

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

Item 3 of the Provisional Agenda

Report of the Working Groups

**Report of the Convenor of the Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy
2007-2012***

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Report Convenor UNGEGN Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy 2007-2012

Summary of the report:

1. The UNGEGN-sponsored international training courses in toponymy held since the 9th UNCSGN, in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso, 2008), Timisoara (Romania 2008), Nairobi (Kenya, 2009) and Yaoundé (Cameroon 2010) as well as the PAIGH training courses held since 2007 in Quito (Ecuador, 2008), Madrid (Spain 2009) and Tegucigalpa (Honduras 2012) are described; the international training course currently planned (for Indonesia 2012) is mentioned.

The currently available educational material is discussed and the UNSD-supported ICA web course in toponymy, is described. The report ends with the composition of the working group.

Report of the Convenor of the UNGEGN Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy on its activities 2007-2012

A. International Training Courses held

2. UNGEGN stimulates the organisation of training courses in toponymy in order to increase awareness of the need for geographical names standardization and, more specifically, to help fill the need for qualified personnel. The general model of such courses is a one or two-week programme of lectures, alternated by exercises and fieldwork, and completed by instruction in digital processing techniques. As since 1982 at least one such a course, meant for an international audience, has been held each year, a suitable collection of lecture notes, manuals, fieldwork guides, etc. has been built up, from which prospective lecturers might draw their inspiration

3. Since the ninth UNCSGN in 2007 the convenor has been informed about international training courses or workshops in toponymy held in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso, 2008), Quito (Ecuador, 2008), Timisoara (Romania, 2008), Nairobi (Kenya, 2009), Madrid (Spain 2009), Yaoundé (Cameroon 2010) and Tegucigalpa (Honduras 2012).

4. The 20th PAIGH José Joaquín Hungría Morrell geographic names course in Applied Toponymy, sponsored by the Pan American Institute of Geography and History, with a training team directed by Roger Payne, Executive Secretary, U.S. Board on Geographic Names, was held in Quito, Ecuador, March-April 2008.

5. The first UN Toponymy Course for West Africa was held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, August 4-8, 2008. It was aimed at directors of national mapping agencies in West Africa, and had as objectives to show the complexity of geographical names processing, to demonstrate the needs for standardisation and to make participants aware of the importance of national name committees. The course was locally organised by the Institut Géographique de Burkina, directed by Mr Claude Tapsoba, and financed by the African Organisation for Cartography and Remote Sensing. The 30 participants came from 7 West-African countries. The lecturers were from Algeria, Burkina, Canada, France and the Netherlands. During a short fieldwork participants were able to grasp the problems inherent in collecting names information.

6. A UN Toponymy Course for Eastern Europe was held in conjunction with the Toponymy Week, organised by Peter Jordan and Remus Cretan, at West University in Timisoara, Romania, from 8-12 September 2008, allowing various UNGEGN working groups to meet individually and jointly. The 3-day course, held September 6-8, had lecturers from Austria, Canada, Germany, the Netherlands and Romania, and was given for 11 participants from Bulgaria, Romania and Ukraine. The lecturing team was assisted by experts from the Military Topographic Directorate in Bucureşti. There was special interest, in this multicultural part of Romania, for name standardisation as part of preserving the cultural heritage of the various groups of inhabitants. An excursion was made in order to highlight this aspect.

7. The second UN Toponymy course for East Africa was held in Nairobi, Kenya, from May 1-3, 2009. The logistics of the course were organised by Mr Anwar Siala, SG of the African Organisation for Cartography and Remote Sensing and the UNGEGN Africa Task Force chair Brahim Atoui. It was a 3-day course directed also at participants of the UNGEGN-session. The course had 24 participants from 8 African countries. The course was held at the

Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development, which also acted as the local organizer, organized transportation and catering.

The course structure answered a new concept in which the need for standardized geographical names as part of the national geospatial data structure was the starting point. The eminence of the national toponymic database, and its benefits for administration, development, emergency mapping and preserving the cultural heritage was highlighted. Then there was an evaluation of current international name servers, which showed that these contained outdated names, or would have limited numbers of names only. For the first time also the actual management of a national names programme, with finances, administration, legal issues and human resources was included. Outreach was the reason for making the names data available on the internet: to this end the functionality of a number of current official website providing geographical names was compared. The major contribution to this course was the freely-available database programme for geographical names, currently baptized AfricanGaz developed at UNECA headquarters in Addis Ababa.

8. The 21st PAIGH José Joaquín Hungría Morrell Geographic Names Course was held in Madrid, October 19-30, 2009. The programme was much similar to the UNGEGN courses and consisted of a lecture programme, fieldwork, building a names data base and working with it. The course was targeted at Spanish topographers, and therefore held at a higher level than customary.

One of the main conclusions of the course, made by lecturer Roger L. Payne (Chairman of the PAIGH Cartographic Commission WG on Geographical Names) was, that a second, more advanced course is needed where the focus should be on evaluation of the success of current policies, analysis of user needs and the implementation of maintenance programmes.

