

**Twenty-seventh session
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Item 3 of the provisional agenda

Report of the working groups

Report of the Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation*

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Report of the Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation

SUMMARY

Since the 26th Session of the UNGEGN, the Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation had a joint meeting with the Working Group on Publicity and Funding in Seoul, Korea on 27 October 2011. In this meeting, the current working conditions and procedures of the UNGEGN were reviewed and suggestions were made to improve its tasks. Facilitated by an examination of the evaluation questionnaire sheets collected at the 26th Session, ideas for preparing the 10th Conference were shared. The current progress of establishing a French version of the UNCSGN resolutions database was also noted. This meeting was preceded by three-day UNGEGN activities by two working groups during the High-Level Forum on Global Geospatial Information Management, 24-26 October 2011.

Working Group Meeting

The Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation had a joint meeting with the Working Group on Publicity and Funding at COEX, Seoul, Korea, on 27 October, in continuation of UNGEGN activities during the High-Level Forum on GGIM. Participants were Convenors of the Working Groups, Ki-Suk Lee and David Munro, UNGEGN Chair, Helen Kerfoot, Vice Chairs, Brahim Atoui and Ferjan Ormeling, Rapporteur of the Working Groups, Botolv Helleland, Sungjae Choo, Professor of Kyung Hee University, and observers from the National Geographic Information Institute (NGII) and Northeast Asian History Foundation of the Republic of Korea.

This meeting was generally intended to review the current working conditions and procedures of the UNGEGN and make suggestions for improvement of its tasks. Evaluation questionnaire sheets collected at the 26th Session in Vienna were reviewed and comments and suggestions were noted. Based on this evaluation, ideas for the 10th Conference were shared, including special presentations, lunch time activities, and exhibition. The preparations for the UNGEGN participation in the GGIM Forum were highlighted, and the current progress of establishing a French version of the UNCSGN resolutions database was reported.

This half-day meeting was followed by a visit to ‘Smart Korea 2011 Exhibition’ which was centered on the development of digital devices and related research on geospatial information.

More complete minutes of the Working Group meeting are available, on request, from the Convenor.

UNGEGN Activities during the High-Level Forum on GGIM, Seoul, October 2011

In the High-Level Forum on Global Geospatial Information Management, held in Seoul, Republic of Korea, 24-26 October 2011, the UNGEGN Working Groups on Evaluation and Implementation

and on Publicity and Funding managed an activity room to offer a small exhibition and lunch-time presentations on UNGEGN issues to forum participants. The general focus was given on providing information and attracting interests in relation to geographical names; their authorization, the technical, economic, social and cultural benefits of standardized names, and their significance as an element of GGIM.

The exhibition was composed of poster and publication sections. Posters provided information about the meaning of and the need for geographical names, the scope and methods of standardization (romanization, terminology, toponymic guidelines), the role of UNGEGN, and world regional projects and trends of standardization, such as the Task Team for Africa, EuroGeoNames, and naming in multilingual areas in Europe. Publications displayed were from UNGEGN, such as brochures, media kits, two manuals for standardization, postcards, conference reports, and from member countries, such as principles and procedures from Indonesia, Canada and New Zealand, materials for national names authorities from South Africa and Norway, and toponymic guidelines from Poland, Ukraine, Spain, Finland and Austria.

The presentations, offered with free sandwiches, were focused on more topical issues, including UNGEGN's relevance to GGIM, geographical standardization in Africa, names databases and GIS, cultural aspects and names authorities. Topics and presenters were as follows:

- UNGEGN - why, what, how and relevance to GGIM (Helen Kerfoot)
- Le GENUNG - la normalisation des noms géographiques en Afrique (Brahim Atoui)
- UNGEGN World Geographical Names Database (Helen Kerfoot)
- Names, mapping and GIS (Ferjan Ormeling)
- The cultural aspects of geographical names (Botolv Helleland)
- The EuroGeoNames project: producing a virtual geographical names database (Ferjan Ormeling)
- Names authorities: overview (David Munro)
- Types of names authorities (Helen Kerfoot)
- National names authority: the case of the Republic of Korea (Sungjae Choo)
- Language advisors according to the Norwegian Place-Name Act (Botolv Helleland)
- Countries without a geographical names bureau: the Netherlands (Ferjan Ormeling)

For three days, participants from as many as 31 countries and 3 institutions visited the UNGEGN room. The activities were financially supported by NGII

Evaluation of the 26th Session of UNGEGN

A total of seventy-seven responses of the evaluation questionnaire forms were received at the 26th Session of UNGEGN. An analysis of the likert scale evaluations on the programs, contents and logistics of the meeting indicated an overall satisfaction with the meeting. Of UNGEGN's goals the most important were viewed as:

- (a) providing a forum for discussion of geographical names standardization, and
- (b) providing updates on working on geographical names standardization around the world.

More details of the survey results will be reported separately. The collection of responses and tabulation of basic statistics were contributed by the UNGEGN Secretariat.

French Version of UNCSGN Resolutions Database

Following the English version of the UNCSGN resolutions database, which has been available since May 2009, a French version was created in June 2012 with the same format. This database, like the English version, includes 195 UNCSGN resolutions adopted from the First to the Ninth Conferences which can be searched by conference, subject, title or word, and downloaded in individual complete texts. The two language versions can be accessed at the website <http://www.land.go.kr/ungegn> hosted by National Geographic Information Institute (NGII) of the Republic of Korea, which is also linked through the UNGEGN web page: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/confGeneral.html>.

The process of creating the French version was technically and financially supported by NGII and reviewed by the French-speaking Division of UNGEGN. Resolutions which will be adopted at the 10th Conference are supposed to be included when they are ready.

Future of the Working Group

At the Working Group meeting in October 2011, it was agreed that the Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation should continue separately from the Working Group on Publicity and Funding, but have joint meetings with it to achieve synergy effects. As Mr. Ki-Suk Lee showed his hope to step down from the convenorship, Mr. Sungjae Choo expressed his willingness to take over the Working Group. A new rapporteur succeeding Mr. Botolv Helleland is still to be sought.