Item 7 of the Provisional Agenda

**Implementation of resolutions and activities relating to
the Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation**

Report of the Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation [*]

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SUMMARY

The report covers activities of the Working Group since the 10th United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names. There were two meetings, one during the 10th Conference and the other in Suwon and Seoul, Republic of Korea, July 2013, where items for the current work plan of the WG were discussed, including the implementation of resolutions, resolutions database, results of the evaluation survey conducted at the 10th Conference, and the working conditions and status of the UNGEGN. Actions and suggestions were made to improve its tasks.

The current work plan of the Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation, basically guided by the UNCSGN resolutions V/4 and VI/4, includes the following four items;

- evaluating the functioning and efficacy of UNGEGN and the Conferences, and the implementation of resolutions;
- finding ways to involve member states not currently participating in UNGEGN;
- looking at the needs of developing countries to achieve national standardization of their geographical names; and
- proposing actions to increase the effectiveness of the Conferences, UNGEGN and its Divisions and Working Groups.

In order to fulfill this plan, two meetings were held, where items relevant to the plan were discussed and actions and suggestions were made.

Working Group meetings

A Working Group meeting was held at the occasion of the 10th Conference on August 7 2012, jointly with the Working Group on Publicity and Funding. Completed items since the last WG meeting in October 2011 were reported, including the results of the evaluation survey conducted at the 26th Session, resolutions database, and the evaluation plan for the Conference. The convenorship was transferred from Mr. Ki-Suk Lee to Mr. Sungjae Choo. The new convenor emphasized the basic mandate of the WG, which would be motivating and finding measures for implementing resolutions.

A joint three-day Working Group meeting with the WG on Publicity and Funding, was held on 4-6 July 2013 in order to thoroughly discuss the current plans of the WGs. The meeting was composed

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[†] This working paper pertains to the UNCSGN resolutions V/4 (Work performed by the UNGEGN and its future activities), VI/4 (Working group on evaluation), IV/24 (Divisional activities), V/2 (Statute of the UNGEGN) and X/1 (11th UNCSGN and 28th Session of the UNGEGN).

of two-day agenda sessions at the conference room of the National Geographic Information Institute (NGII) in Suwon, Republic of Korea, and one-day excursion in Seoul focusing on Korean places, history and geographical names. Participants were convenors of the WGs, Sungjae Choo and Peder Gammeltoft; UNGEGN chair, Bill Watt; vice chairs, Ferjan Ormeling and Naima Friha; rapporteur of the WGs, Hubert Bergmann; former UNGEGN chair, Helen Kerfoot; former convenor of the WG, Ki-Suk Lee; experts from Korea, Young-Hoon Kim, Yeon-Taek Ryu and Hyo Hyun Sung; and observers from the NGII and other Korean institutions.

Before the agenda sessions, the NGII, as the host institution, organized an opening ceremony at the auditorium of the Institute, in which the opening addresses by two WG convenors and the Director General of the NGII, Mr. Joo-Bin Im, were delivered and a special presentation by the UNGEGN chair, titled "Getting them right: Cultural and technical accuracy," was given. A special lecture "New names drive out old names: The case of place-name changes in the construction of the new administrative town *Sejong* in Korea," given by Prof. Sang-Hyun Chi of Kyung Hee University on the second day, enriched the meeting.

At the meeting, the current working conditions and status of the UNGEGN were generally reviewed, including completed or on-going items since the 10th Conference, including the status quo regarding arrangements for the 28th UNGEGN Session in 2014, link to the UN Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management (GGIM), and considerations to improve the efficiency of future UNGEGN sessions. Basic findings from the evaluation survey carried out at the 10th Conference were also reported.

Narrowing down to the functions of the WG, its mandate, objectives and responsibilities were confirmed. The current status of the UNCSGN resolutions database was reported; the English and French versions are now available with the 12 new resolutions from the 10th Conference added. A considerable portion of the meeting was dedicated to the issue of implementing resolutions.

Implementing resolutions

The Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation has been missioned to encourage members of UNGEGN to implement resolutions adopted at the Conferences as norms of the standardization of geographical names, as endorsed by the UNCSGN resolutions V/4, VI/4 and IV/24. In order to continuously motivate UNGEGN experts to refer to the resolutions in their works, the following measures were suggested;

- inserting a phrase in the "Documentation for the Session" requesting each working paper to indicate the resolution(s) to which the document refers;
- adding a question in the evaluation questionnaire regarding the implementation of resolutions; and
- preparing a working paper to arouse interest in resolutions.

According to the suggestions, action plans were devised, as seen in the current session.

UNCSGN resolutions database

The UNCSGN resolutions database is now in operation in both English and French, containing 207 resolutions adopted up to the 10th Conference. It is hosted by the NGII and accessible from the UNGEGN web-page (http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/ungegn/confGeneral.html).

The database is now ready to be made available in a third language, depending on the readiness of complete texts of the resolutions. This will be made possible with the technical and financial support of the NGII.

Evaluationof the 10thUNCSGN

A total of forty-six responses of the evaluation questionnaire forms were received at the 10th Conference in 2012. An analysis of the likert scale evaluations on the programs, contents and logistics of the meeting indicated an overall satisfaction with the Conference. For future conferences were suggested such changes as reduction of conference duration, reduction of reports, better communication of division and working group meetings. Toponymic training was ranked at the top of the to-do list before the 11th Conference.

More details of the survey results will be reported separately. The collection of responses and tabulation of basic statistics were contributed by the UNGEGN Secretariat.

Future of the Working Group

At the Working Group meeting in July 2013, it was confirmed once again that the Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation should continue separately from the Working Group on Publicity and Funding, but have joint meetings to achieve synergy effects. The Working Group is steered by the convenor, the UNGEGN chair and vice-chairs, but open to any experts interested. Since the last meeting, the WG has also been joined by a few Korean colleagues, Ms. Hyo Hyun Sung, Mr. Yeon-Taek Ryu and Mr. Young-Hoon Kim. Mr. Hubert Bergmann expressed his hopes to step down from the position of rapporteur. His successor is to be sought.

The next meeting of the Working Group will be scheduled within the framework of the current 28th Session, jointly with the Working Group on Publicity and Funding.