9. At the request of the Institut National de Cartographie (INC) of Cameroon and with the support of the UNGEGN Task Team for Africa, the UNGEGN Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy organised a programme for a 6-day course in November 2010, in Yaoundé (Cameroon) with a team of lecturers from Africa and overseas. The team included Brahim Atoui (chair, UNGEGN Task Team for Africa), Helen Kerfoot (UNGEKN chair), Ferjan Ormeling (chair, UNGEGN Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy), Claude Obin Tapsoba (Chair, UNGEGN Africa-West Division), Michel Simeu Kamdem (Chair, UNGEGN Africa-Central Division), and Pier-Giorgio Zaccheddu (Chair, Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers); there were also two local ad-hoc contributors (Dr Bindom and Fernand Isseri). The programme for this course will be found in Appendix 1.33 Staff from 4 countries in Central Africa participated.

10. The 22nd PAIGH José Joaquín Hungría Morrell geographic names course was held in Tegucigalpa, Honduras from February 20 through March 2, 2012. It will be reported on at the conference by Mr Roger Payne.

B. International training courses planned

11. The National Mapping Agency of Indonesia, Bakosurtanal, is organizing a fourth international toponymy course in Yogyakarta, September 17-21, 2012. Proposed courses for Turkey, Kuwait, and Guinée seem to be in a preliminary planning stage.

C. Training material

12. Currently, three training courses on the web are gradually being developed or extended, a French-speaking course, to be found at <http://www.divisionfrancophone.org/Formation/index.htm>, developed by Elisabeth Calvarin (Paris) and Henri Dorion (Montréal), a Spanish-speaking course developed by PAIGH, and an English-speaking course developed by the International Cartographic Association, to be found at <http://lazarus.elte.hu/cet/>. It has been possible thanks to UNSD-support to extend the latter and overhaul its existing chapters as well (see also section 14).

The first toponymy textbook in the Indonesian language (titled *Toponimi Indonesia*) was published in 2008 in Indonesia at the occasion of the 80th birthday of Dr Jacob Rais.

- Ce site est en construction -



Figure 1 - Image of the *Introduction à la toponimie* website (<http://www.divisionfrancophone.org/Formation/index.htm>)

The following books can be used in toponymic education:

-Naftali Kadmon –*Toponymy: The Lore, Laws of Language of Geographical Names*(2000) New York: Vantage Press.

-of the current cartography manuals the book by Kraak et al., *Cartography, Visualisation of spatial data* (3rd edition, Pearson, 2010, or Guilford Press 2011) has 3 pages on toponymy.

-The United Nations sell the following publications which also can be downloaded: *Glossary of Terms for the Standardization of Geographical Names* (New York 2002), *Manual for the national standardization of geographical names* (New York, 2006, available in the 6 UN languages), and *Technical reference manual for the standardization of geographical names* (New York, 2007).

ICA course on Toponymy - PROGRAM			
COURSE MODULES*	SELF STUDY	EXERCISE(S)	DOCUMENT(S)
1 Introduction	S01	E01	
2 The naming Process	S02		
3 Functions of geographical names	S03		
4 National Agencies	S04		
5 Field collection systems	S05		
6 Reference systems	S06	E06	D06
7 Office processing, standardization	S07		
8 Multilingual areas, minority names	S08		
9 Languages	S09	E09	D09
10 Writing systems	S10	E10	D10
11 Conversion systems	S11	E11	D11
12 UN Role	S12		
13 Exonyms	S13		
14 Toponymical Guidelines	S14		
15 Toponymical data files	S15		
16 Names placement	S16	E16	D16
17 Legal status of names	S17	E17	D17
18 Editorial issues (atlases)	S18	E18	D18
19 Toponymical Planning	S19	E19	D19
20 Names as cultural heritage	S20	E20	D20

Figure 2 – Image of the ICA course on toponymy (see section 14)

13. In 2007, a special issue (volume 39) of the onomastic journal *Onoma* was published, edited by Botolv Helleland, with as its theme onomastic research and training. It contained the following educational contributions:

HELLELAND, Botolv - Name Research and Teaching. Some Introductory Approaches; NICOLAISEN, W.F.H. - Teaching Names. A Personal Account ; PITKÄNEN, Ritva Liisa - Onomastic Research and Teaching in Finland; SMITH, Grant - Teaching Onomastics in the United States; CAFFARELLI, Enzo - On the Choice and Use of Onomastic Sources in Teaching as a Method for an Interdisciplinary Approach; GERMAIN, Jean - L'enseignement de l'onomastique en Belgique francophone; DORION, Henri - Toponymie et enseignement. Quelques réflexions pratiques; HENGST, Karlheinz - Schola Onomastica Lipsiensis. Die onomastische Lehre und ihre Entwicklung in Leipzig; HACKL, Stefan - Anregungen zu einer zeitgemäßen onomastischen Hochschuldidaktik Ein Modellversuch an der Universität Regensburg; ŠRÁMEK, Rudolf - Lehrprogramm *Namenkunde* an der Masaryk-Universität in Brno (Czech Republic); FRANK, Rainer - Project *Namenkunde*. Erstellen und Auswerten kleinerer Datenbanken; STANI-FERTL, Roman – Geographieunterricht. Unbewusst verwendete geographische Namen als didaktisches Instrument; ALHAUG, Gulbrand - Teaching of Anthroponymy. A Norwegian Contribution - Teaching of Anthroponymy. A Norwegian Contribution; NYSTRÖM, Staffan - *Torp*-names in Östergötland. A Pedagogical Experiment *Torp*-names in Östergötland. A Pedagogical Experiment; SÆRHEIM, Inge - Toponymy and Teaching. Cultural History and Cultural Experience; SANDNES, Berit, GAMMELTOFT, Peder - Place-names as a Constituent in a non-onomastic Course; ORMELING, Ferjan - Teaching Toponymy through the Web; KADMON, Naftali - Teaching Toponymy at University Level: Geographical Names, Maps and GIS; KERFOOT, Helen - United Nations and Geographical Names Standardization. Some Educational Aspects of the Programme.

