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English only

**Eighth United Nations Conference on the
Standardization of Geographical Names**

Berlin, 27 August-5 September 2002

Item 17 (b) of the provisional agenda*

**Toponymic education and practice and international
cooperation: training courses in toponymy**

**United Nations-sponsored toponymy course in
Australia, 2004**

Submitted by Australia**

* E/CONF.94/1.

** Prepared by David Blair, Asia-Pacific Institute for Toponymy.



PROPOSAL

UN-sponsored toponymy course, Australia 2004

Organising Committee

Ms Flavia Hodges -- Director, Asia-Pacific Institute for Toponymy
Mr Brian Goodchild -- Chair, Committee for Geographical Names in Australasia
Mr Paul Harcombe -- NSW Geographic Names Board
Ms David Blair -- Director, Australian National Placenames Survey
Adjunct Professor John Parker -- UNGEGN liaison
Ms Susan Poetsch -- ANPS
Charles Sturt University representative, to be appointed

Participants

Lecturers will include

- X international experts such as: Helen Kerfoot of the Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographic Names; Roger Payne of the US Board on Geographic Names; and F.J. Ormeling, convener of the UNGEGN working group on toponymy courses
- X local specialists in both technical and cultural aspects of toponymy.

Participants will be sought from all members of the SE Asia-SW Pacific region; it is envisaged that they will predominantly be members of national mapping and names standardisation bodies, sponsored by their employers.

Timing

Twelve days (Mon-Fri, Sat/Sun, Mon-Fri) during the second half of the year; likely dates (not confirmed) are in September/October 2004

Location

The course will be based in Bathurst, New South Wales, a rural centre some 200 km northwest of Sydney, beyond the scenic Blue Mountains. The surrounding area encompasses the lower reaches of the Macquarie River system and the historic towns of Sofala and Rockley. Bathurst is readily accessible by road, rail, and air: it has its own airport and is linked with Sydney by both a National Highway and an XPT rail service. Participants will be accommodated on the campus of Charles Sturt University just outside the town centre.

Main features

Sessions will be divided between Charles Sturt University and the NSW Land Information Centre, located directly opposite. There will be lectures, group exercises, and the opportunity for hands-on experience of data processing. Fieldwork will be conducted in the surrounding region, and will encompass cultural as well as technical aspects of investigation. A centrepiece of the course will be a regular meeting of the NSW Geographical Names Board, which participants will attend as observers after a full briefing on the work of the board and the issues to be discussed.

Course outline

Monday	a.m.	opening, welcome; functions of geographical names; social and economic benefits of standardisation; UN activities in geographical names standardisation
	p.m.	national standardisation; implementation of UN recommendations; setting up a national names authority (powers, membership, staff)
Tuesday	a.m.	establishing standardisation principles; international agreements; policies and rules for uniform decisions
	p.m.	specific national, regional and local requirements; implementation of standardisation; procedures, methodologies and guidelines
Wednesday	a.m.	techniques of toponymic fieldwork; coordinate systems and projections; description of the fieldwork area; linguistic issues in the fieldwork area; cultural issues in the fieldwork area
	p.m.	preparation of interview questions
Thursday	a.m.	travel to fieldwork area; overview of fieldwork area
	p.m.	interviews with local informants
Friday		Interviews with local informants (continued)
Saturday		Office analysis of information gathered and manual data processing
Sunday		Field review of information gathered; return from fieldwork area

Monday	a.m.	computer-assisted data processing; terminology; hardware and software; database management systems; office processing (data verification and data loading)
	p.m.	briefing for meeting of Geographical Names Board
Tuesday	a.m.	data retrieval requirements and techniques; maintenance issues; promulgation of data; maps and gazetteers
	p.m.	meeting of Geographical Names Board
Wednesday	a.m.	automated processing workshop
	p.m.	review of Geographical Names Board meeting
Thursday	a.m.	toponymic guidelines; minority names; name placement on maps; name placement exercise
	p.m.	toponymic needs of private industry; toponymic evaluation of school atlases in the area
Friday	a.m.	exonyms; writing systems; data availability on the Internet; cooperation within the region
	p.m.	course evaluation; award of certificates, close