UNITED NATIONS GROUP OF EXPERTS ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

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Impressum

U N G E G N

INFORMATION

BULLETIN

(FORMERLY **N**EWSLETTER**)**

The *Information Bulletin of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names* (formerly UNGEGN Newsletter) is issued approximately twice a year by the Secretariat of the Group. The Secretariat is established within the Statistics Division (UNSD), Department for Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), Secretariat of the United Nations. It publishes contributions/reports from the Experts of the Group, its Linguistic/ Geographical Divisions and its Working Groups. Contributions for the Information Bulletin can only be considered when they are made available in digital form. They should be sent to the following address:

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Preface

Message from the Chairperson

Dear Colleagues

For those who were able to participate at the recent UNGEGN session in Vienna (March/April), I trust you had both a useful and enjoyable time at the various formal and informal meetings. Since returning home, hopefully you have been able to continue working in the field of geographical names and their administration … leading to greater availability of nationally standardized forms of toponyms and improved global communication.

As was demonstrated to us by presentations in Vienna, the need for clear and unambiguous names data continues to grow. It is every country's right to decide on the names of places and features in their own territory and, I believe, also the country's responsibility to make these names widely available. Although, I realize, too, that this may indeed be a goal not always easy to achieve! Hopefully, we

are moving towards some ways of helping with this process, for instance, with the new UNGEGN Manual for the national standardization of geographical names (now on the UNGEGN web site – in its English version *http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo*); by providing information for general awareness through the UNGEGN brochure (available in six languages on the website); with various training courses being offered; with the interaction of countries within UNGEGN divisions; with scientific romanization systems being established; and with an UNGEGN geographical names database being designed and built.

Every UNGEGN Working Group and Division, as well as our Task Team on Africa, has much to contribute and we look forward to the results of your endeavours. The months will pass quickly, so I urge you

all to use the time before the Ninth Conference in New York (21-30 August 2007, with UNGEGN sessions on 20 and 31 August) to take advantage of the momentum of the Vienna session.

I take this opportunity of welcoming Ms. Sabine Kacha to the UNGEGN Secretariat and draw your attention to information about the UNGEGN website and the UNGEGN Geographical Names Database in the "Report from the Secretariat".

I look forward to hearing news of activities from you during the coming months!

With kind regards

Helen Kerfoot
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From the Secretariat

UNGEGN Secretariat

We are very pleased to welcome Ms. Sabine Kacha who joined the UNGEGN Secretariat in July. Ms. Jennifer Javier took retirement from the UN earlier this year, and Ms. Kacha will now be one of our main points of contact in the Secretariat.

You can reach her at:

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**UNGEGN Website
(http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo)**

Now available as pdf-files on the UNGEGN website:

- **23rd UNGEGN Session Report**
  (in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish)
  http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/23rdungegnsessionreport.htm

- ***Manual for the national standardization of geographical names***

(in English)
http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/geog%20names%20final.pdf

Coming soon on the UNGEGN website:

- More technical documents from past UNGEGN sessions and the Conferences
- Information on upcoming Working Group and Division meetings
- Updates of existing information (please provide your corrections to web links, etc.)
- Early information about the Ninth Conference in August 2007 (copy of the Note Verbale, etc.).

UNGEGN Geographical Names Database

Please help us build the initial base information on capitals and cities/towns with over 100,000 population in your country. To do this, visit the UN Statistics website at:
http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sconcerns/densurb/urban.aspx

Please take the existing list of cities/towns for your country and provide Mr. Laaribi with the following updates and corrections to the names (details of population data are not required,

provided a place is the capital or has a population over 100,000):

- A current list of the cities/towns in the language(s) / writing system(s) of your country
- The associated romanized form of the name (indicating the romanization system used)
- The source of your data, wherever possible.

We realize that at this time information is not provided here about the standards for transferring various character sets. However, for many countries this is not a difficulty and the information can be input without difficulty. Others may wish to contact Mr. Laaribi (or Mr. Päll, Convenor of the Working Group on Romanization) for further instructions.

So far we have received updated information from about 20 countries. Please help us expand the basic data!

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From the Divisions

New Division Chairs

Recently the Chairs of two Divisions have changed. We thank the outgoing Chairs (Mr. Pierre Planques and Mr. Pg Matusin) for their work and welcome those taking over the responsibilities.

The new contacts are:

- ***French-speaking Division***

M. Pierre Jaillard (France) e-mail: *pierre@jaillard.net*.

- ***Asia Southest and Pacific Southwest Division***

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Asia South-East and Pacific South-West Division

13th UNGEGN Asia South-East and Pacific South-West Divisional, 23-27 August 2006

The 13th UNGEGN Asia South-East and Pacific South-West Divisional Meeting was held in conjunction with the 1st Indonesian Geospatial Technology Exhibition from 23–27 August 2006. The UNGEGN agenda consisted of two separate events, which were:

(1) The 13th UNGEGN Divisional Meeting

The 13th UNGEGN ASEPSW Divisional Meeting was held on 24 August 2006, at the Jakarta Convention Center, Indonesia. Five state members attended this meeting, i.e. Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Vietnam; also observers from related institutions were invited. The meeting discussed all agenda items developed from the last meeting in Brunei Darussalam, 2005.