14. ICA toponymy webcourse

Thanks to financial support provided by UNSD, the ICA toponymy web course could be extended with the envisaged 9 remaining chapters in 2011. These were (6) Reference systems, (9) Languages, (10) Writing systems, (11) conversion systems, (16) names placement, (17) legal status, (18) Editorial issues (19) Toponymic planning and (20) Names

as cultural heritage. The pre-existing 11 chapters of the course were each brought to the same new standard.

D. Working group composition

15. Composition of the Working group

The UNGEGN Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy during the 2007-2012 term effectively consisted of:

Mr B. Atoui

Mme Elisabeth Calvarin

Mr H. Dorion

Ms Helen Kerfoot

Mr F.J. Ormeling (convenor)

Mr R. Payne

Mr P. Raper

Mr. P-G. Zaccheddu

Appendix 1. Program of the Yaoundé training course in toponymy

Jours	Sessions
Lundi Monday	Session d'ouverture (Opening session) - allocutions des responsables locaux et internationales - présentation des participants
	Session 1: Fonctions des noms géographiques (<i>Functions of geographical names</i>) 1.1. Fonctions des noms géographiques (<i>Functions of geographical names</i>) 1.2. Résolutions et terminologie (<i>Resolutions and terminology</i>)
	Session 2: Le processus de nomination (<i>The naming process</i>) 2.1 Le processus de nomination (<i>The naming process</i>) 2.2. Standardisation des noms géographiques (<i>Standardization of geographical names</i>) 2.3. Rôle du GENUNG, documentation, ressources (<i>Contributions of UNGEGN, documentations and resources</i>)
Mardi Tuesday	Session 3 Les Bureaux de noms géographiques (<i>National names authorities</i>) 3.1 Modèles de gestion des autorités toponymiques nationales (<i>Operating models for national agencies</i>) 3.2 Fonctions et devoirs des agences nationales (<i>Functions and duties of national agencies</i>) 3.3 Régions multilingues (<i>Multilingual regions</i>)
	Session 4 Le traitement des noms dans le bureau (<i>Office processing of geographical names</i>) 4.1. Recueil des noms de lieu au bureau (<i>Names processing in the office</i>) 4.2. Standardisation par l'autorité nationale (<i>Standardization by the national committee</i>) 4.3. Toponymie Sub-saharienne (<i>Sub-Saharan Toponymy</i>)
Mercredi Wednesday	Session 5: Préparation aux travaux de terrain (<i>Field work preparation</i>) 5.1 Caractéristiques des langues locales (<i>Characteristics of local names</i>) 5.2 Introduction a la problématique (<i>Field work preparation</i>) 5.3 Aspects géographiques de la région à visiter (<i>Geographic description of the fieldwork region</i>)
	Session 6: Les questionnaires (<i>Field work forms</i>) 6.1. Effectuation des travaux de terrain/établissement du cahier de terrain (<i>Practical preparations</i>) 6.2. La localisation des données - GPS (<i>Localizing the data with GPS</i>) 6.3. L'usage prévue des données (<i>Intended use of the names data</i>)
Jeudi Thursday	Travaux de terrain (<i>Fieldwork</i>)
Vendredi Friday	Session 7: Bases de données (<i>Data bases</i>) 7.1 Traitement des noms collectionnés pendant les travaux de terrain (<i>Processing of names collected during fieldwork</i>) 7.2 Les logiciels des bases de données (<i>Characteristics of databases</i>) 7.3 Constitution des bases de données (<i>Realisation of databases</i>)
	Session 8: Production des index toponymiques (<i>Production of gazetteers</i>) 8-1 Entrée des noms dans la BD (<i>Entering the names in the database</i>) 8-2 Entrée des noms dans la BD (<i>Entering the names in the database</i>) 8-3 Production d'un modèle d'écriture digital; incorporation dans Google Earth (<i>Production of a Google Earth map with the geographical names collected</i>)
Samedi Saturday	Session 9: Application des gazetteers (<i>Digital applications</i>) 9.1 - Problèmes toponymiques pour les atlas scolaires (<i>Small-scale applications</i>) 9.2 - Diffusion des résultats et coopération interafricaine (<i>Cooperation within Africa and Forwarding the results</i>)
	Session finale - Séance de clôture (<i>Closing session</i>)