



UNITED NATIONS GROUP OF EXPERTS
ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

Information Bulletin

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Previous issues of the Bulletin (formerly Newsletter) can be found at

http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/ungegn_info_bulletins.htm

UNGEEN
Information
Bulletin

(formerly NEWSLETTER)

The *Information Bulletin of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names* (formerly UNGEEN Newsletter) is issued 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:

**Secretariat of the
Group of Experts on
Geographical Names
(UNGEEN)
Room DC2-1682
United Nations
New York, NY 10017
USA**

**Tel: 212 963 4297
Fax: 212 963 4569
E-mail:
warschburger@un.org
geoinfo_unsd@un.org**

The Bulletin is issued without formal editing.

Preface

Message from the Chairperson

Dear Colleagues

Now that the 26th Session of UNGEGN has been arranged for 2-6 May 2011 in Vienna, we realize that the next few months will pass by quickly! I encourage all Working Group convenors to make the most of this remaining time so that progress can be reported in Vienna and we can look ahead to the Tenth UN Conference on Geographical Names to be held in the second half of 2012.

On your behalf, I thank Mr. Yacob Zewoldi and Mr. Jaspreet Doung for their diligent work with us over the last few years. Both have moved to other activities within the UN Statistics Division. Now we have the pleasure to welcome Ms. Sabine Warschburger and Ms. Vilma Frani who will be leading the UNGEGN Secretariat in the years ahead.

We look forward to receiving information on Division and Working Group meetings, so that they can be included on the UNGEGN website (<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/default.htm>) and to receive updates on the relevant toponymic information, contacts and web links for your country.

Below you will find a series of information notices and requests for your suggestions, first concerning the 26th Session (organization, displays, special presentations and workshops, second essay/poem contest, availability of UN resolutions database); and second, referring to the possibility of a Toponymy Commission as part of the International Geographical Union (IGU). One new item that has come up is the UN Statistics Division initiative on Global Geo-Spatial Information Management (GGIM). I provide a summary of this activity so far and open discussion for your thoughts on how UNGEGN could best participate in this; the first UN Forum on GGIM is planned for October 2011, to be hosted by the Republic of Korea.

With my greetings to all,

Helen Kerfoot
Chair, UNGEGN
Ottawa, Canada
hkerfoot@nrcan.gc.ca

Optimizing the work at the 26th UNGEGN Session

In June, the Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation met and discussed how we can optimize the five days assigned to the 2011 UNGEGN Session. I bring to your attention the following suggestions that were made through the UNGEGN Bureau and through the Working Group:

- all documents for discussion should be filed by the deadline, so that time is available for them to be put on the website and reviewed by the Bureau and/or Working Group convenors
- a distinction should be made between documents provided for information and those for discussion (this should be determined by the person submitting the document in conjunction with the chair of the agenda item)
- some groups of documents may need to be summarized by Working Group

convenors or designated experts (as we have previously undertaken with country and division reports)

- timeframes should be set for the various agenda items
- small group meetings are encouraged before morning sessions, between the day's two sessions, or in the evenings
- presentation of documents should be brief, and highlight the main learning or discussion points

Further information on this topic was included in UNGEGN Information Bulletin, No. 38, March 2010 (pages 4-5).

We would be pleased to hear from anyone who may wish to make suggestions concerning the forthcoming UNGEGN session!

Contact: Helen Kerfoot (hkerfoot@nrcan.gc.ca)

Displays, demonstrations at the 26th UNGEGN, 2011

We are planning to provide the opportunity for the display of material relating to geographical names outside the Conference area in Vienna.

Please consider bringing gazetteers, maps, census material and so on. We are hoping also to provide the opportunity for demonstrating toponymic databases and other digital products.

Posters on topics of geographical names standardization are also invited. They will be re-

quired as pdf or jpg files, and the dimensions should not exceed 0.8m wide x 1.5m high (approximately 30 in. x 60 in.).

All materials are subject to review by the UNGEGN Secretariat and must conform to UN practices.

To help us estimate the display area needed, we would like to hear from you!

Contacts: Peter Jordan (peter.jordan@oeaw.ac.at) and Helen Kerfoot (hkerfoot@nrcan.gc.ca)

Special presentations and workshops for the 26th UNGEGN, 2011

We invite you to submit your suggestions for topics (and possible speakers) for:

- Special presentations to start the morning sessions

- Short workshops (likely two at lunch break and two before the morning sessions)

Contact: Helen Kerfoot (hkerfoot@nrcan.gc.ca)

New toponymic essay/poem contest, 2011

UNGEGN is organizing a second essay/poem contest for participants from Africa! As in 2009, instructions are available in Arabic, English, and French (For English and French see pages 30-33 of this Bulletin). Submissions

should be sent to the Secretariat (geoinfo_unsd@un.org) by February 1, 2011. Results will be announced and prizes awarded during the 26th UNGEGN Session in May 2011. Good luck!

Contacts: Brahim Atoui (brahim.atoui@hotmail.fr) and Ferjan Ormeling (f.ormeling@geo.uu.nl).

UNCSGN Resolutions

All experts can access the full texts of the resolutions from the nine Conferences (1967 to 2007), through the UNGEGN website at <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/uncsgn-resolutions.htm>

- As compendiums of resolutions (pdf files) in English and French

- As a **searchable database** (in English). Searches can be made by Conference, by themes and by individual words, so providing personalized sorting of resolutions to meet your needs. The full texts of the resolutions you select can be printed.

