25 August 2002

Original: English

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

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

(Subrnitted by Netherlands)**

---

*E/CONF.94/1

** Prepared by Ferjan Ormeling, Convenor of the Working Group & head, Commission of Foreign Geographical Names

Summary

The Working group on training courses in toponymy monitors the organisation of toponymy courses and the dissemination of toponymy course teaching material. In the 1997-2002 term the working group has cooperated in the exchange of teaching material, the updating of websites, and consultation for future courses. 10 International toponymy courses were held. A detailed programme for the DGSD-UNGEGN course held in conjunction with the 8 conference is added.

Report of the convenor of the Working group on training courses in toponymy, 1997-2002

1. Purpose of the Working Group

UNGEGN stimulates the organisation of training courses in toponymy in order to increase awareness of the need for geographical names standardization and, more specifically, to help fill the need for qualified personnel. The general model for such courses is a two-week programme of lectures, alternated by lectures and fieldwork, and completed by instruction in digital processing techniques. As since 1982 at least 20 of these courses, meant for an international audience, have been held, a suitable collection of lecture notes, manuals, fieldwork guides, etc. has been built up, from which prospective lecturers might draw their inspiration. The working group aims at the facilitating of toponymy courses and the distribution of course material.

2. Training Courses held since the 7th UNCSGN

Since the seventh UNCSGN the convenor has been informed about international training courses or workshops in toponymy held in:

- Enschede/Frankfurt am Main, August 12-September 6, Toponymic Training Course in conjunction with the 8 UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names in Berlin, August 26- September 6, 2002. Sponsored by the UN Statistical Office, Germany and the Netherlands. Lecturing team from DGSD countries, Estonia and Canada
- San Salvador, El Salvador, June 24-July 5, 2002. 14" PAIGH Geographic Names Course, sponsored by the Pan American Institute for Geography and History, with a training team from the USA, Honduras and Mexico
- Bogotá, Colombia, 2001. 13' PAIGH Geographic Names Course, sponsored by the Pan American Institute for Geography and History, with a training team from the USA, Honduras and Mexico
- Pretoria (2000), the 8th UN Training Course on Geographical Names. Organizers Dr P.E.Raper and Dr L.Möller, Names Research Institute, South Africa.
- Asunción, Paraguay (2000) 12* PAIGH Geographic Names Course, sponsored by the Pan American Institute for Geography and History, with a training team from the USA, Honduras and Mexico
- Ottawa (1999) Workshop on Geographical names, organised by the Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names, held prior to the International Cartographic Conference in Ottawa, August 16-20, 1999.
- Guatemala City (July 5-16, 1999). 11th PAIGH Course in Applied Toponymy, sponsored by the Pan American Institute for Geography and History (PAIGH) and organised by experts from the USA, held at the Instituto Geografico Nacional .
- Pretoria (July 20-25, 1998): 7 United Nations Training Course on Geographical Names, sponsored by UNGEGN, organised by Dr P.E.Raper and Dr L.Möller.
- Lima (1998), 10th PAIGH Course in Applied Toponymy, sponsored by the Pan American Institute for Geography and History (PAIGH), and organised by experts from the USA, and Honduras.
- Windhoek (April 14-19, 1998). 6th UN Training Workshop on Geographical Names, sponsored by UNESCO, and organised for the Government of Namibia by Dr P.E.Raper and Dr L.Möller.

3. International training courses planned

- Bathurst (near Sydney, Australia), 2004: Toponymic training course for Asia and the Pacific (to beheld at conference centre facilities of the Charles Sturt University) Organised by the

Education and Training Section of the Asia-Pacific Institute for Toponymy, in conjunction with the New South Wales Geographical Names Board.

4. Training material

A list of training material used at toponymy courses is already available at the Geonames Canada Website and at the Toponymy Courses website. It is suggested to publish news on forthcoming toponymy courses as well both at this site as in the UNGEGN Newsletter. At the Toponymy Courses site (http://toponymycourses.geog.uu.nl/) the contents of all the available toponymy training course material available at the convenor's is listed. This material consists of proceedings from courses held in Cisarua (1982), Québec (1988), Cipanas (1989), Pretoria (1992, 1993, 1995) and Wellington (1994).

5. Other relevant teaching material

- Naftali Kadmon – An introduction to toponymy. Theory and practice of geographical names. Department of Geography, University of Pretoria, Pretoria 1992 (to be ordered from Dept. of Geography, University of Pretoria, Pretoria 0002, South Africa, fax (012 420 3284)
- Naftali Kadmon – Toponymy. Vantage Press. ISBN 0533 135311. 1st edition New York 2000.

