

**Twenty-seventh session
30 July and 10 August 2012, New York**

Item 4 of the Provisional Agenda

Report of the liaison officers

**Report of the Liaison Officer with the
International Cartographic Association
2007 - 2012***

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Report of the Liaison officer with the International Cartographic Association 2007-2012

Summary:

1. In this report the toponymical activities of the International Cartographic Association are described. The contents of the toponymic sessions at the international cartographic conferences in Santiago (2009) and in Paris (2011) are listed, the founding and first activities of the joint ICA-IGU Commission on toponymy are described and the finalization of the ICA webcourse on toponymy is dealt with.

Report of the Liaison officer with the International Cartographic Association 2007-2012

2. Cartographers probably form the principal user group of toponyms, and a correct rendering of their spelling is of prime interest to them. That is why standardization is a recurring theme in the international cartographic conferences, and also why the International Cartographic Association has set up – together with the International Geographical Union – a joint Commission on Toponymy.

International Cartographic Conference in Santiago de Chile, 2009

3. In Santiago, on Friday November 20, 2009 Helen Kerfoot, who was awarded a honorary fellowship by ICA at the 9th UNCSGN in New York in 2007, held a keynote address on the ways UNGEGN is facilitating national standardization of geographical names.

In the regular programme two sessions were planned devoted to toponymy, with the following contributions:

- Barreto dos Santos, C. and P. Leal de Menezes - Geonimy of Brazil: geographical names standardization in a research of municipalities of Rio de Janeiro state.
- Dhieb, M - Quelques aspects problematiques dans la transcription des toponymes Tunisiens-Forrest, D. - Names for sea areas of international extent on British maps.
- Jiping, L., Shenghua, X., Fuhao, Z., Yong, W. y Rongshuang, F. - Emergency geographic information services: a framework and typical applications.
- Jordan, P. - some considerations on the function of place names on maps.
- Leskinen, T. A geographic names register as a part of the spatial data infrastructure.
- Michna, I. – Generalization of Geographic names on Atlas maps.
- Al Qaydi, S - New Arab cities geographical names electronic database using Beirut modified guidelines for Romanization.
- Rainha, G - State of the art of the Brazilian geographical names database.
- Randall, R. R. - Geographic names, cartography and geography.
- Zhang, X - Extraction and visualization of geographical names in text.

International Cartographic Conference in Paris, 2011

4. At the 25th International Cartographic Conference organised by ICA in Paris, July 2011, there were two sessions devoted to toponymy, with the following contributions:

- Bailly, G. - Quels noms pour les intercommunalités après la réforme territoriale?
- Frantzman, S. - The mills of the late Ottoman Palestine as revealed in maps .
- Ji, W. – Chinese national geographical names data base management system.
- Jordan, P. – Trends of exonym use in European school atlases.
- Löfström, J. - Toponyms and cartography – historical perspectives and linguistic challenges.
- Mathias, Marcia – The importance of phonemes in the collection of geographical names.

- Menezes, P. de – Geonimy of the political administrative evolution of Rio de Janeiro.
- Nasr, M., M.Dhieb – Banque des données des noms géographiques de Tunisie.
- Overton, D., P-G.Zaccheddu – Eurogeonames, the implementation of an Inspire service.
- Resende, Ana – The riverhead of Uruguay river .
- Santos, C. – A new approach to the collection of geographical names in Brazil.
- Szyszkowska, K. and K.Przyszevska – National register of geographical names of Poland.

It is the intention of the newjoint ICA-IGU Commission on toponymy to publish these papers in a separate volume in the series Name and Place.

Activities of the joint ICA-IGU Commission on Toponymy

5. In a series of preliminary meetings (26th session UNGEGN, Vienna May 2011, 25th ICC, Paris July 2011, IGU Regional Conference, Santiago November 2011, ICA EC, Vienna 2011) a joint ICA-IGU Commission on Toponymy was set up. As ICA commissions can only be instituted by the ICA General Assembly, the status of this group within ICA will be that of a working group until the next GA in Rio de Janeiro in 2015. The commission will be co-chaired by Paulo de Menezes on behalf of ICA and by Cosimo Palagiano on behalf of IGU.
6. The following terms of reference of the joint ICA-IGU commission were proposed:
 - to foster geographic/cartographic research in the field of place names
 - to disseminate the scientific knowledge on processing and use of place names within geography and cartography;
 - To verify the use of others sciences' toponymy concepts, such as anthropology, linguistic and others, in favor of cartography and geography;
 - to support the establishment of national and regional boards on geographical names;
 - to support the efforts of international standardization of geographical names, such as undertaken by UNGEGN;
 - to maintain contacts and scientific exchange with UNGEGN and ICOS, such as by organizing joint events;
 - to support and encourage the elaboration and publication of gazetteers, toponymic data files and place-names reference systems (such as EuroGeoNames).

At the International Geographic Conference of the IGU in Cologne (August 2012) the new commission will have business meetings, a paper session and a panel discussion.

Web course in toponymy

7. The ICA Commission on Education and Training, chaired by Laszlo Zentai (Eotvos Lorand University, Budapest, Hungary) has added a module on Toponymy to its web course on cartography, This module was initiated by Antal Guszlev and Lazlo Zentai, and was extended to 11 modulesby Krisztina Iras in Budapest.With financial support from the UN Statistical Division,Nicoline McCarthy extended it by 9 new modules in 2011, so that it totals 20 modules now. In 2012 the first 11 modules were brought to the same design and functionality as the new modules, and were brought up to date as well. The module can be accessed through the website of the ICA Commission on Education and Training, <http://lazarus.elte.hu/cet/index.html> .