At this meeting the Chairmanship of Pg. Matusin came to an end, and Indonesia was chosen to lead the UNGEGN Asia South-East and Pacific South-West Division for the period 2006-2009. The Head of BAKOSURTANAL has appointed the Secretary of BAKOSURTANAL, Drs. Sukendra Martha, M.Sc., as the new Chairman of the Division.

At this meeting it was agreed that the next meeting will be held in New York in conjunction with the 9th UNCSGN and 24th UNGEGN Session, 20-31 August 2007.

(2) Workshop

The Workshop conducted on 25 August 2006 was attended by state delegations and observers, and also by representatives of the Governance Bureaus of Provinces. The number of participants at this Workshop was noted as more than 85 people. The speakers at the Workshop consisted of experts from Australia and from Indonesia, as well as invited representatives of Governance Bureaus of Provinces. In addition, invitees included relevant governmental institutions and experts (i.e. toponymists, linguists, mapping and other relevant experts).

The Workshop's aim was to supply local government officers an understanding of the important role of toponymy to support a good public administration governance. This Workshop consisted of two sessions, Session 1 had as a theme "The Role of Geographical Names in Social and Economic Benefits", with speakers:

1. Mr. William Watt, presenting "Social and Economic Benefits of Geographical Names"

2. Ms. Flavia Hodges (absent), paper available "Cultural Aspects of Toponymy"

3. Prof. Jacub Rais introduced working groups that have been established by government institutions and worked on relevant aspects of the work:

   a. Working Group on Maritime and Undersea Features, presented by the Head of Marine Geological Institute, Department of Energy and Mineral Resources, Dr. Subaktian Lubis. Presenting "Progress Report on Undersea Features Toponymic Activity in Indonesia"

   b. Working Group on Islands Naming, presented by:
   - Director for Small Islands Management, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries,

Dr. Alex Retraubun, M.Sc., presenting "Islands Naming in Indonesia"

- Head of Marine Areas and Non-Biological Resources, Marine and Fisheries Research Agency, Dr. Sugiarta Wirasantosa, presenting "Toponymic Survey of Islands Incl. Bays and Capes"

c. Working Group on National Geographical Names Information System, presented by Dodi Sukmayadi, M.Sc., presenting "Geo-Spatial Database Development for Supporting The National Geographical Names Information System"

Session 2 had as a theme "The Importance of Toponymic Data Files in Supporting a Good Governance Administrative". The speakers were:

1. Rudolf W. Matindas, Head of BAKOSURTANAL, presenting "The Role of National Mapping in Supporting a National Names Authority"

2. Dr. Sodjuangon Situmorang, Director General Public Administration, Department of Home Affairs, presenting "The Importance of Toponymic Data Documentation to Support Good Governance"

3. Dr. Widi A. Pratikto, Director General Marine, Coastal and Small Islands, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, presenting "Empowering Small Islands in Indonesia"

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Australian Communities Online – Using Geographic Names as Community Domain Names

Australia has over 27,000 communities living in cities, towns and villages spread across a land mass similar in size to Europe. Many of these communities are geographically isolated far from major centers and services. One of the simplest uniting factors for any community is their geographic name or place name. The World Wide Webs offers an unprecedented means of global communication and an opportunity for communities to interact in a cohesive manner.

In a world first, the Australian Domain Name Administrator (auDA) which is the Australian regulator of the World Wide Web, has created eight (8) new Geographic 2nd Level Domains (2LDs) which will serve the needs of a community of users that are not currently well served by the existing 2LDs. The aim is to provide an intuitive, standardised naming system to enable better access to local community, tourism and business information and to facilitate social and economic benefits to Australian Communities.

The 8 new 2LDs represent each State and Territory in Australia and all Community Geographic Domain Names (CGDNs) will be registered as 3rd Level Domains (3LDs) in the simple form of town/suburb.state/territory.au (eg. katherine.nt.au). Their use will be restricted to community website portals that reflect community interests such as local business, tourism, historical information, culture, sporting groups, local events and news. The purpose is to preserve Australian geographic names for use by the relevant community.

The genesis for this concept began in Bathurst NSW in 2000 by a group of like minded individuals who felt that communities were not being given adequate opportunities to use the World Wide Web. In addition, geographic names whilst being reserved were increasingly registered overseas to commercial interests. The fundamental principle being geographic names belong to their respective communities and not individuals or corporations.

Policy rules and guidelines were developed by a broad range of stakeholders in 2004 to provide the checks and balances to ensure names are preserved specifically for community websites, for and run by the relevant local community. In 2005 a not-for-profit company – .au Community Domains (auCD) was established to facilitate, develop and administrate the CGDNs. auCD provides support services to communities who want to register their geographic domain name for a community website portal and process applications based on the Policy rules and guidelines.

