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English only

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

Berlin, 27 August-5 September 2002

Item 17 (a) of the provisional agenda*

**Toponymic education and practice and international
cooperation: existing education and practice**

Asia-Pacific Institute for Toponymy

Submitted by Australia**

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



ASIA-PACIFIC INSTITUTE FOR TOPONYMY

MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY

SYDNEY

AUSTRALIA



THE ASIA-PACIFIC INSTITUTE FOR TOPONYMY

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The established of an Asia-Pacific Institute for Toponymy at Macquarie University, Sydney, is an initiative of staff within the Australian National Placenames Survey, and is supported by 5-year funding from the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Di Yerbury. The Institute is designed to provide support and training for toponymic work in Australasia and South-East Asia. In particular, the Institute will

- X in Australia, provide a sound basis to expand the work and interests of the Australian National Placenames Survey (ANPS); and
- X in the region, assist the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) in its mission to provide the toponymic training essential to regional development.

The five-year funding approved will enable the Institute to employ a part-time director who will put the regional and local training program on a secure basis. It will also support the employment of a training officer who will prepare teaching materials for training in toponymy, as well as some computing assistance to work towards the completion and maintenance of the toponymic database already under construction within the ANPS.

By the end of the funding period, external funds from such sources as commercial sponsors, international and national aid agencies, and fees income from training courses, will ensure the continuation of the Institute.

ABBREVIATIONS:

ANPS:	Australian National Placenames Survey
APRIM:	Asia-Pacific Research Institute, Macquarie
CGNA:	Committee on Geographical Names in Australasia
ICOS:	International Congress of Onomastic Sciences
ICSM:	Intergovernmental Committee on Surveying and Mapping
MOST:	<i>Management of Social Transformation</i> Program, UNESCO
UNGEGN:	United Nations Group of Experts on Geographic Names

MISSION of THE INSTITUTE

to be the acknowledged centre for training and research in technical and cultural aspects of placename studies for the countries of Australasia and South-East Asia.

GOALS OF THE INSTITUTE

- 1 to serve as a respected provider of training in toponymy, embracing both the standardisation issues important to those working for government agencies and the cultural aspects of concern to those investigating placenames from historical, linguistic and sociological viewpoints.
- 2 to be the central resource for studies in Australian toponymy
- 3 to establish Australia and the region as significant contributors to methodological innovation and as models of international best practice in issues of technical and cultural toponymic research and data dissemination.

STRATEGIES

- 1 *National and Regional Education and Training*
 - 1.1 Develop and offer award-based and non-award courses at Macquarie, and support research student placements at Macquarie and other universities
 - 1.2 Offer international toponymic training course to be held under the auspices of UNGEGN in 2004
 - 1.3 Provide training by distance learning to other States of Australia and to the South-East Asian region
- 2 *Australian Toponymy Resource Base*
 - 2.1 Complete and maintain central database management system for the ongoing historical survey of Australian placenames
 - 2.2 Establish and co-ordinate State committees for Australian placenames research
 - 2.3 Hold annual national conferences on Australian toponymic issues, bringing together representatives of the State nomenclature authorities and researchers into both the indigenous and introduced networks of placenames
- 3 *Global Integration*
 - 3.1 Coordinate activities with members of the Committee on Geographical Names in Australasia (CGNA) and the Intergovernmental Committee on Surveying and Mapping (ICSM), and with UNGEGN and the International Congress of Onomastic Sciences (ICOS)
 - 3.2 Support international exchange of scholars in toponymy
 - 3.3 Encourage toponymic research within Australia and support a program of publication in international journals

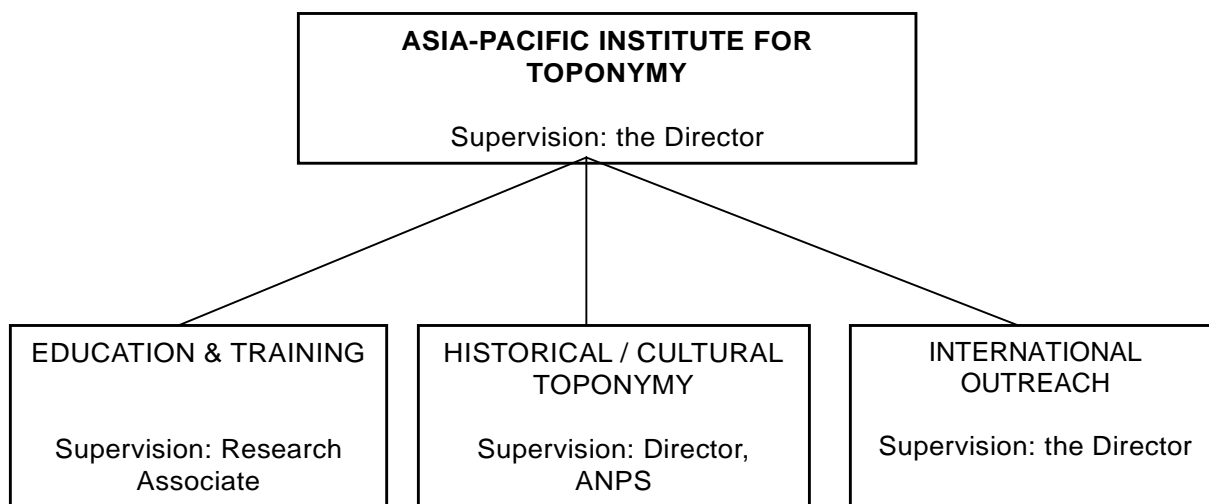
STRUCTURE OF THE INSTITUTE

The Institute is located within the Division of Humanities at Macquarie University, and will have strong connections with the Departments of English and Modern History.