If you have questions about the database, please **contact:** Sungjae Choo (sjchoo@khu.ac.kr)

Call for interest in creating a Toponymy Commission within the International Geographical Union (IGU)

A number of UNGEGN experts participate in the IGU conferences held regularly around the world. It has been suggested that within the structure of IGU, a Toponymy Commission be created. Any UNGEGN expert interested in

the formation of such a commission and wishing to be active in this group should **contact:** Ki-Suk Lee (leekisuk@snu.ac.kr) and Helen Kerfoot (hkerfoot@nrcan.gc.ca), as soon as possible.

News from the Secretariat

Dear UNGEGN Experts,

I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that I have assumed the responsibilities of Mr. Yacob Zewoldi, as the new Secretary of UNGEGN. Mr. Zewoldi has diligently served UNGEGN for several years and we are grateful that he has agreed to advise the new secretariat as needed. Mr. Zewoldi as well as Mr. Doung have moved on to new positions within the UN Statistics Division. At the same time, I would like to welcome Ms. Vilma Frani to the Secretariat; as of 16 July, she has taken over functions from Mr. Jaspreet Doung.

Sabine Warschburger
warschburger@un.org

26th Session of UNGEGN

The 26th session will take place 2-6 May 2011 in Vienna. A note verbale is expected to be sent in November together with the provisional agenda (GEGN/26/1), and information about documentation for the Conference (GEGN/26/2). Once sent, experts will be notified by e-mail and a copy can be provided upon request by the Secretariat.

Experts are asked to forward to the United Nations Secretariat (geoinfo_unsd@un.org), at their earliest convenience but not later than 25 February 2011 digital documents prepared in support of items on the provisional agenda for the twenty-sixth session. Each document should include a short summary and the appropriate item on the provisional agenda must be indicated. Documents received will be processed by the United Nations and posted on the UNGEGN website.

Previous Bulletins/Newsletters

In a renewed effort to make available older documents relevant to the UNGEGN work, the Secretariat has scanned historical copies of the UNGEGN Bulletin/Newsletter. They are all available in pdf-format at: http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/ungegn_info_bulletins.htm.

The Secretariat wishes to thank Helen Kerfoot, UNGEGN chair, and Brenda Brookes from the Dag Hammarskjold Library for making available their collections to us for scanning.

UNEGN World Geographical Names Database (<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/geonames/>)

Over the past few months we have incorporated some new material as well as corrections submitted by experts. We have also decided on quarterly scheduled updates, the next of which is due 1 December 2010. We would like to encourage you to send us your material for the online database, namely:

- Names of cities with a population over 100,000 (original writing system and romanized form)
- Coordinates in degrees and decimal degrees
- Audio files (.wav) for each city name

Please check the website and contact us if your country's information needs additions or corrections!

Contact: geoinfo_unsd@un.org
hkerfoot@nrcan.gc.ca

From the Divisions

Arabic Division

Report of the Fifth Arab Conference on Geographical Names (5th ACGN)

The League of Arab States (LAS) and the Arabic Division of Experts on Geographical Names (ADEGN) organized the 5th ACGN titled: *“Setting a master plan for the normalization and the standardization of the Arabic place names, and preservation of these names as a cultural heritage”*. The conference was held in Beirut from 26 to 29 May 2010 under the patronage of His Excellency the President of the Lebanese Republic, **General Michel Suleiman**, and under the auspices of the League of Arab States.

The ADEGN announced Dr. Asaad Abdo from Saudi Arabia as an honorary chair of the conference.



The opening ceremony

A. Conference objectives:

The conference aims:

First: To discuss a master plan to implement unified procedures, and to adopt it by the different division member states, some of these procedures are:

- To establish the National Geographical Names authority in the division member states.
- To use unified rules for the place names, organization and standardization.
- To issue common gazetteers and atlases for the Arabic place names.
- To write the place names in a unified way over the cities and villages signs.

Second: To implement the procedures of the preservation of the cultural and historical heritage by:

- Working on preserving cultural heritage of Arabic place names.
- Preventing Arab names from translation and elimination.
- Promoting of the historical and cultural origin of the Arabic place names
- Issuing the Arabic place names as economic and cultural indications or intellectual properties

Third: To issue recommendations about:

- Establishing the National names authority in each country member
- Establishing National gazetteers.
- Establishing Unified Arabic Maps.
- Establishing standard addresses.
- Issuing the National Cultural Arabic Gazetteer names.

B. Participation:

Forty two delegates from fifteen Arabic countries (Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Tunisia, Sudan, Algeria, Kuwait, Egypt, Iraq, Oman, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Syrian Arab Republic and Occupied Palestine).

Special delegate of the Secretary-General of the Arab League, Vice-chairmen: UNGEGN, Lebanese University, Professors and researchers in linguistics and phonetics, Lebanese governmental bureaus and administrations, private companies: FUGRO, ORION, Navleb, Geovision, Paravision, Navteq, Gis transport, ESRI Leb, Lebanese and international media.

C. Results:

Eleven recommendations and resolutions emanated from the conference unanimously.

Here they are:

1. Declaring the conference convened legally.
2. Holding periodic meetings of working committees.
3. Preserving cultural heritage of Arab place names by prevention of translation and elimination.

4. Recommending to all Arab countries to establish permanent national bodies for the unification of geographical names.
5. Building gazetteers of geographic names:
 - Collecting geographical names and building gazetteers of major cities with population greater than 100 000.
 - Sending these gazetteers to the division secretariat to be studied in the relevant work groups.
 - Establishing a unified Arab gazetteer at a later stage.
6. Holding the 6th ACGN in Cairo during the first half of year 2012.
7. Implementation of resolution VII /4 of the 7th UNCGN (UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names) New York 1998

The conference recommends the following:

- All the Arab countries to follow up the implementation of the Standard Arabic Romanization system 2007 honestly and continuously.
- The League of Arab States to get approval on the system from all Arab states through its authorities and disseminates it, recommends using it when transliterating Arabic place names to the Latin alphabet and informs the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations that the above resolution (VII/4) has been implemented.
- Prepare a draft recommendation by the ADEGN for a resolution in the next conference in Cairo 2012 to be introduced at the tenth UNCGN conference that will be held in New York in 2012.