Only the names of addressable localites (eg: suburbs, localities and towns) within each Australian State and Territory are available for registration. The names basically cover all populated places and are defined by the Committee for Geographical Names in Australasia (CGNA) – the authority on geographic naming in Australia and New Zealand. Addressable localites are defined as places or locations where populations reside. These include towns, cities, suburbs and rural localities. Any disputes regarding the names will be referred to the CGNA for consideration by the appropriate state/territory geographic names authority. The national launch of the Community Geographic Domain Names in the .au domain space took place on 8 August 2006. Information on the system is available at *www.aucd.org.au*

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Dutch- and German-speaking Division

DGSD - Training Course in Toponymy, Vienna, 16 – 27 March 2006

The Austrian Names Board on Geographical Names (AKO) in cooperation with the Federal Office for Metrology and Surveying and the Dutch- and German-speaking Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names held a "Training Course in Toponymy" for participants from Southeast European countries and from Central Asia prior to the 23ʳᵈ UNGEGN Session in Vienna (28 March – 4 April 2006). This course was attended by 11 participants from 7 countries.

The structure of the course was close to the scheme of the UNGEGN courses and contained five main sections:

(1) Introduction into basics and methods of work with geographical names
(2) Field work
(3) Office processing
(4) Excursion
(5) Presentation of relevant Austrian experiences in the fields of geoinformatics, cartography and topo-nomastics

The course was carried out by the experts of the Federal Office for Metrology and Surveying (Mr. Fuhrmann, Mr. Meckel, Mr. Mittermaier, Mr. Zierhut), it was guided by Mr. Ormeling, chair of the UNGEGN Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy, by Mrs. Kerfoot, chair of UNGEGN and by Mr. Peeter Päll, chair of the UNGEGN Working Group on Romanization. Further lecturers came from the Vienna University of Technology, from the University of Vienna (Department of Geography and Regional Research, Department of Linguistics), from the Austrian Academy of Sciences, from the Institute of East and Southeast European Studies, from the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Culture, from the German Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy and from the private publishers Verlag Hölzel GesmbH, Nfg. KG and Verlag Freytag & Berndt.

The course was very successful, the participants were very engaged and they elaborated high standing results in office processing. They developed plans for the instalment of names boards in their countries and of a network of geographical names data bases in their region according to the model of EuroGeoNames.

The course was thankfully supported by various Austrian institutions and by the UN.

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DGSD - EuroGeoNames informal meeting during 23rd UNGEGN session

On the occasion of the 23rd UNGEGN Session in Vienna (28 March – 4 April) the Project Coor-dinator of the EuroGeoNames project (EGN), the German Federal Agency for Cartography and Geo-desy (BKG), took the opportunity to hold an informal meeting on 30 March 2006, 17:45 – 19:00 hours at the Vienna International Centre (VIC), Room C 343.

The aim of the meeting was to discuss questions some parties, participating in the 23rd UNGEGN session and involved in the EuroGeoNames project, might have had concerning the project.

It was emphasized that close relationships between the EGN project and UNGEGN, particularly the working group on Toponymic Data Files, ISO/TC211 and OGC was seen to be important. The Project Coordinator stated, that in order to guarantee conformity of EGN technical developments / products with up-to-date ISO/OGC standards and specifications, close relationships has already been taken into consideration in a way that UNGEGN and OGC Europe are members of the so-called 'EGN Group of Interest'. They will be involved in review processes as well as will Expert Group members be invited to specific meetings.

In order to strengthen the relationships, the Project Coor-dinator is planning to organize a joint meeting of the EuroGeoNames project partners together with the UNGEGN Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers, very likely at the end of February / beginning of March 2007. The invitation to that joint meeting will be disseminated through the UNGEGN contacts in due course.

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Romano-Hellenic Division

Summary Report of the Romano-Hellenic Division meeting in Vienna

The meeting of the Romano-Hellenic Division (RHD) was held on the 30th of March 2006, at 14.00, during the 23rd UNGEGN Session (Vienna, 28 March – 4 April 2006).

At the meeting participated experts from Andorra, Canada, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Spain and Turkey.

The Chairman of RHD, Mr. S. Arca from Italy, welcomed the participants and especially the delegation of Andorra, the new member of the RHD, and pointed out the need for the implementation of the UN resolutions on geographical names.

Mr. M. Yucesahin from Turkey suggested that the multilingual glossary could be amended by additional features and terms and he stated that Turkey has concluded a toponymic gazetteer based on maps of scale 1:25,000.

Mr. G. Papaioannou from Greece said that, even though several countries of the division have prepared gazetteers based on larger scale maps and charts, according to previous decision the suggested scales for these gazetteers are either 1:250,000 or 1:200,000. He added that Greece has presented its gazetteer composed from military maps of scale 1:50,000.