The Department of English is already involved with toponymic work, since it is the home for the Australian National Placenames Survey. The Department also offers a senior undergraduate seminar in toponymy. The Department of Modern History also provides current supervision for research students in toponymy.

The **internal structure** of the Institute will reflect the tripartite nature of the Institute's goals and strategies:

- X *Education and Training Section:* will be responsible for achieving Goal 1, by developing a variety of teaching programs in line with the strategies outlined
- X *Historical & Cultural Toponymy Section:* will be responsible for achieving Goal 2, by developing and maintaining an Australian resource base and acting as a clearing house for the Australian community
- X *International Outreach Section:* will be responsible for achieving Goal 3, by establishing an international presence in line with the strategies outlined



The **governance** of the Institute will involve an International Advisory Board and a Management Committee.

- X The function of the *Advisory Board* is to provide advice on long-term strategies and to give an international perspective on the activities of the Institute.

Advisory Board membership

Vice-Chancellor or nominee

Head of the Division of Humanities, Macquarie University, or nominee

Director, APRIM

- currently Mr Richard Braddock

Chair, UNGEGN Asia South-East & Pacific South-West Division

- currently Mr Brian Goodchild, Department of Lands Administration,
WA ; chair of CGNA)

Dr Amor Laarabi, Secretary UNGEGN, Statistics Division, United Nations
NY

Ms Helen Kerfoot, Vice-Chair UNGEGN, Natural Resources Canada, Ottawa

Mr Roger Payne, Executive Secretary, US Board on Geographic Names,
Reston VA

Mr Tony Bevin, Surveyor-General of New Zealand, Wellington NZ

- X the function of the *Management Committee* is to assist the Director in overseeing the day-to-day activities of the Institute.

Management Committee membership

The Director

- Ms Flavia Hodges

Director, ANPS

- Mr David Blair

CGNA nominee

- currently Mr Paul Harcombe, Deputy Surveyor-General NSW

a member of the Institute, elected annually

PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES
1 *Education and Training*

- a Award programs
 - i *HMN852 Placenames of Australia*
 - ii *ENGL300/301 English Literary Studies* a special interest seminar offered to senior undergraduates
 - iii *Australian Linguistics Institute (ALI)* short course in toponymy previously offered and to be offered again in 2002, taken for credit in some cases
 - iv research degree supervision for students in Modern History or in English
- b Non-award programs
 - i training workshops in field toponymy for associates of the ANPS
 - ii continuing education courses, based on (a) (i-iii) above
 - iii ALI 2002, taken not-for-credit by some attendees
 - iv *Toponymy Training Workshop*, for Australian Hydrographic Office
 - v *Toponymy Training Course*, 2004, sponsored by UNGEGN

2 *Historical/Cultural Toponymy Resource Base*

- a Completion of database management system
- b Completion of field module for Survey associates
- c Establishment of State committees in Queensland, NSW, Victoria, SA, Tasmania, NT
- d Identification of and linking with relevant community groups
- e Holding of annual conferences, 2002-2006, on indigenous and introduced networks of placenames

3 *International Outreach*

- a Representation at the 8th UN Conference on the Standardisation of Geographical Names, Berlin, August 2002
- b Representation at 21st ICOS, Uppsala, 2002
- c Electronic publication of Working Papers from annual conferences
- d Consultancy on feature-set standardisation for CGNA and ICSM

BEYOND 2006

During the years 2001-2006, the Institute will achieve two major objectives. It will:

- X complete the construction of the Australian placenames database management system, thereby establishing it as the central resource for studies in Australian toponymy
- X deliver a recognised education and training program in toponymic issues, for Australia and the Asia-Pacific region, thereby establishing the Institute as a significant international provider of training and assistance in an important aspect of regional development

Achieving the first objective will enable continued research funding for Institute staff and associated researchers, especially those involved in the ANPS. Individual projects within the umbrella of the Survey will have their prospects of successful grant applications enhanced, because of the completion of the DBMS and the secure infrastructure supplied by the Institute.

Achieving the second objective will assist in gaining in future years an income stream from international aid agencies and development bodies such as the UN, the World Bank, US foundations and AusAID. The establishment of the Institute will facilitate funding from such sources as UNESCO's MOST program, where that body's *Policy on Linguistic Rights* is an expression of its special emphasis on policy-oriented research in multicultural societies and directly relevant to ethnic minorities' claims for indigenous placenames. In addition, major funding from US sources such as the Alcoa Foundation will be sought during the initial 5-year period as the Institute is developing its international profile. Useful supplementary income will be derived from award courses or continued education programs offered by the Institute or its affiliated staff.

- X We are committed to holding a UN-sponsored regional Toponymy Training Course in 2004, which we see as an important step in achieving our objectives rather than as an income-generating exercise.
- X In the immediate future, the Australian Hydrographic Office has requested a training course; the establishment of the Institute and the Innovations Grant funding will now enable us to fulfil this request, previously set aside because of the loss of staff.
- X A consultancy on geographic feature-set standardisation is likely to come from ICSM, given a successful outcome from a current MURG-supported pilot study requested by CGNA

These are just three examples of the opportunities that are available and which will provide an ongoing income stream for the Institute's future.

Toponymic research at Macquarie (of a socio-cultural nature) has generated income, from external and internal grants, at an average rate of nearly \$100,000 per annum over the last four years. The establishment of this Institute on a secure basis for an initial 5-year period enables the University to leverage this support and establish an international presence in the wider discipline of geographical names studies, particular in the areas of standardisation, technical innovation and training.