - training in maintenance of the United State National Names Database known as the Geographic Names Information System (GNIS) was organised for names liaisons of the regional centers of the United States Forest Service and the United States Bureau of Land Management. There were ongoing training programmes for partners in the USGS GNIS Maintenance Program.

In December 2005 the Asia-Pacific Institute for Toponymy in Sydney, Australia, has held a course 'Researching Aboriginal Placenames' in collaboration with the New South Wales Geographical Names Board and the NSW Aboriginal Languages Research & Resource Centre. The participants represented a broad range of NSW languages currently undergoing renewal: Dharug, Gamilaraay, Gumbaynggir, Ngiyampaa, Wiradjuri and Yugambah. The participants learned how to discover information about traditional placenames through recording oral history and researching in libraries and archives. It is hoped that members of Aboriginal communities will be thus encouraged to submit applications to the Geographical Names Board to reinstate traditional placenames as official names or as dual names for geographical features according to the Board's policy dating from 2001.

In February 2005, a three-day workshop was organized in Ottawa, Canada, by the Government of Nunavut and the Inuit Heritage Trust. The occasion gave the opportunity for some 20 researchers involved with field collection of indigenous names in Nunavut to share their experiences – both successes and problems. Discussion focussed on many aspects of collecting toponyms from oral tradition, including interviewing, recording (in Inuktitut, using syllabics and/or Roman script) and cartographic representation. More about the workshop is included in working paper no 36 of the 23rd Session of UNGEGN.

Training material

7. The organisation of training courses in toponymy has been much eased by the fact that both the UNGEGN and Germany have made available since 2004 manuals on the collection and processing 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, published in 2006 and 2007 by the United Nations, provide useful instructional materials. However, the basic manual, *Manual for the national standardization of geographical names*, 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 the basic manual is also envisaged in the other UN languages and is likely to be completed in time before the 9th UNCISG. Its English text is also incorporated on the UNGEGN website.

The Bundesamt für Kartographie und Geodäsie (BKG) in Germany published in 2004 the lectures held during the DGSD Toponymy course held in Enschede/Frankfurt/Berlin at the occasion of the 8th UNCISG in Berlin, August 2002, as *Training course on toponymy*, publication number 28 of the BKG (2004). The Bundesamt für Kartographie und Geodäsie also 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, produced by Pier-Giorgio Zaccheddu, has a high educational impact.

8. Elisabeth Calvarin (Institut géographique national, Paris) and Henri Dorion are developing the project of building a website devoted to Applied toponymy offering a training course which is the result of the merging of both technical courses given by Mrs Calvarin for IGN technicians and by Mr. Dorion at Laval University. Financial support has been provided by the Agence intergouvernementale de la Francophonie. This course uses a large variety of multimedia resources, and aims at providing a general university education in place names aimed at French-speaking staff of regional or national names bureaux. It can be found at <http://www.divisionfrancophone.org/Formation/index.htm>.

The Commission on Education and Training of 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, Krisztina Iras and ICA-CET chair Laszlo Zentai. The course can be accessed at the ICA-CET website <http://lazarus.elte.hu/cet/>

Publicizing the work of the Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy

9. For the 9th UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names in 2007, 4

Mr B. Atoui
Mme Elisabeth Calvarin
Mr H. Dorion
Ms F. Hodges
Mr N. Kadmon
Ms H. Kerfoot

Ms L. Möller
Mr F.J. Ormeling (convenor)
Mr R. Payne
Mr P. Raper
Mr P-G. Zaccheddu