Mrs. A. Alcázar from Spain carried out a short presentation of the publication of the Instituto Geográfico Nacional de España "Toponimia: Normas para el MTN25. Conceptos básicos y terminología" (by Margarita Azcárate and Adela Alcázar) and asked if there was any progress regarding the site of the division; Mr. A. Cantile from Italy stated that the site exists and operates under the portal of Istituto Geografico Militare Italiano. Mr. A. Altiparmak from Turkey suggested that all the members could create links between each other for better communication of the division.

Regarding the next meeting of the RHD Mr. E. Gounaris from Greece stated that, if the division will decide for a meeting before the next UN Conference, the Greek authority will have the pleasure to host the meeting in Ródos Island.

The Chairman expressed his thanks to Mr. Gounaris for the kind offer, even though most participants considered that the meeting of the year 2007 is more convenient for all to be held during the next Conference in New York.

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Instituto Geográfico Nacional - España

Information

From the 19th to the 21st of October, 2006, the II International Congress of Galician Onomastics will be held in Pontevedra (Galicia, España). It has been organized by: Asociación Galega de Onomástica, Dirección Xeral de Creación e Difusión Cultural (Consellería de Cultura. Xunta de Galicia), Universidade de Vigo, Instituto da Lengua Galega (Universidades de Santiago). Sections of the Congress are: Anthroponymics, Toponymics, Other names, Standardization of onomastics forms, Legislation on proper names, Literary onomastics, Onomastics and didactics. More information is available on website:
http://webs.uvigo.es/onomastica/

Publications

The Instituto Geográfico Nacional of Spain has published the book *Toponimia: Normas para el MTN25. Conceptos básicos y terminología* (Toponymy: Rules for National Topographic Map scale 1:25,000. Basic ideas and terminology). The content of this publication was presented in the 23rd Session of UNGEGN (Vienna 2006, March 28-April 4), in Working Paper nº 78 (*Normas de Toponimia del Instituto Geográfico Naciona. España*).

This publication includes:

1st Section (Toponymy rules for MTN25).

It contains general criteria for the treatment of geographical names in Spain and instructions for toponymy lettering in the National Topographic Map on scale 1:25 000 (MTN25), a cartographic series that covers the whole of Spain, made by the *Instituto Geográfico Nacional.*

2nd Section (Basic ideas and terminology of toponymy).

It contains basic knowledge and terminology about geographical names and, finally, a selection of generic terms used in the toponymy of the MTN25, in Spanish language.

Criteria are based on the Resolutions of United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names and terminology on *Glossary of terms for the standardization of geographical names* (United Nations, New York, 2002).

Specifications:

Instituto Geográfico Nacional (Ministerio de Fomento)
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United Kingdom Division

Geopolitical Terminology relating to the
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

This short paper attempts to clarify the geopolitical terminology relating to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; firstly by showing how this terminology has developed through time (**_Timeline_**), and secondly by providing definitions of the terms currently employed (**_Definitions_**).

P C G N
July 2006

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Timeline

● By about the **11th Century** England and Scotland had each become kingdoms with a geographical extent recognisable today.

● In the period **1535** to **1542** Wales was annexed to the Kingdom of England, and the English monarch also became the ruler of Ireland.

● In **1603** King James VI of Scotland, of the House of Stuart, inherited the English crown and thereby became King James I of England, giving the two kingdoms a single monarch.

● In **1707** an Act of Union signalled a deeper unification of the two kingdoms. The single kingdom was called the **Kingdom of Great Britain**, noted in the Act as a "united kingdom" (though the word "united" was not part of the official term) and its people were called "British".

● In **1801**, by a new Act of Union, Ireland was joined to the union to form the **United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland**.

● In **1922** the Irish Free State (later to become _Ireland_) was formed by 26 of the 32 counties of Ireland; as a result the 1801 union title was no longer applicable and since **1927** the union has been termed the **United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland**.

Definitions

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (usually shortened to **United Kingdom**)

The United Kingdom is a constitutional monarchy consisting of four constituent parts:

• 2 countries: England + Scotland
• 1 principality: Wales
• 1 province: Northern Ireland.

The _abbreviation_ is **UK** or **U.K.**; the current _code_ is **GB/GBR**[1].

Since 1998, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have possessed a substantial measure of devolved government, by means of a parliament (in Scotland) or an assembly (in Wales & in Northern Ireland[2]). Note that the term "Ulster" is not a synonym for Northern Ireland; Ulster is one of four historic provinces of Ireland and has an extent broader than Northern Ireland alone.

Great Britain

Great Britain consists of England + Scotland + Wales. The term is exclusive of Northern Ireland and is therefore not a synonym for United Kingdom. Note that the word "Great" is not at all intended as an indicator of self-

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[1] These are the 2-alpha & 3-alpha codes of the 3166-1 standard of the ISO (International Organization for Standardization).
[2] the Northern Ireland assembly is currently suspended.

styled "greatness"; it simply derives from the French term *Grande-Bretagne* ("Greater Brittany" or "Larger Brittany"), a term used since mediaeval times to distinguish the British Isles from *Bretagne* ("Brittany", the region of north-western France).