8. Recommending all Arab experts to enrich the Division's website on the Internet <http://www.adegn.org> with their researches and activities.
9. Recommending Arab experts on geographical names with cooperation of linguists to work on amending the Arabic part of the UNGEGN Glossary of terms to be represented on the upcoming conference.
10. Electing a new administrative committee of the Division as follows:
 - Chair:** Eng. Ahmed Mohamed Kamel (Egypt)
 - Vice-chair:** Eng. Mohammed El Bechir Al Chok (Tunisia)
 - Vice-chair:** Mr. Mohammed Al-Shahrani (Saudi Arabia)
 - Editor:** Mr. Ibrahim Az-zoqurti (Jordan)
 - Reporter:** Mr. Yousef Issa Ibrahim (Qatar)



New administrative committee of ADEGN

11. Expression of the feelings of thanks and gratitude to the:
 - Republic of Lebanon, the Lebanese President, the Lebanese government, the Lebanese Minister of Defense, the General Secretariat of the Arab League, the personal representative of the Secretary General of the Arab League, the Vice-chair of UNGEGN, the Lebanese Army

Command and the Directorate of Geographic Affairs and the president of the conference and the organizing committee.

D. Excursion

In 29th May 2010 we went on an Excursion to visit historical places in Lebanon. We had a very wonderful excursion, we visited a palace of Beet Ad deen, Al beqaa valley and The mountain of Arz Ash shofaan.



For further information about the conference please contact:

Brigadier General Maroun Khraish
Lebanon,
President of the 5th ACGN Conference
Email: mkraish@gmail.com

Eng Ahmed Mohamed Kamel
Egypt, Central Agency For Public Mobilization and Statistics
Chair of ADEGN
Email: col.kamel@gmail.com

Eng.Eman Ahmed Orieby
Egypt, Central Agency For Public Mobilization and Statistics
ADEGN Secretariat
Email: emanorieby@gmail.com

Dutch- and German-speaking Division

24th DGSD Meeting, Tainach (Austria), 28th April 2010

The Meeting was held in conjunction with the 10th Meeting of the UNGEGN Working Group on Exonyms and a meeting of the Permanent Committee on Geographical Names (Ständiger Ausschuss für geographische Namen, StAGN) and was attended by experts of the DGSD member countries Austria, Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands and Switzerland, temporarily also by the UNGEGN chair, Helen KERFOOT. Major topics discussed were contents, venue and date of a next GeoNames meeting, common DGSD activities and goals for the next UNGEGN session as well as eventual new rules of procedure for the next UNGEGN session under the regime of a length reduced to

just five days. Finally, according to the rotation principle, the Division chair passed from Austria to Belgium for the next five years, in personal terms from Peter JORDAN, who had chaired the Division from 2007 following Isolde HAUSNER (2005-07), to Kathleen VAN DOREN.

Peter JORDAN (Past Division Chair)
Email: peter.jordan@oeaw.ac.at

New Division Chair:
Kathleen VAN DOREN, Belgium
Email: (kvd@ngi.be)

Division francophone

Le tour du monde en français, un nouvel outil de recherche pour les noms de lieux du monde

Le 11 juin dernier, la Division francophone a eu le plaisir de mettre en ligne *Le tour du monde en français*, une banque de données contenant les exonymes français de plus d'un millier de lieux du monde. Elle comprend des noms d'entités naturelles, de villes, de divers découpages administratifs ainsi que les noms à utiliser en français pour tous les États indépendants et leurs capitales.

Amorcé en 1999, ce projet de banque des exonymes français, dont Henri Dorion et Jean Poirier, du Québec, ont été les premiers artisans, devait enfin voir le jour en 2003.

D'abord conservées dans un fichier Excel, les données ont ensuite été versées dans une base de données normalisée, créée pour l'occasion et baptisée « Bougainville ». Mise en ligne en 2003, cette base de données a cessé d'être diffusée quelques années plus tard afin d'être actualisée. De nombreuses informations y ont été ajoutées et un nouvel environnement visuel a été créé en conséquence. La version actuelle du *Tour du monde en français* est le fruit d'une étroite collaboration entre les différents participants français et québécois qui y ont travaillé au fil des ans.

L'objectif du *Tour du monde en français* est de mettre en correspondance les noms de lieux dans la ou les langues officielles localement avec la forme qui est recommandée, en français, par les autorités toponymiques québécoises.

coise, canadienne, française et onusienne. La banque fournit de l'information sur la graphie du nom français et de l'endonyme correspondant, et précise la localisation et la nature du lieu nommé. Tous les endonymes sont inscrits dans la banque en alphabet latin. Pour chaque langue, des renseignements sur le système de translittération ou de transcription utilisé sont fournis, s'il y a lieu. Dans le cas des langues utilisant déjà l'alphabet latin, des renseignements sur les caractères spéciaux ou l'appellation de ces langues ont pu être ajoutés.

Finalement, divers renseignements supplémentaires, comme le gentilé, le genre du nom ou son emploi en contexte, sont également disponibles. Plusieurs documents complémentaires permettent de se documenter sur les langues, les pays, les systèmes de romanisation ou sur la banque elle-même.

