

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

Item 8 of the Provisional Agenda

**Activities relating to the Working Group on
Training Courses in Toponymy**

**Report of the UNGEGN Working Group on Training Courses in
Toponymy 2012-2014 ***

* Prepared by Ferjan Ormeling, Convenor, Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy

Report UNGEGN Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy 2012-2014

Summary

This report describes the activities of the UNGEGN WG on Training Courses in Toponymy since 2012. The main effort of the group went into the organization of training courses, which were held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia in September 2012 and in Antananarive, Madagascar, in June 2013. The one in Indonesia was aimed at training personnel in charge of the collection of geographical names at a regional level. The course in Madagascar was aimed at training the trainers, who in their turn would take care of toponymic training in their countries. Apart from these toponymy courses, work was undertaken to maintain the UNGEGN/ICA webcourse in toponymy, and to further the advanced toponymy manual, aimed at completion by 2017.

Report UNGEGN Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy 2012-2014

1. The objective of the working group is: to stimulate and to help organise training courses in toponymy, in order to increase awareness of the need for geographical names standardization, and to help fill the need for qualified personnel. This results in the following aims:

- Organise contact training courses in toponymy
- Maintain a webcourse in toponymy
- Deliver training manuals and inform about new manuals
- Maintain a training courses website for informing about developments in training venues

2. Since the 10th Conference the following activities were taken up:

- Organization and effectuation of contact training courses
- Planning future courses
- Maintenance of the ICA-UNGEGN webcourse
- Preparation of an advanced toponymy manual
- Maintenance of a toponymical training website

Organization of Training courses

3. Since the 10th conference the WG, in conjunction with DGSD, organised training courses in Yogyakarta and Antananarivo. The National Geospatial Information Agency BIG was the local organizer of the 4th international training course in conjunction with UNGEGN in that country. It was held in Yogyakarta, September 17-21, 2012. 75 participants, 9 of which from foreign countries (Oman 2, Philippines 2, Malaysia 4, Sri Lanka 1) attended the fourth international toponymy course, organized by Badan Informasi Geospasial (BIG, formerly Bakosurtanal) and the UNGEGN Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy. The local participants represented 33 Indonesian provinces and a number of local government areas - as the task of collecting and processing geographical names has been decentralized in Indonesia since 2008 - and some universities.

The second part of the fieldwork took place in two nearby archeological complexes, the Ratu Boko 8th century extensive acropolis overlooking the Prambanan plain, and the 9th century Banyunibo Buddhist temple close by, stressing the role of geographical names standardization as a means of preserving the cultural heritage

4. In Antananarivo, Madagascar, Foiben-Taosarintanin' i Madagasikara (FTM) was the local organizer for a new kind of training course, held June 17-21, 2013, "Training the trainers" this time targeted at those who could be required to provide training, either in-house at mapping organizations or at higher education teaching facilities. So the emphasis had changed from passing on information about toponymy to providing awareness of the ways of passing along the information and skills and teaching the subject with the best training practices. There were 30 participants from 6 countries (Botswana (2), Burundi (1), Ethiopia (1), Kenya (1), Madagascar (24) and Uganda (1)). A representative of UNECA in Addis Abeba (Ababa) joined the lecturing team in order to demonstrate how to work with the GEONYMS software designed by UNECA and made available to African countries for the production of databases and gazetteers.

5. Planning Future Courses

The working Group is currently planning a toponymy course in Oran, held in the second week of September 2014. Brazilian authorities have approached UNGEGN regarding a repeat toponymy course to be held shortly.

6. Maintenance of the UNGEGN/ICA Webcourse.

At the request of several countries changes were made to the contents of the webcourse on toponymy that has been linked to both the UNGEGN website and the ICA Commission on Education and Training website. Minor repairs on links no longer working were effectuated.

7. Preparation of an Advanced Toponymy Manual.

The preparation of this manual, to be linked to the UNGEGN website in 2017, is progressing but slowly. It is hoped the work will get a new impetus during the 28th session. See the appendix.

8. Toponymical Training Website

The working group website has been updated and will hopefully be linked to the UNGEGN website. Teaching material used in the UNGEGN-sponsored courses has been added to the DGSD website, as DGSD is strongly cooperating with the WG in the realization of training courses.