British

This is the adjectival form of *Britain*, but the word is also frequently employed as the adjectival form of *United Kingdom*; thus "British government" is used at least as frequently as "United Kingdom government", and "British citizen" is actually the correct official term for a citizen of the United Kingdom. As an adjective, therefore, the term *British* is frequently inclusive of Northern Ireland; it is only the one specific term "Great Britain" which invariably excludes Northern Ireland.

The term *British* has been used with something akin to its current meaning since the Act of Union in 1707 (see **Timeline**; fourth bullet point) though the origins of the word date back much earlier; a Celtic word *Pritani* or *Priteni* may have denoted the inhabitants as far back as the 6th or 7th Century BC.

Crown Dependencies

There are 3 Crown Dependencies:

• Guernsey
official form = Bailiwick of Guernsey (administratively incorporating Alderney, Brecqhou, Burhou, Guernsey, Herm, Jethou, Lihou, Little Sark, Sark)

• Jersey
official form = Bailiwick of Jersey

• Isle of Man

The legal/political status of these three entities dates from the early medieval era. They are direct fiefdoms of the Crown and are not part of Great Britain or the United Kingdom; nor are they part of the European Union. Guernsey and Jersey are part of the Channel Islands, but this term relates to a geographical feature (the island grouping) and not to any legal/political entity.

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United States of America / Canada Division

Roger Payne retired from Federal service at the end of May following 32 years with the U.S. Geological Survey. Lou Yost was appointed as Acting Executive Secretary of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names.

The annual meeting of the Geographical Names Board of Canada (GNBC) was held in Ottawa, Ontario on June 21-23, 2006. Among the topics discussed was the report of the GNBC Working Group on delineation and its proposed guidelines on delineation, which stresses the need to collect the toponymic extent of features as perceived by local residents. The toponymic extent of a feature such as a bay is not necessarily always the same as the traditional geographic definition of the feature. The US/Canada Division met in conjunction with the GNBC meeting.

The Council of Geographic Names Authorities (COGNA) will hold its annual conference in Boulder, Colorado, October 17-21, 2006. A presentation is scheduled to be given by a representative from Google Earth on their sources for geographic names and how they process them.

The PAIGH Liaison reports that the 18th José Joaquín Hungría Morell Geographic Names Course (applied toponymy) is scheduled to be held at Instituto Geografico Militar (IGM) in Santiago, Chile from August 28 through September 8. The 19th course is tentatively scheduled for just before the Ninth UN Conference, but the venue is yet to be determined.

It is hoped that a meeting, or at least an informal meeting, of the Latin American Division can take place during the PAIGH course mentioned above.

Mr. Flynn and Mr. Eldridge met with representatives of the Afghanistan Geodesy and Cartography Head Office (AGCHO), the ad hoc national geographic names authority, to discuss toponymic policies and the possibility of creating a national geographic names database.

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From the Working Groups

Working Group on Evaluation

Forthcoming meeting

The next joint meeting of the UNGEGN Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation / Working Group on Publicity and Funding will be held from January 22-24, 2007 in Honolulu, USA. In particular, this meeting will deal with an agenda addressing possible improvements in operations as we prepare for the Ninth UN Conference in 2007 and future UNGEGN sessions.

For further information please contact:

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Working Group on Exonyms

**Summary Report on the 5th Meeting of the Working Group on Exonyms
Vienna, 28th March 2006, and Subsequent Actions**

The 5th Meeting was held in the evening of the first day of the 23rd UNGEGN Session in Vienna at the Austrian Institute of East and Southeast European Studies and well attended by 33 participants – Working Group members as well as other interested experts.

Discussions in the Meeting focused on the subjects (1) definitions of *exonym* and *endonym*, (2) a book on exonyms. This report also includes subsequent actions in both fields.

(1) The **new definitions** of the terms *endonym* and *exonym*, which had already been accepted at the 4th Meeting in Ljubljana by consensus, were highlighted once more. Although many additional points were raised and it became clear enough that also these definitions are far from being perfect, in conclusion, the prevailing opinion was stated that no definition will cover all eventualities; every definition is open to some kind of interpretation; the definitions proposed by the WG are (in contrast to the current definitions in UNGEGN's *Glossary of terms for the standardization of geographical names*) at least exclusive as well as concise and that the WG should go ahead as agreed at the 4th Meeting and propose these definitions to the 23rd Session of UNGEGN. Thus, after a common ad-hoc meeting with the WG on Toponymic Terminology, which agreed upon furnishing the new definitions with examples (as with the current definitions in the *Glossary*) the following definitions were proposed to the 23rd Session and accepted there:

Endonym: Name of a geographical feature in an official or well-established language occurring in that area where the feature is located.

Exonym: Name used in a specific language for a geographical feature situated outside the area where that language is spoken, and differing in its form from the name used in an official or well-established language of that area where the geographical feature is located.