La consultation des données contenues dans la banque se fait à l'aide d'un moteur de recherche qui offre la possibilité d'effectuer des requêtes selon un mode de recherche simplifié ou avancé. La recherche avancée permet de faire des requêtes ou de créer des listes selon certains paramètres choisis, comme le pays, la langue ou le type de lieu nommé. Un mode d'emploi détaillé fournit la description des paramètres de recherche ainsi que des divers champs de la banque et guide l'utilisateur dans la lecture des résultats.

Le tour du monde en français contient actuellement les noms de 1192 lieux. En constante évolution, la banque sera régulièrement enrichie de nouvelles recommandations et de nouveaux noms en lien, notamment, avec des événements de l'actualité.

Le tour du monde en français se veut un outil de recherche sérieux mais convivial, spécialisé tout en étant accessible. Il sera d'une grande utilité aux professionnels (journalistes, éditeurs, professeurs...) qui font usage de toponymes étrangers dans des textes en français,

que ce soit de façon quotidienne ou occasionnelle. Il sera aussi un outil de référence pour les spécialistes en toponymie qui sont à la recherche d'une information correcte et précise. Cette banque permettra, d'une part, aux utilisateurs francophones de se renseigner sur les noms officiels locaux des lieux étrangers et, d'autre part, aux locuteurs non francophones de connaître les noms qui désignent, en français, des lieux localisés un peu partout sur la planète.

Nous vous invitons à consulter ce nouvel outil de référence, qui est disponible sur le site Web de la Division francophone à l'adresse suivante :

<http://www.toponymiefrancophone.org/DivFranco/Bougainville/recherche.aspx>.

Marie-Ève Bisson

Commission de toponymie du Québec (Canada)

Division francophone

Courriel : mebisson@toponymie.gouv.qc.ca

[Translation]

French-speaking Division

Le tour du monde en français: a new search tool for the world's French-language place names

On June 11 of this year, the Francophone Division had the pleasure of releasing *Le tour du monde en français*, an online data bank containing the exonyms in French of more than a thousand places throughout the world. The data bank contains the French names of natural features, cities, and various administrative areas as well as the correct French exonyms of all independent states and their capitals.

Started in 1999 by Henri Dorion and Jean Poirier of Quebec, this project to develop a bank of French-language exonyms finally came to fruition in 2003. Initially kept in an Excel file, the data were loaded into a standardized database, which was created specifically for this purpose and given the nickname “Bougainville.” Uploaded to the Web in 2003, the database was deactivated a few years later in order to be updated and revised. Numerous pieces of information were added to the database, and a new visual environment was created for it. The current version of *Tour du monde en français* was developed through the close cooperation of the various participants from Quebec and France who contributed to the project over the years.

The purpose of *Tour du monde en français* is to match place names in local official languages with their French-language equivalents recommended by the geographical place name authorities of Quebec, Canada, France and the United Nations. The bank provides information on the writing of the French name and of the corresponding endonym, and specifies the location and nature of the place in question. All endonyms are entered in the bank using the Roman alphabet. For each language, information on the transliteration or transcription system used is provided, as required. In the case of languages already using the Roman alphabet, information on any special characters or on the names of those languages may have been added.

Lastly, a variety of additional information, such as the name given to inhabitants, the gender of the place name and contextual examples of its usage, is also available. Information on languages, countries, romanization systems and the data bank itself is available in several supplementary documents.

The data contained in the bank is consulted by means of a search engine that can be used to

perform basic or advanced searches. The advanced search mode allows users to query the bank or create lists on the basis of selected parameters, such as the country, language or type of place name. Detailed instructions describe the search parameters and the various fields in the data bank, and also guide users through the process of reading results.

Le tour du monde en français currently contains 1,192 place names. The databank is constantly changing and will regularly be enriched through the addition of new recommendations and new names generated by world events.

Le tour du monde en français is a user-friendly search tool that provides serious, specialized information in a readily accessible way. It will be extremely useful to professionals (such as journalists, publishers and educators) who are called upon to use foreign place names in French-language textual material on occasion or on a daily basis. It will also constitute an invaluable reference tool for toponymy specialists who are looking for precise and accurate information. This bank will enable Francophone users to find out the official local names of foreign places, and it will allow individuals who do not speak French to find out the correct names in French of places all over the world.

We urge you to consult this new reference tool, which is now available on the Francophone Division Web site at:

<http://www.toponymiefrancophone.org/DivFranco/Bougainville/recherche.aspx>.

Marie-Ève Bisson

Commission de toponymie du Québec (Canada)

French-speaking Division

E-mail: mebisson@toponymie.gouv.qc.ca

Norden Division

Norden Division Nestor Botolv Helleland celebrated



Longstanding UNGEGN member and participant, Botolv Helleland, turned 70 on the 9th of June and is now formally retired from his position as associate professor in name studies at the University of Oslo, Norway, where he has been employed since 1972 – first at the Norwegian Place-Name Archive, which was placed under the university in 1978. Since 1987 Botolv has been an enthusiastic member of UNGEGN and an eager participant in the debates in the Norden Division as well as the general sessions. His engagement has been particularly evident in the *UNGEKN Working Group on Publicity and Funding* and the *UNGEKN Working Group on Exonyms*. Botolv Helleland's colleague and friend, Tom

Schmidt, has sent us the following note from the celebrations:

“On his birthday on the 9th of June, Botolv held a small celebration at the Department of Linguistic and Nordic Studies where he was presented with a festschrift, *Botolv – onomastikkens harding*, much to his surprise and delight. On the following Saturday some 70 guests – family, friends and colleagues – were gathered for a splendid party in Botolv's backyard. However, it came as no surprise that the dedicated name scholar Botolv was back in his office on Monday morning. Retired he may be but with his renowned enthusiasm, the 70 years young Botolv will no doubt make himself heard and read for many years to come.”

