Item 3 of the Provisional Agenda*

Reports of the working groups

Toponymic Guidelines for Map and Other Editors, for International Use – Report of the Coordinator

Submitted by the Coordinator, Toponymic Guidelines**

Background

In 1982, the Conference recommended that countries should be encouraged to publish and keep up-to-date Toponymic Guidelines for Map and Other Editors. The aim was to enable cartographers of other countries to correctly treat all problems of cartographic toponymy of the countries that produced such guidelines [4th UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, Resolution IV/4: https://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/ungegnConf4.html]. A sample prepared by former UNGEGN chair Josef Breu and submitted by Austria to the Eighth Session of UNGEGN in 1979 [W.P. 5: https://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/docs/8th-gegn-docs/8th_gegn_WP5.pdf] served as basis for the guidelines. This format has been updated and enriched over the years. TG include information about official, national and minority languages, names authorities, source material for toponyms, glossaries, abbreviations used on official maps and administrative division.

Updated and new Toponymic Guidelines

At the 29th Session on the Standardization of Geographical Names three countries presented updated versions of TG:

Finland (update of the fourth revised edition [from 2004], version 4.8, February 2016; language: English; online: https://www.kotus.fi/toponymicguidelines)

Republic of Korea (revised second Edition, 2015; languages: English, Korean; online: http://www.ngii.go.kr/en/contents/contentsView.do?rbsIdx=81)

South Africa (completely revised fourth edition, 2012; language: English, online: https://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/docs/29th-gegn-docs/WP/WP54_17_toponymic%20guidelines%20south%20african%20geographical%20names%202016.pdf

Availability and dissemination

The links to Toponymic Guidelines available online on the UNGEGN homepage have been monitored and updated.
In order to promote the dissemination of UNGEGN Toponymic Guidelines, Wikipedia entries have been created and linked to related topics. The Wikipedia entries also were monitored and updated. As of today English, French and German versions of the entry are available.
Further information and links are on the UNGEGN-homepage:
http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/wgGuidelines.html

Invitation

Countries not having published TG yet are invited and encouraged to do so. A template for TG was provided by the then Chair at the 26th UNGEGN Session, Vienna, 2–6 May 2011 [WP No. 86]:
http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/ungegn/docs/26th-gegn-docs/WP/WP86_Toponymic%20Guidelines%20-%20Content%20Template.doc.pdf
The elaboration of the whole set of contents as listed in this content template may take a certain effort, as input from experts of several fields is required. But this should not be seen as an obstacle. It has to be emphasized at this point that drafts and preliminary works for TG are

also very welcome. For any questions related to this topic please feel free to contact me with the mentioned email-address. (gerhard.rampl@uibk.ac.at)