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

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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.
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 Crețan, at West University in Timișoara, 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 București. 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-sessions. 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 (UNGEGN 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 Jacub 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:

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:


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