Congratulations to Botolv Helleland from all of us at the Norden Division, too. We owe a great many thanks to him for his dedicated work for Norden Division and UNGEGN.

Norden Division Meeting

As announced in the last UNGEGN-Bulletin, the next Norden Division Meeting was held in Uppsala on October 29th 2010, in conjunction with a symposium and meeting of the UNGEGN Working Group on Terminology October 27th-29th. The provisional agenda for the Norden Division meeting was as follows:

1. Chairman's welcome
2. Election of keeper of minutes
3. Acceptance of minutes agenda

4. 26th UNGEGN Session in 2011
5. Implementation of INSPIRE and EGN services in the Nordic Division area
6. Norden Division Project idea: Minority names database/application
7. Norden Division Homepage
8. Next Norden Division Meeting
9. Any other business

A detailed report will follow in the next Bulletin.

News from Denmark

Centenary of the Danish Place-Name Commission

As was also announced in the last Bulletin, the Danish Place-Name Commission turned 100 years on July 13th. This is marked by a number of celebration seminars throughout the year, the remaining two being September 23rd and on October 29th, the latter date being the official celebration of the centenary itself. Information about these events will be published on the Place-Name Commission website, www.stednavneudvalget.ku.dk.

Portuguese-speaking Division

In November 2009 Brazil made available the homepage of the Portuguese-speaking Division (DPLP), which aims at joining the lusophone countries together in discussions on the standardization of geographical names in Portuguese. The website was first presented in the first seminar on geographical names of the Portuguese Language Community of Countries (CPLP), held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in December 2008.

The website address, first announced in UNGEGN Information Bulletin 37 (page 40), has recently being altered to <http://www.dplpng.ibge.gov.br>

Place-name commission for Føroyar

We are pleased to announce that a place-name commission (Staðarnavnanevndin) was appointed in Føroyar (Faroe Islands) on July 6, 2010.

The contact information is as follows:

Eivind Weyhe (Chairman)

Føroyamálsdeildin, Fróðskaparsetur Føroya,
Boks 272, FO-110 Tórshavn, Føroyar (Faroe Islands)

Tel.: +298 352527

Email: eivindw@setur.fo

Peder Gammeltoft

Chair, Norden Division

Email: gammelt@hum.ku.dk



It is expected that the creation of the website will provide one more means to facilitate the development of closer relationships among the member countries and an opportunity for a rich exchange of ideas and experiences concerning geographical names. In short, we hope it will make it easier for the members of the division

to work as a team when contemplating important measures and decisions to be taken concerning geographical names in Portuguese.

As far as technical exchange is concerned, Brazil has acquired specific technology concerning the implementation of Geographical Names databases as it is developing The Geographical Names database of Brazil and is

ready/willing to aid those lusophone countries wishing to implement theirs.

Ana Cristina da Rocha Bérenger Resende

IBGE, Brazil

Email: ana.resende@ibge.gov.br

Cláudio João Barreto dos Santos

IBGE, Brazil

Email: claudio.santos@ibge.gov.br

From the Working Groups

Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation

Working Group Meeting held in Vancouver, Canada, 21–23 June 2010

The Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation had a joint meeting with the Working Group on Publicity and Funding at Hilton Metrotown Hotel, Vancouver, Canada, in June 2010. Participants were Conveners of the Working Groups, Ki-Suk Lee and David Munro, UNGEGN Chair, Helen Kerfoot, Vice Chair, Ferjan Ormeling, Rapporteur of the Working Group, Botolv Helleland, Sungjae Choo, Professor of Kyung-Hee University, and Peter Raper, former UNGEGN Chair. Stefan Schweinfest, Sabine Warschburger and Amor Laaribi from the UN Statistics Division participated through a tele-conference for a part of the meeting. Professor Hyo Hyun Sung of Ewha Womans University and Mr. Heon-Ryang Im and Ms. Gi-Hi Kang from the National Geographic Information Institute of the Republic of Korea participated as observers.

The meeting was generally intended to review the current working conditions and procedures of UNGEGN and make suggestions for the improvement of its tasks. The followings are major agenda items discussed:

- Summary of any outstanding business from Joint Meeting held during the UNGEGN in Kenya, May 2009
- Report from the UNGEGN Secretariat
 - a. Completed items since the 25th Session of UNGEGN
 - b. Staff changes
 - c. A look ahead (including UNGEGN World Geographical Names Database;

UNGEEN national names authorities contacts database; status of funding for training; Information Bulletin, UNGEGN website, UN Global Geographic Information Management, etc.)

- Progress of Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation
- Improving the work of UNGEGN
 - a. Review of Evaluation questionnaire forms received at the 25th UNGEGN
 - b. Planning for UNGEGN 2011 (recommendations to UNGEGN Bureau)
 - i. Location and dates
 - ii. Suggestions for approaches to optimize a 5-day session
 - iii. Ideas for special presentations, displays, workshops (and use of lunch breaks)
 - iv. Contests of World Wide Toponymy Issues
 - c. Resolutions from the Conferences
 - v. Resolution Database on the Web
 - vi. Synthesizing important resolutions?
 - vii. Implementation of resolutions
 - viii. New resolutions
 - d. Continuing efforts to make the work of (some) Divisions more effective
 - e. Progress report of the Task Team for Africa
 - f. New suggestions for UNGEGN Information Bulletin, UNGEGN Website

The meeting was enriched by a special lecture on 'First Nations and Place names in Northern British Columbia' by anthropologist Dr. Patrick Moore and a half-day visit to the Anthro-

pology Museum of the University of British Columbia.

