

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

Item 6 of the provisional agenda

Reports of the liaison officers and international organizations

**Report of the Liaison Officers, International Council of
Onomastic Sciences (ICOS)***

* Prepared by Botolv Helleland (Norway), State Place-Name Consultant, University of Oslo

UNITED NATIONS
GROUP OF EXPERTS ON
GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

Twenty-Fifth Session

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Prepared by Mr. Botolv Helleland, State Place-Name Consultant, University of Oslo

(in the absence of the appointed Liaison Officer, Ms. Isolde Hausner, Austria)

Item 6 of the Provisional Agenda

REPORT OF THE LIAISON OFFICERS, INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF ONOMASTIC SCIENCES (ICOS)

Twenty-Third International Congress of Onomastic Sciences

Toronto (Canada)

The 23rd International Congress of Onomastic Sciences was held at York University, Toronto, Canada, 17-22 August 2008. Approximately 180 papers were read on Personal Names, Place-Names, and Other Names. Specific approaches were Business Names, Jewish Names, Aboriginal and Indigenous names, Names in Literature, Street Names, Proper Names in Social Encounter, Alpine and Mountain Names, Toponymy within Cartographic Language, Names in an Educational Setting, Names in Contact, Theory, Linguistic Aspects of Names, Terminology, Names Projects and Data Bases, Sign Language, Bibliography.

Several members of the UNGEGN contributed at the Congress, for instance Chair Person Helen Kerfoot, Canada (Some Challenges of Names Recognition: The Ontario Geographic Names Board, Canada, 2000-2007), Mr. Leif Nilsson, Sweden (Standardization of Swedish Place Names Yesterday and Today), Mr. Staffan Nyström, Sweden (Urban Name Environments in a Multicultural Perspective), Ms. Annette Torensjö, Sweden (Inappropriate Place Names -- Do They Exist?), Peter Jordan, Austria (Use of Place Names on Road Signposts. Examples of Practice in Central Europe), Mr. Ferjan Ormeling, Netherlands (Names in a 17th Century Atlas of the Dutch East India Company), Ms. Zane Cekula, Latvia (Village Names of Latgale and Līvu Krasts in the Book, "Villages of Latvia. Names, Geographical Location"), Mr. Peeter Päll, Estonia (Historical Multilingualism in Street Names in Estonia), Mr. Botolv Helleland, Norway (Place-Names and Identities).

In addition to the scientific program a one day excursion to the Niagara Falls was organized.

The proceedings will be published electronically/CD by June this year.

During the Congress ICOS held its general assembly and Sheila Embleton, Canada, was elected new Chair Person, succeeding Maria Giovanna Arcamone from Italy.

The next ICOS Congress will be held in Barcelona, Spain, in September 2011.

ICOS website: <http://www.icosweb.net/>