

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

Item 18 of the provisional agenda

Toponymic guidelines for map editors and other editors

**Comprehensive Book of Directions on Toponymic Guidelines for
Registration on Maps and Other Processors
(For Iranian Geographical Names)***

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

United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

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COMPREHENSIVE BOOK OF DIRECTIONS ON TOPONYMI GUIDELINES FOR REGISTRATION ON MAPS AND OTHER PROCESSORS

(FOR IRANIAN GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES)

Report Submitted by Iranian Committee for Standardization

of Geographical Names (ICSGN)

National Cartographic Center

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1. By Way of Introduction

No one, nowadays, remains ignorant about the importance of reliable, careful registrations of geographical names on various audio-visual media. The issue, on the one hand, regards "content accuracy", an issue responsible for safeguarding the related historically regarded cultural heritage in the encompassing geographical domain, as well as protecting the related unique identity. On the other, it puts the emphasis on choosing the "optimal form" for the geographical name: Optimal in formal accuracy, in ease of reading and reference, in observing the related economic principles, and in acceptability at the international relations level.

The issue is, especially, important, in relation to the place names scattered both within the borders of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and, at a larger scale, the domain distinguished as the, so called, Cultural Iran, which encompasses the territories of a number of other states.

The present national report presents, in its perspective, the project of preparing a comprehensive book of directions for registration of Iranian geographical names. The project has been planned to rely upon the methodology of linguistics, while utilizing the available technologies in a variety of related domains, on the one hand, and the same instruments, as foreseen within the framework of the activities of the Iranian National Cartography Center, on the other, to, finally, create a practical balance between the available facilities and the expectations within the mentioned framework of geographical name registration to fulfill the major goals of "content accuracy" and "selection of the optimal form" in a most appropriate way. The project relies upon collaborations by a team of experienced specialists in the related fields of linguistics, cartography, cultural heritage, graphics, etc.

2. The Phases of the Project

The following phases constitute the procedure of the Project, which is being performed as a national project by the Islamic Republic of Iran:

A) Review of the Related Literature, including:

- Review of the background literature (in the fields of theoretical linguistics, descriptive linguistics and dialectology, language planning, geography, and cartography)
- Review of the toponymic guidelines prepared by other states
- Review of the Iranian documents in the fields of geographical names registration and standardization
- Review of the landscape of the activities by related governmental and non-governmental organizations
- Review of the linguistic geography of the Cultural Iran (the Islamic Republic of Iran and the other countries where the Iranian languages are spoken) to acquire a reliable knowledge of the cultural potentials on the territory to obtain the ability to register the shared names, especially those located on the borders

B) Preparation of the Comprehensive Book of Directions on Registration of the Iranian Geographical Names (Measuring to Around 500 Pages in Print) Based on the Most Recent Directions Published by the UNGEGN, including:

- Defining Features

- The chapter on generals, aimed at a detailed introduction to the linguistic geography of the Islamic Republic of Iran
- The chapter on the legal issues dealt with in the process of preparing and publishing the toponymic guidelines for the Islamic Republic of Iran
- The chapter aimed at a critical review of the geographical names registration and standardization traditions respected in the Islamic Republic of Iran
- Transcription of the geographical names of the Islamic Republic of Iran
- The structural synchronic and diachronic features of the geographical names of the Islamic Republic of Iran
- The chapter on priorities in classifying linguistic varieties, with special attention to the issue of registration in various media
- The chapter on introducing the sides responsible for various aspects of geographical names registration and standardization in the Islamic Republic of Iran
- The Glossary, including a list of (technical) terms and phrases used in Toponymic Guidelines for registration of the Iranian geographical names on maps and other processors
- The Appendices

C) Preparation of a book of Toponymic Guidelines for Maps and Other Processors (Specific to the Iranian geographical names)

The final phase of the project, followed by a review of the *Comprehensive Book of Directions* described in *B* above; the *Book* shall be prepared based on the latest of the UNGEGN directions, in the form of a version reduced for practical purposes. The *Book* has been planned to respect the related theoretical-practical standards, while providing the practical goals followed by the various interested organizations and institutions.