The next meeting of the Working Group will be held in Wien, May 2011. More complete minutes of the Working Group meeting are available, on request, from the Convenor.

Ki-Suk Lee

Convenor,

Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation

leekisuk@snu.ac.kr



Participants of the Joint Meeting of the Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation and Working Group on Publicity and Funding with Consul General of the Republic of Korea, Vancouver, Canada, 21-23 June, 2010

Working Group on Exonyms

Practice, Policies and Trends of Exonym Use

10th Meeting, UNGEGN Working Group on Exonyms, Tainach, Austria, 28-30 April 2010

The 10th Meeting of the Working Group on Exonyms (WGE) was devoted to the general topic “Practice, Policies and Trends of Exonym Use”. It was organised in conjunction with a meeting of the Permanent Committee on Geographical Names (Ständiger Ausschuss für geographische Namen, StAGN), the coordinating body on geographical names for German-speaking countries (26-28 April), and parallel meetings of the UNGEGN Dutch and German-speaking Division (DGSD) and the East Central and South-East Europe Division (28th April evening). Thus, a whole week from Monday, 26th April, to Friday, 30th April, was spent on discussing geographical names in the charming little village of Tainach (in Slovene: Tinje; Photo on the right shows the church) in



the bilingual (German/Slovene) area of Carinthia [Kärnten], the southernmost province of Austria close to Slovenia and Italy facing the Karawanken/ Karavanke mountain range. The Catholic Educational Centre “Sodalitas” provided for accommodation and catering, as well as all the meeting facilities and services, and contributed with its kind staff to provide a nice atmosphere. The whole sequence of meetings was attended by 60 experts, of whom 42 from 23 countries and all six continents took part in the WGE Meeting.

Due to the fact that Wednesday was the temporal link between the three meetings, the WGE Meeting started, fortunately supported by fine and warm spring weather, with a common excursion to nearby Klagenfurt and Maria Saal on the theme “Carinthia – a bilingual region”.

The first highlight was the visit to the Slovene/German bilingual kindergarten and elementary school attached to the Herma-goras/Mohorjeva Publishing House in Klagenfurt, where children from Slovene-speaking, but in growing numbers also from German-speaking families are educated in both languages in such a way that a day in Slovene is followed by a day in German language. Most impressive was a performance of Slovene songs by a group of pupils (photo below).



This visit was followed by a guided tour through the downtown area of Klagenfurt

(photo below), Carinthia’s capital, including the Hall of Coats of Arms in the provincial parliament, where the Prince’s Stone is exposed, a monument of early democracy in the Slavonic principality of Carantania. Sitting at this stone, the designated prince had to stand a hearing by representatives of his future subjects.



The excursion was concluded by a visit to the church of Maria Saal (in Slovene: Gospa Sveta), an outstanding architectonic monument in Romanesque and Gothic style located on a hill and surrounded by fortifications. It had predecessors already from the 8th century, when this place was the seed of Christianisation among the Slavonic population of Carantania.

Thursday and Friday were then devoted to the WGE Meeting proper comprising 29 paper presentations and an intensive discussion on guidelines for the use of exonyms (see photos next page).

After some words of welcome extended to the participants by a representative of the Educational Centre, by Helen KERFOOT, UNGEGN chair, and Peter JORDAN, WGE co-convenor and convenor in charge, who combined them with a cultural-geographical introduction to the host region of Carinthia, the sequence of papers on geographical names started with a paper of Paul WOODMAN (United Kingdom) presenting a balanced view from the outside on

bilingual toponymy in Carinthia. Unfortunately the paper could only be read in absence of the author, who had been – due to ash cloud problems – prevented from coming. Pierre Jaillard (France) and Henri Dorion (Canada) continued by raising basic questions on the relation between exonyms and international standardisation, and exonyms and bilinguality, respectively. Béla Pokoly (Hungary) referred to country names as exonyms. The sequence of general and principal observations on exonym versus endonym use was continued by Rainer DORMELS (Austria), who spoke about practice and policies of endonym use in the naming of sea bodies, Sungjae CHOO (Republic of Korea), who contributed on names of seas as transboundary features, by Hubert BERGMANN (Austria) highlighting the use of exonyms in dictionaries, Peeter PÄLL (Estonia) on exonyms in the context of script conversion, Bogusław ZAGÓRSKI (Poland) referring to the endonym/exonym divide by the example of names of Arab countries and their major cities, Peter JORDAN (Austria) continuing the discussion on the nature of the endonym, to which also Drago KLADNIK and Mimi URBANC (Slovenia) contributed from a Slovenian perspective. Concluding this general section Pavel BOHÁČ (Czech Republic) raised the question why transboundary features caused a problem in exonymy focusing on the relation between feature and name.



Two papers were then devoted to the Euro-GeoNames (EGN) database: While Ferjan ORMELING (Netherlands) highlighted the collection and rendering of exonyms, Roman STANI-FERTL (Austria) was focusing on the handling of border crossing features within EGN.