(2) A **book on exonyms** is under preparation. By the date of the Meeting, 16 articles had been received and edited, mainly papers presented at the 3rd and 4th WG meetings in Prague and Ljubljana. Another two were received later. The book will also comprise a preface on the aims of the WG, on trends in exonym use, and the views of UNGEGN in this context as well as an extensive bibliography including the most important reference works in the field of exonyms.

The book will thus be a first comprehensive reader on the topic of exonyms, titled *Exonyms and the International Standardization of Geographical Names. Approaches towards the Resolution of an Apparent Contradiction*.

As it was not clear at the time of the Meeting, where the book could be published, several possibilities were raised including an offer to publish it in Slovenia. In the meantime the original plan to publish it within the series "Wiener Osteuropastudien" hosted by the Austrian Institute of East and Southeast European Studies in Vienna, has been resumed. At this time (August 2006) final editorial works are being performed and it looks quite realistic to have the book published by the end of this year.

The next major topic of the WG may be the categorisation of exonym use, to which the next (6th) WG Meeting will mainly be devoted. The WG agreed to hold it in spring 2007, well in advance of the 24th UNGEGN Session and 9th UN Conference to take place 20-31 August 2007 in New York.

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Book on Exonyms

Peter JORDAN, Milan OROZEN ADAMIÈ, Paul WOODMAN (eds.): *Exonyms and the International Standardisation of Geographical Names. Approaches towards the Resolution of an Apparent Contradiction.* Wien 2006. = Wiener Osteuropastudien, vol. 24. (EUR 24.90)

As a first tangible (and hopefully also useful) product the UNGEGN Working Group on Exonyms launches by the end of 2006 a comprehensive reader on the topic of exonyms. This book contains most of the papers presented at the WG meetings in Prague (2003) and Ljubljana (2005), plus some additional contributions. Definitions are an integral part of the book. But the book also aims to highlight the exonym question in general from a multi- and interdisciplinary perspective. It examines the benefits of exonyms, the current trends of exonym use, and the standardisation efforts related to exonyms on the national as well as on the international (UN) level. It is supplemented by a bibliography of further important reference works.

The 240 page volume contains contributions by Pavel BOHAÈ, Peter JORDAN, Naftali KADMON, Helen KERFOOT, Drago KLADNIK, Philip W. MATTHEWS, Ferjan ORMELING, Milan OROZEN ADAMIÈ, Sirkka PAIKKALA, Peeter PÄLL, Béla POKOLY, Jarno RAUKKO, Roman STANI-FERTL and Paul WOODMAN.

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Working Group on Pronunciation

A Basic Model for Pronunciation Guides

At the 23rd Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names in Vienna, 28 March–4 April 2006, pronunciation was discussed under agenda item 15. The following was submitted in a paper by Israel as a basis for a working plan for the Working Group on Pronunciation. Since UNGEGN – and its Working Groups – can operate efficiently only with the cooperation of the member states of its geographical-linguistic divisions via their experts on geographical names, the present brief article is intended to serve as an incentive and encouragement to readers in the various countries to take part and submit their relevant data concerning the pronunciation of their respective languages to the Working Group and its convenor.

The following introductory examples demonstrate that there is a necessity not only of Romanization guides but of pronunciation guides too.

(1) The English editor of an officially romanized map of Russia must instruct readers of the map, for example, that the diacritically-marked letter *š* should be pronounced not as *s* but as English *sh*. Even a concise pronunciation table would make this clear.

(2) The French editor of a tourist map of Spain wishes to inform users of his map who have to ask for road directions how to pronounce names having the digraph *ll* or the diacritic *ñ* in them. Both Spanish and French use Roman script, so that there is no need for a romanization guide. But it would be of advantage if he added a brief Spanish-to-French pronunciation guide in the map legend.

(3) The Roman letter *q* (without a following *u*) used in the romanization of various languages is pronounced as a guttural *k* in Arabic and Hebrew, approximately as *ch* in Chinese and as a click-sound in some African languages such as Xhosa. Proper pronunciation guides for these languages are thus needed.

Already from these examples we can see that pronunciation guides may be required between many pairs of languages. A working group which takes upon itself to produce all such guides or tables, *m* x *n* in number (where *m* is the number of "receiver" languages such as English in example 1 above, and *n* the number of source or donor languages such as Russian in the above example), would have a perhaps impossible task. Before starting to run one has to learn to walk. Therefore it is proposed to begin with the preparation of pronunciation guides into English.

Perhaps the greatest problem confronting the working group would be the following. Is there a "correct" or standard pronunciation for a given language? There may be more than one, perhaps for different geographical regions.

Finally, there is the problem of source language script. Should the symbols of the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) be used at all in these tables, and in particular even for non-Roman languages? At any rate, these tables should be as far as possible user-friendly.

Summing up, here are the main recommendations to be formed into the terms of reference of the Working Group on Pronunciation.

(1) As a first stage, pronunciation tables should be prepared for English as a user or target language.

(2) A list of source languages should be drawn up. However, in practice

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languages should be dealt with on a "first come, first serve" system.

