

**Twenty-fifth session
Nairobi, 5 – 12 May 2009**

Item 5 of the provisional agenda

Reports of the divisions

**Report of the Eighth Meeting of the Asia South-West Division
(other than Arabic) ***

* Prepared by Iranian Committee for Standardization of Geographical Names (ICSGN), National Cartographic Center.

Report of the Eighth Meeting of the Asia South-West Division (other than Arabic)

The Eighth United Nations Regional Meeting on Standardization of Geographical Names was held in Tehran on 13 and 14 May 2008. This meeting was hosted by the National Cartographic Center of Iran (NCC) as Chairman of the Iranian Committee for Standardization of Geographical Names (ICSGN) . Representatives from six member countries including Iran, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Cyprus, Pakistan and Turkey participated in this meeting.

The 8th Meeting of the South West Division (other than Arabic) began on May 13, 2008. The main objectives of the meeting were:

- Reporting national activities of member countries
- Workshops on different aspects of standardization of geographical names
- Visits to organizations dealing with geographical names
- Establishing communication channels between geographical names authorities of member countries
- Coordination for establishment of the Division web site
- Progress assessment according to UNGEGN Resolutions
- Discussion on difficulties in Geographical Name Standardization

During this two day meeting, two workshops were presented by NCC concerning the Iranian Geographical Names Database, and Geographical Names in Iranian Census by the Statistical Center of Iran. Participants also visited NCC and the Document Archive of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

After holding a number of sessions and discussions, the members ratified a resolution and agreed on the following items, which are summarized below :

- More frequent meetings of the division
- Experience and knowledge exchange concerning geographical names activities
- Establishment of six working groups for the division
- Creation of a home page for efficient communications between members and geographical names information exchange
- Publishing a seasonal electronic news letters
- Holding the Ninth Regional Meeting on the Standardization of Geographical Names in Tehran in May 2010
- Election of Dr. Yahya Djamour, Director of NCC as Chairman of the Asia South-West Division .(The director of NCC has been changed after this meeting and Eng. Mahmoud Ilkhan is executing this responsibilities as a new Director of NCC)

At the end of the meeting the member countries expressed their gratitude to ICSGN of the I.R. of Iran and especially the National Cartographic Center of Iran (NCC) for their hospitality and the effective way in which they conducted the meeting.