

**Twenty-eight session
28 April – 2 May 2014**

Item 13 of the Provisional Agenda

**Activities relating to the Working Group on
Publicity and Funding**

Report of the Working Group on Publicity and Funding *

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Report of the Working Group on Publicity and Funding

*Resolutions concerned:
V/21, V/24, VI/5, VI/13,
VII/9, VIII/15, IX/10*

Aims

Established following the Sixth UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names in 1992, the Working Group on Publicity and Funding aims to make the activities of the UNGEGN more visible and, where appropriate, to seek or help identify funds to support:

- publication and dissemination of material relevant to the advancement of geographical names standardization;
- provision of training for the development and management of geographical names administration;
- establishment of names authorities; and
- participation of delegates in UNGEGN events and activities.

Working Group Meetings

Meetings of the Working Group on Publicity and Funding were held jointly with the Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation on 7 August 2012, in conjunction with the 10th UNCSGN Conference /27th UNGEGN Session, and on 4–5 July 2013 at the National Geographic Information Institute in Suwon (NGII), Republic of Korea. A total of 11 delegates attended the meeting in New York, whereas 12 Working Group members and 7 observers participated in the joint Working Group Meeting attended the 2013 meeting in Suwon.

Press and Publicity

Press releases: A press release for the 10th UNCSGN Conference in New York was prepared by the resigning Working Group Convenor, David Munro, for distribution by the UNGEGN Secretariat. It highlighted the important role of geographical names in new and emerging technologies and touched on the subjects of the Conference ranging from proposed Resolutions over Special Presentations to reports on database developments to name changes prompted by the Arab Spring.

A Post-Conference press release was prepared by this Convenor, summing up the 10th UNCSGN Conference and its outcomes. Included was also an interview with Botolv Helleland, President of the Tenth Conference, who underlined the importance of UNGEGN in relation to the “accelerated

growth in digital aspects of geographical names standardization, as well as in communication of name information around the world” over the past few years.

Media Kit: Having been available since early 2011 (and acting on UNCSGN Resolution IX/10), the Media Kit has been given an update in August 2013. Former UNGEGN President, Ms. Helen Kerfoot, kindly undertook this work following the 2013 Joint Working Group Meeting in Suwon. In addition the Media Kit has been translated to Korean and is available in that language and accessible via the UNGEGN homepage. The Working Group encourages countries/experts who would like to translate the Media Kit to do so. The UNGEGN Secretariat does not have the funds to print translated versions but are willing to make translated versions available online.

UNGEKN Information Bulletin: The Information Bulletin is being published at regular intervals and is meant to inform UNGEGN Experts about current and coming items of interest to the organization. There are, according to the UNGEGN Secretariat, 730 persons and institutions on the mailing list, which must be said to be a satisfactory number. Discussions are currently undergoing at Bureau level on possible revisions of the form and content of the Bulletin. Under consideration is the possibility of devoting some issues to certain themes.

UNGEKN website: The UNGEGN website is generally in good shape. There are, however, some sections of the website that need to be updated more often than others, especially the UNGEGN World Geographical Names Database, the Summary world map of Authorities, the Summary List of Authorities and the links by countries to National Names Authorities and other related websites. Experts are encouraged to check if the information for their relevant national, divisional or working group affiliations is correct.

Wikipedia information: Working Group Rapporteur, Mr Bergmann, has kindly updated the Wikipedia entry for UNGEGN in English and German, has he created a short version of the entry in Russian. In addition, linking has been improved between Wikipedia articles on the subject of Geographical Names in the respective three languages.

Conference activities: UNGEGN attention in the 24th ICOS Congress in Barcelona, Spain, in 2011 was a great success and one to be followed up on. As announced in the autumn issue of the UNGEGN Bulletin, the 25th ICOS Congress is being held later this year in Glasgow, United Kingdom, 25–29 August 2014. The Convenor will be addressing the ICOS Congress as Key Note Speaker. In addition, UNGEGN material will be available for interested attendees.

In addition, UNGEGN Brochures have been distributed at the joint ICA Working Group and IGU Commission on Toponymy meeting at their meetings in Cologne at the IGU Congress in 2012 and in Kyoto at the IGU Regional Conference in 2013. The recent 26th International Cartographic Conference in Dresden, Germany, in August 2013 featured a toponymic/onomastic section. It was thus decided to distribute UNGEGN material at this venue, too.

Funding

Noting in particular the need for funding the Working Group has continued to assist in finding financial support for representatives of developing countries attending the 28th Session of UNGEGN in New York. Through the generous assistance of several funding bodies, it has been possible to help experts to this Session.

Toponymy course in Madagascar: Since the last session, the Working Group has assisted in the FTM-UNGEEN Teacher Training Course in Toponymy that was held in Antananarivo, Madagascar, 17–21 June 2013. The course was attended by 30 participants from 6 East African countries (Botswana, Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, and Uganda).

Burkina Faso: Expert help with new place-name commission work: The National Geographic Institute France International (IGN-FI) has helped finance the establishment of Burkina Faso's new place name commission by means of e.g. staff training of the Geographical Institute of Burkina (IGB), a revitalization of the national Geographical Names Board (CNT) and training new members. Three missions have been conducted in 2012 and 2013 and another one is planned for 2014.

New Convenor and Rapporteur of Working Group

Working Group Convenor, David Munro, stood down as Convenor of the Working Group on Publicity and Funding at the 10th UNCSGN Conference in New York. In his place, Mr Peder Gammeltoft of Denmark was elected new Convenor. At the same time, Mr Hubert Bergmann, Austria, became Rapporteur of the Working Group as well as of the Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation. Mr. Bergmann has been a very good rapporteur at his two Joint Working Group Meetings, however, changes in his work tasks has meant that he has had to step down as Rapporteur. This means that the Working Group and the Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation is at the time of writing without a Rapporteur.

11th UN Conference 2017

In preparation for the 11th Conference in 2017, the Working Group reminds the Group of Experts that any new proposals for major publications or training events should be presented to the Conference through a resolution prepared in consultation with the Working Group on Publicity and Funding.

Report of the Working Group on Publicity and Funding

Summary

The report highlights the activities of the working group in raising awareness of the need for geographical names standardization and the work of the Group of Experts, particularly in advancing the digital presence of UNGEGN, through web presence and updated Media Kit and Wikipedia presence. The report also highlights efforts to find financial support for training and for representatives from developing countries attending UNGEGN Sessions.