(3) Decisions should be taken concerning the standard pronunciation(s) to be adopted in the guides (e.g. for the first stage – English, "American" etc.).

(4) For the Working Group on Pronunciation to be able to do its work, its convenor and members must call upon all countries, via the United Nations Secretariat, to prepare national standard pronunciation guides, taking into account the possibility of different pronunciations, starting with phase 1 (for English) and to submit these to the working group, whose members would be charged with assembling them. The work of the UNGEGN Working Group on Romanization is an excellent model of this type of activity.

(5) IPA symbols should be employed only as secondary aids.

(6) Tables for the other two working languages of the United Nations should follow as a second stage.

(7) Progress reports should be presented by the working group to each UNGEGN session and every U.N. Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names.

But as one of the working group experts said: Keep it simple!

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Working Group on Publicity and Funding

A Working Group meeting in Vienna, March 2006

During the 23rd Session of UNGEGN in Vienna the Working Group on Publicity and Funding held a meeting on the morning of 30th March 2006 attended by 7 experts.

There had been three meetings of the Working Group since the 22nd Session in 2004 and a good deal of media interest in geographical names had been generated by conferences such as the 30th International Geographical Congress and the activities of individual members of the Working Group.

It was agreed that the promotion of geographical names issues and the work of the UNGEGN would best be served by the development of new promotional leaflets that could be made available at major conferences such as the ESRI Users Conference which has 12,000 participants. A press kit aimed at the media and a promotional leaflet aimed particularly at GIS and mapping agencies in developing countries will be prepared by the Working Group during 2006-07. In

summarising the achievements of the Working Group in Working Group paper No.27 presented to the Session later that day, the Convenor invited experts to contribute suggestions and interesting material for the proposed promotional literature. A presentation by the Africa South Division in the form of a short video on the work of the South Africa Geographical Names Council demonstrated an alternative means of highlighting names issues amongst the general public.

During his report on the activities of the Working Group, the Convenor also reminded delegates that training courses and publications scheduled for 2008-09 that required UN funding should be supported by resolutions at the 2007 Conference. In addition to requesting financial support from the UN, the Working Group continues to explore ways in which delegates can identify alternative sources of funding. In presenting Working Paper No. 28, the Convenor offered guidelines

to assist those looking for financial support and pointed to good examples of collaborative partnerships mentioned in several working papers presented at the Session.

The Convenor drafted two press releases that were offered to the UNGEGN Secretariat for issue before and after the 23rd Session in Vienna and subsequently responded to media interest which included a request to discuss geographical names issues on radio.

It is proposed that the next meeting of the Working Group on Publicity and Funding be held jointly with the Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation in Honolulu, USA, 22-24 January 2007.

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Working Group on Romanization Systems

During the 23rd Session of UNGEGN in Vienna the Working Group on Romanization Systems had an informal meeting on 30th March, 2006. WG members discussed papers presented to the UNGEGN session concerning romanization. The Report on the Current Status of United Nations Romanization Systems for Geographical Names was re-examined and progress or the lack of it in devising or implementing specific systems was noted. The implementation of some of the systems already approved by the UN Conferences, e.g. Amharic, Khmer and the Indian group of languages, deserves continuing attention of the Working Group. Some romanization systems have been prepared and submitted to the WG but these are in different stages as regards their implementation and readiness for approval by the next UN Conference. There were several experts from donor countries participating at the Vienna session and it was felt necessary to discuss romanization issues with these experts. Further dis-cussions at the WG meeting concerned the updating of the WG website (particularly providing users with Uni-code-compatible down-loadable documents) and the inclusion of romanization systems in the UN Technical Manual planned for publi-cation before the 9th UNCSGN.

On 9–10 October, 2006 the Working Group will have a meeting in Tallinn, Estonia, in conjunction with the 10th meeting of the Baltic Division of UNGEGN (12–13 October, 2006). One of the main items of the meeting would be to discuss the status of new romanization systems with the aim of submitting them to the Ninth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geo-graphical Names for approval. More details will be available on the WG's website at *http://www.eki.ee/wgrs* or the Baltic Division website at *http://www.eki.ee/knn/ungegn/index.htm*.

Very recently the Working Group has had contacts with the Unicode Consortium as the latest release of the Unicode Common Locale Data Repository (CLDR) will make it possible to add trans-literation procedures to any applications requiring it. WG members have seen it as a positive step in helping to implement the UN romani-zation systems for geo-graphical names.

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Working Group on Terminology

New Toponymic Terminology

The *Glossary of terms for the standardization of geographical names*, prepared by the Working Group on Toponymic Terminology with 375 terms and their definitions in the six official languages of the United Nations, was published by the U.N. Secretariat in 2002. However, the terms of reference of the Working Group, as approved by the United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names in resolutions VI/11 (1989) and VIII/3 (2002), recommend that the Working Group continue to function, with the aim of reviewing the Glossary periodically and updating it as required, by a procedure to be agreed upon by the members of the group.