9. Membership of the Working Group:

Brahim Atoui (Algeria)
Elisabeth Calvarin (France)
Baboloki Gabalape (Botswana)
Peder Gammeltoft (Denmark)
Helen Kerfoot (Canada)
Ferjan Ormeling (convenor, Netherlands)
Peter Raper (South Africa)
Roger Payne (United States)
Tjeerd Tichelaar (Netherlands)
Pier-Giorgio Zaccheddu (Germany)

Appendix: Preliminary contents of the advanced manual

- 1.** The need for standardized geographical names as part of the national geospatial data infrastructure. (Helen Kerfoot).
- 2.** Examples of applications of the national names database in emergency mapping, administration and development
 - 2a.** The National names database and emergency mapping (examples from UNSDI, Haiti, crowd flowers, time-out) (still open)
 - 2b.** National names database and tourist activities/hotel reservations (still open)
- 3.** Management of a national names programme (Pier Zaccheddu)
- 4.** Different geographical names applications
 - 4a.** Geographical names for hydrographic charts
 - 4b.** Geographical names for tourist maps (Tjeerd Tichelaar or Bettina Wobek)
 - 4c.** Urban street naming (still open)
 - 4d.** Names for tourist /road map exercise (Tjeerd Tichelaar)
- 5.** Regional and global datafile and gazetteer initiatives
 - 5a.** Small islands names project (BIG?)
 - 5b.** Regional datafiles (ASEPSW) (Wendy Shaw)
 - 5c.** Regional names services such as Eurogeonames (Ferjan Ormeling/Pier Zaccheddu)
 - 5d.** World names database UN (Helen Kerfoot)
- 6.** Concordance between statistical and topographical names
 - 6a.** Standardization of names for statistical enumeration areas (still open. Someone from Mexico/Brazil?)
 - 6b.** Reduction of differences between statistical and topographical areal object names (still open. Someone from Brazil/Mexico?)
- 7.** Integration of crowd-sourced or volunteered geographic information (VGI)/crowd-sourcing (Pier Zaccheddu)
- 8.** Technical issues: database management*
 - 8a.** Database design and management (Pier Zaccheddu)
 - 8b.** Open source vs commercial options: criteria for selection (Pier Zaccheddu)
 - 8c.** Requirements for a school atlas names database (Tjeerd Tichelaar)
- 9.** Software packages
 - 9a.** Structure and contents of toponymic databases and gazetteers (Pier Zaccheddu)
 - 9b.** Names databases and gazetteers (Zaccheddu)
- 10.** Technical issues: internet, web service infrastructure and applications*
 - 10a.** Web services and applications- criteria for selection. PZ -Publishing names databases in the Google Earth application (Pier Zaccheddu)

- 10b.** Working with African GeoNyms - a desktop application (someone from UNECA or Pier Zaccheddu)
- 10c.** UNSDI Gazetteer Framework project (CSIRO)
- 11.** Evaluation of current Internet products
 - 11a.** Evaluation of current web services (Ferjan Ormeling)
 - 11b.** Evaluation of current names servers (Ferjan Ormeling)
- 12.** Cultural aspects
 - 12a.** Place names as cultural heritage (Botolv Helleland)
 - 12b.** History of place names (Tjeerd Tichelaar)
 - 12c.** Assigning street names (still open)
 - 12d.** Collecting indigenous names (WG on Indigenous names?)
- 13.** Toponymic research
 - 13a.** Onomastics and lexicology (still open) Hubert
 - 13b.** Etymology & the historic study of place names (still open)
 - 13c.** Internet sources for linguistic research (Tjeerd Tichelaar)
- 14.** Toponymic documentation
 - 14a.** Linguistic and toponymic sources (H. Bergmann)
 - 14b.** Preparing briefs for place name guides (still open)
 - 14c.** Collating sources and maps (still open)
- 15.** Positioning
 - 15a.** Theoretical aspects of positioning (still open)
 - 15b.** Best practices for object positioning procedures (still open)
 - 15c.** Hands-on GPS exercise (still open)
- 16.** Cartographic aspects: paper and digital map series
 - 16a.** Updating names sheets and Assessing optimal names density for map sheets (Romanian colleagues)
 - 16b.** Dealing with areal names on adjoining map sheets; multiple naming (Romanian colleagues)
 - 16c.** Digital/automatic place name labeling (still open)
 - 16d.** Jumping place names on monitor screens (hierarchical aspects) (still open)
- 17.** Audit of existing records
 - 17a.** In order to coordinate toponymic information from different parts of the country (still open)
 - 17b.** In order to coordinate toponymic information from different survey periods (still open)
 - 17c.** In order to coordinate names record from different national institutions (Laura Kostanski)
- 18.** Communication issues
 - 18a.** Interview techniques for collecting geographical names (still open)

18b. Role play for names board meetings (Maputo Video/ still open)

19. Special training for contacts with the media

19a. Toponymic requirements of the media (still open)

19b. Media cartography (still open)

19c. Exercise on Producing media maps (still open)