The remaining majority of papers were right to the point of the Meeting's general topic, i.e. practice, policies and trends of exonym/endonym use in various countries. Margarita AZCÁRATE LUXÁN (Spain) contributed on the situation in Spain, Maria del Mar BATLLE (Spain) to Catalan specifics. Herman BELL (Sudan) spoke on Nubian geographical names, Eman ORIEBY (Egypt) on practice of exonym use in Egypt. Phil MATTHEWS (New Zealand) referred in this context to New Zealand, Sirkka PAIKKALA (Finland) to the situation in Finland. Maciej ZYCH (Poland) presented in two papers at first Polish geographical names of undersea and Antarctic features and then the Polish list of geographical names of Europe. Elka JAČEVA-ULČAR (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) referred specifically to the toponymic implications of the “Law on Territorial Organization of the Republic of Macedonia” as of 2004 and Remus CREȚAN (Romania) highlighted origins of Romanian toponyms on an ethnic background. Gábor GERCSÁK (Hungary) spoke on English exonyms of geographical names of Hungary, Imrich HORŇANSKÝ (Slovakia) on exonym standardization and use in Slovakia.

Nina SYVAK (Ukraine) concluded this section by presenting a paper on names of orographic features in the Ukrainian Carpathians.

The last two hours of the Meeting were devoted to a general discussion on guidelines for the use of exonyms. According to the terms of reference of the WGE, developing such guidelines is one of the Working Group's major tasks. It has indeed very actively been pursued in the last three years (6th WGE Meeting in Prague 2007). Also UNGEGN experts not involved into the business of WGE will remember that already several draft versions have been presented and discussed in UNGEGN sessions as well as during the Ninth UN Conference in New York 2007, not to speak of WGE meetings. Based on these earlier drafts and discussions Peter JORDAN presented a revised version of guidelines and conducted the discussion on it item per item. The discussion developed – as usual – lively and controversial. As on earlier occasions, no consensus could be

achieved on a more substantial number of criteria, which would really serve as a guide for somebody looking for advice. So it was decided not to pursue further, at this time, this UN recommendation, but rather to elaborate a Working Paper from this Working Group in the sense of a partial solution. This paper is to integrate as many suggestions from the discussion as possible, but should not become inconsistent and insubstantial by doing so. It may in this way preserve its potential to serve as a handout for people looking for advice.

Edited by Peter JORDAN, Hubert BERGMANN, Caroline BURGESS and Catherine CHEETHAM, most of the papers presented at the Meeting will be published as proceedings by LIT Publishers very likely early in 2011, so that they will be available by the 26th UNGEGN Session in Vienna, 2-6 May 2011, at the latest.

Peter JORDAN (Co-convenor)
Email: peter.jordan@oeaw.ac.at

Working Group on Publicity and Funding

On 21-23 June 2010 the Working Group on Publicity and Funding held a joint meeting with the Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation in the Hilton Metrotown, Vancouver, Canada. Seven members, including UNGEGN Chairperson Ms. Helen Kerfoot, and three observers were present at this three-day meeting which included a visit to the Anthropology Museum of the University of British Columbia and a special lecture on 'First Nations and Place names in Northern British Columbia' by anthropologist Dr Patrick Moore.

During a telephone conversation with members of the UN Secretariat in New York, members of the working group were able to discuss suggestions for the UNGEGN website and Bulletin

as well as the state of financing for training and the participation of developing countries at the 26th UNGEGN Session in Vienna in 2011.

The Convenor presented draft pages of text covering nine topics to be included in a press kit for which a cover has already been designed. It is hoped that these and other pages will be ready to be passed on to the Secretariat for publication by the end of 2010. Other suggestions for promotional material included a general UNGEGN poster, a 10th UN Conference poster and postage stamps, a 'postcard from Vienna' similar to the successful 2009 'postcard from Nairobi' and a set of leaflets for special interest groups such as statisticians, linguists, map editors and cultural heritage managers. The working group welcomes any

comments on these proposals or suggestions for other materials that will help promote the activities of UNGEGN.

Following his retirement as Chairman of the PCGN, David Munro intimated that he would be standing down as Convenor of the Working

Group on Publicity and Funding within the next two years.

David Munro

Convenor, Working Group on Publicity and Funding

Email to: davidmunro@kinaskit.co.uk

Working Group on the Promotion of the Recording and Use of Indigenous, Minority and Regional Language Group Geographical Names

Project Summary Report

An updated version of the world wide summary report was presented to the UNGEGN Session in 2009. Any updates or additional contributions can be emailed to me at william.watt@sa.gov.au for incorporation into the document prior to presentation at the next UNGEGN sessions and conference.

Development of a Website

Development of a website for the working group within the South Australian Government has proved to be something of a problem, in spite of the best intentions of the IT support staff.

However, an alternative solution has become available. This is using a document exchange and discussion forum option provided by the Australian Government called GovDex. All the members of the working group that I have current emails for should have received an email providing a username and password to access this GovDex community. If this has not been received, or if you are interested in this working group, please provide me your email and I will organise membership for you.

Name of the Working Group

At the last UNGEGN sessions, the expanding name of the working group was discussed; with many feeling that the name is too long. If there are any suggestions on an alternative name, please feel free to let me know for future consideration.

Progress in Other Objectives

There are two other objectives that this working group is tasked with at present, being:

- Compile a set of guidelines for field collection of indigenous, minority and regional language group geographical names
- Initiate dialogue between UNGEGN and other national and international groups and academic bodies involved with indigenous, minority and regional language group geographical names, to further the work on geographical names standardization.

I would like to invite anyone who has undertaken work in any of these areas to submit this information in a paper to the next UNGEGN

session in May 2011, to enable some progress in the completion of these tasks to be evident.

Look forward to seeing many of you in Wien (Vienna).