6. The Enschede/Frankfurt am Main/Berlin DGSD UNGEGN Training Course in Toponymy

From August 12 – September 6 a Training Course on Toponymy was organised by Germany and the Netherlands, for which 24 young pariicipants, working on geographical names standardization in developing countries, were invited. The course was sponsored by the United Nations Statistical Office and by the Ministry of the Interior of Germany and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands. The course was jointly held at the International Institute of Geoinformation Sciences and Earth Observation (ITC) in Enschede and the Bundesamt für Kartographie und Geodasie in Frankfurt. The course was a mixture of theoretical lectures, practica] exercises, fieldwork and hands-on experience in processing the names data collected in the field later on in information systems from which gazetteers were produced and maps were lettered automatically. An innovative aspect was allowing the course participants to attend the eight conference as observers, so that they could get first hand experience of the organisational procedures and the political considerations that influence the decision-making process at UNGEGN. The lecturing team consisted of experts from DGSD countries (Germany, the Netherlands and Switzerland) with additional expertise from Canada and Estonia. For a detailed contents of the course see the appendix. It is the intention to publish the lecture notes of the course before the next UNGEGN meeting as well as making them available through the toponymy courses website.

7. The toponymy web course

In conjunction with an initiative from the International Cartographic Association, which is preparing a web course in Cartography and GIS, a series of lectures on toponymy is being prepared, which first was demonstrated at the DGSD-UNGEGN course (see item 6). The course is now only available in a provisional version, as power point presentations with accompanying texts, but it is expected to be accessible through the web before the next UNGEGN meeting.

8. Other training courses

At Laval University, Montréal, Canada, a training course in toponymy prepared by Henri Dorion and Cecyle Trepanier is offered.

9. Working group composition
Mr H.Dorion
Mr N.Kadmon
Ms H.Kerfoot
Mr F.J.Ormeling (convenor)
Mr R.Payne
Mr P.Raper

The working group has met during the UNGEGN meetings in the 1997-2002 term

Appendix 1: **Programme UNGEGN-DGSD Toponymic Training Course, Enschede/Frankfurt am Main, 12 August-September 6, 2002**

day	date	activity	responsibility/lecturer
Saturday,	August 10	Arrival at Amsterdam, transfer to Enschede	Ormeling/Stabe

Venue: International Institute for Aerospace Survey and Earth Sciences (ITC), Enschede, the Netherlands — Blok, Ormeling

day	date	activity	responsibility/lecturer
Sunday	August 11	ICA web course in cartography: toponymy module, participant reports	Ormeling, Sievers, Kerfoot
Monday	August 12	1 Opening	Rector ITC, Sievers, Kraak, Kerfoot, Ormeling, Stabe, Blok
		2. The naming process	Ormeling
		3. Functions of geographical names	Ormeling
		4. National agencies, models and procedures	Kerfoot
Tuesday	August 13	5. Languages	Tichelaar
		6. Writing systems	Tichelaar
		7. Geodetic, cartographic reference systems	Knippers (ITC)
		8. Field collection systems	Ormeling
Wednesday	August 14	8. Field collection systems (cont.)	Tichelaar
		9. Multilingual areas	Ormeling
		10 Legal status of names	Päll
Thursday	August 15	11 Office processing	Kerfoot
		12 Script transformation systems	Päll
		13 Editorial issues	Tichelaar
Friday	August 16	14 Role of UN	Kerfoot
		15 Exonyms	Ormeling
		'16 Toponymical guidelines	Tichelaar
Saturday	August 17	Transfer to Frankfurt am Main	Stabe

Venue: Bundesamt für Kartographie und Geodäsie. Frankfurt am Main, Germany — Beinstein, Sievers

day	date	activity	responsibility/lecturer
Sunday	August 18	17 German topographic map series, Reference system	Sievert, Weichel
		18 Description of fieldwork area	Stabe
Monday	August 19	19 Fieldwork in the Taunus Mountain area	Stabe
Tuesday	August 20	19 Fieldwork in the Taunus Mountain area	Stabe
Wednesday	August 21	20 Fieldwork in towns in the Taunus area	Stabe
Thursday	August 22	21 Building toponymical datafiles (insert name data in database, establish links to other databases	Illert
Friday	August 23	22 Building toponymical datafiles (cont: print gazetteer from database, display the names on a map)	Illert
		23. Demonstration CD-ROM TOP2000: search by name, overlay admin. boundaries, 3D visualisation)	Beinstein
		24 Names placement	Illert
Saturday	August 24	Transfer to Berlin	Stabe

Venue: Ministry of Foreign Affairs Conference Center, Berlin

day	date	activity	responsibility/lecturer
Sunday	August 25	Registration, 8th UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names	Conference staff
Monday	August 26 – Friday, September 6:	Attending the 8th UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names	Stabe
Friday	September 6	Presentation of Course diplomas to participants	Grünreich, Sievers, Ormeling