At the 23rd session of UNGEGN in Vienna, activities relating to the working group on toponymic terminology were discussed twice, once under agenda item 9, and once at a meeting of the members of the working group. At its meeting on 31 March 2006 the group approved the following additions and amendments to the Glossary.

1. Terms and their definitions which had already been approved by the working group since the 8th UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names

- authorized name - see name, official.

- standard name – see name, standardized.

- geonym – see name, geographical.

- geoname – informal alternative for geographical name.

- transboundary name – see name, transboundary.

- name, transboundary – name of a geographical feature extending over or bordering two or more political entities. Examples: the river Danube (English exonym), Jibāl al Alb (Arabic exonym for the Alps).

- 079 eponym – this term does not need to be amended except for correcting the spelling of ethnonym to ethnonyme, as the term ethnonym will be listed as a separate entry (see below).

2. New terms approved

- nominative form (of a toponym) – in languages whose grammar includes declension and cases, the name form in the first (nominative) case. Examples: in German, Berlin (and not Berlins, of Berlin, genitive case); in Hungarian, Budapest (and not e.g. Budapestre, to Budapest); in Russian, Москва (and not Москвы, from Moscow).

- oronym – name of a formation of the terrain the chief characteristic of which is its vertical extent. Examples: names of mountains, mountain ranges, hills, highlands, depressions etc.

- choronym – name of a large geographical or administrative unit of land, horizontally defined. Examples: Yorkshire, Ar Rub' al Khāli, Missiones, Attiki.

- lacustrine name – see name, lacustrine

- name, lacustrine – name of a lake or of an inland sea. Examples: Dead Sea, Ozero Balkhash, Lake Malawi.

- limnonym – see name, lacustrine.

- toponymisation – the act of producing a toponym from a common or proper name. Examples: producing the toponym Bath (England), place of the Roman baths (bathum); Iraq, from 'Irāq (Arabic, waterside of a sea or a large river, also a pasture).

3. Terms for which the definitions were proposed by the Working Group on Exonyms, but with examples added.

- exonym – name used in a specific language for a geographical feature situated outside the area where that

language is spoken, and differing in its form from the name used in an official or well-established language of the area where the geographical feature is situated. Examples: Warsaw is the English exonym for Warszawa (Polish); Mailand is German for Milano; Londres is French for London; Quluniyā is Arabic for Köln (German). The officially romanized form Moskva for the endonym Москва is not an exonym, nor is the Pin-yin romanized form Beijing, while Peking is an exonym. The United Nations recommends minimizing the use of exonyms in international usage. See also →name, traditional.

• endonym – name of a geographical feature in an official or well-established language occurring in that area where the feature is situated. Examples: Vārānasī (not Benares); Aachen (not Aix la-Chapelle); Krung Thep (not Bangkok); Al Uqṣur (not Luxor). See also →endonym, standardized.

4. New terms with temporary definitions only, to be discussed further

It was decided to include the terms oikonym and anoikonym which had been discussed in the past, using temporary definitions proposed by Mr. M. Harvalik to (but not yet accepted by) ICOS, the International Conference on Onomastic Science, as follows:

• oikonym – in some (e.g. Slavonic, German) languages a synonym for populated place.

• anoikonym – in some (e.g. Slavonic, German) languages a name of a non-inhabitable natural feature or of a man-made firmly fixed uninhabitable one. Examples: names of some terrain formations such as lava fields, water bodies or lines of communication.

The following term with its proposed definition was received from Canada after the Vienna session, and will be discussed at the next meeting:

• commemorative name – see name, commemorative.

• name, commemorative – name of a natural or man-made geographical feature named after a person or after an event, as a way to honour or memorialize the respective person or event. Examples: Mount Everest (India), Gettysburg (U.S.), Kfar Truman (Israel).

The following experts attended the meeting of the working group:

David Blair (Australia), Pavel Boháč (Czechia), Dutko Andràs (Hungary), Isolde Hausner (Austria), Peter Jordan (Austria), Naftali Kadmon (Israel), convenor; Helen Kerfoot (Canada), UNGEGN chair; Maroum Khraish (Lebanon), André Lapierre (Canada), Ferjan Ormeling (Netherlands), rapporteur; Roger Payne (USA), Jörn Sievers (Germany), Roman Stani-Fertl (Austria), Peter Viechnicki (USA), Paul Woodman (U.K.), Maciej Zych (Poland).

The next meeting of the working group will be held during the 9th Conference on the Standardization of Geo-graphical Names.

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Information

A Training Course in Toponymy

Maputo – Mozambique, 18-25 September 2006

The ninth UNGEGN Training Course on geographical names for the Africa South Division will be held from 18-25 September, in Maputo, Mozambique. The course, to be organized at the National Directorate of Local Administration and National Centre of Cartography and Remote Sensing, will be sponsored by the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) and by the Government of Mozambique.

This course is in keeping with the revitalization and coordination of geographical names activities in Africa, an issue of special concern, and one that the UN Economic Commission for Africa had requested the assistance of UNGEGN in addressing.

For further information, please contact:

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