William Watt

Working Group Convenor

Email: william.watt@sa.gov.au

Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers

Update of the Working Group website

The information on the Working Group website has been regularly updated (last update July 2010). The new folder called “SDI announcements” includes some links and newsletters in the context of SDIs. The information is available through:

http://www.zrc-sazu.si/ungegn/WG_TDFG/gazetteers.htm

Next meeting of the Working Group jointly with ECSEE Division and with the EuroGeoNames community 9-11 Feb 2011

The Working Group accepts the kind invitation by the member from Croatia to have the next Working Group meeting in Zagreb, Croatia, in 2011, February 10 (half day afternoon). It will be arranged in conjunction with the meeting of the East Central and South-East Europe Division (February 9 and 10) and, with a workshop of the EuroGeoNames community (February 11, full day).

Preliminary agenda (2011 Feb 10, 13–18 hours):

1) WG business according to the next 26th UNGEGN session

- general preparation – re-structuring of WP presentation under item 10

- specific items to be discussed

2) WG business according to its objectives

- Follow-up workshop e.g. on implementation of the INSPIRE GN specification?
- Lessons-learned from national and regional projects involving gazetteer applications & services, e.g. AfricaGaz, EGN, Google
- Outreach/contacts in less advanced countries
- Representation at international meetings, technical workshops WG business according to liaison activities – Unicode; OGC; ISO
- ISO TC 211
- OGC WG on Gazetteers
- Unicode

Location information as well as further details on the arrangements will be communicated by email in due course and will be available through the Group website: http://www.zrc-sazu.si/ungegn/WG_TDFG/gazetteers.htm

Pier-Giorgio Zaccheddu

Convenor of the Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers

Email: pier.zaccheddu@bkg.bund.de

Working Group on Toponymic Terminology

Three days of toponymic activities: 27–29 October 2010

A meeting of the Working Group on Toponymic Terminology took place in Uppsala, Sweden, on October 27th 2010. The main purpose of the meeting was to discuss some suggested corrections and amendments in the UNGEGN glossary that emerged as a result of a joint meeting between the UNGEGN Working Group and the Terminology Group of ICOS arranged in Vienna, Austria, in December 2009. All UNGEGN members were invited to participate in this meeting in Uppsala.

Two days later, on October 29th 2010, the Norden Division of UNGEGN met. On the day between these meetings, October 28th, a small symposium with international and Nor-

dic guests were arranged in Uppsala, open also to other onomastic scholars and administrators of toponymic matters. Our ambition as organizers was simply to try to draw the advantages from the fact that so many toponymic experts gather in Uppsala during these days by letting some of them also present a paper – in English – related to any toponymic subject, terminological or other. Please contact the Convenor of the Working Group if you would like to receive more details on the Uppsala meeting

Staffan Nyström

Convenor, Working Group on Toponymic Terminology
Email: staffan.nystrom@nordiska.uu.se

From the Countries

Brazil

Since 2005 Brazil has been implementing the Project Geographical Names of Brazil, whose objective is the standardization of geographical names, the restoration of their historical and socio-cultural value and the promotion of a revival of interest in the retention and retrieval of Brazilian toponyms. In the core of this project is The Geographical Names Database of Brazil (BNGB), which is going to provide information on geographical names under the following categories: motivation, etymology, history, historical, spelling, and alternative name variations, associated legislation and its force, indication of intellectual property (geographical indication) and relevant observations about its representation, among other features.

Some of the sources used in the composition of the BNGB are the topographic mapping 1: 25,000 to 1: 1,000,000 and municipality mapping. This cartographic information integrates the National Cartographic System (SCN) of Brazil, under the responsibility of the Ministry of Planning, Budget and Management, which is assisted by the National Commission on Cartography in Brazil – CONCAR (a collegiate organ composed of several members of Brazilian federal and state governments).

In December 2008, the Committee of Geographical Names was created within the CONCAR. The need for an authority on this matter was long felt in Brazil and the CONCAR has now assumed this role. The standardization of geographic names is of great importance to the SCN and to the National Spatial Data Infrastructure – INDE – which is being established in Brazil according to Decree 6.666/2008. The Committee is coordinated by the Brazilian Institute of Geography

and Statistics (IBGE) and among its members are several Brazilian institutions such as the Brazilian Academy of Letters (ABL), the Military Geographical Service Board, the Paraná State Planning Bureau, the Institute of Geosciences of Paraná State, The Navy Hydrographic Center, the National Institute of Industrial Property (INPI) and the Antônio Houaiss Institute.

The main goals of the Committee can be summed up in the following topics:

- Promoting the standardization of geographical names within the Brazilian territory;
- Informing the public on the economic and social benefits that emerge from the standardization of geographical names;
- Offering consultancy to the government when new proposals related to geographical names arise, in order to control not only the standardization but also any rearrangement or alteration;
- Establishing national principles, politics and procedures for the standardization of geographical names taking into consideration the resolutions of the United Nations and the international recommendations and practices on this matter, as well the ones coming from other organs officially related to geographical names;
- Supporting and promoting the implementation of activities related to geographical names in Brazil.
- Reporting and spreading relevant information on geographical names to the ministries, to the people in general, and to every person who needs them in Brazil and abroad, through the BNGB, via internet, magazines, lists, maps and similar publications;

- Promoting actions in partnership with state or town governments in order to review names for later standardization.

The first meeting of the Committee was held on 14th May 2009, with the participation of representatives of several state and academic institutions as well as of Brazilian ministries.

In this first meeting, the following working groups were created:

- on Standardization of Geographical Names, which will be in charge of the creation of rules and recommendations and of establishing the flow of information.
- on Studies and Research of Issues Concerning Linguistics related to Geographical Names.
- on the Growth of the National Network of Geographical Names and the spreading of the activities of the UNGEGN within this network.

At present, since 22nd June 2010, when its second meeting was held, the Committee has



Dr. Cartographic Engineer Cláudio João
lecturing in Sergipe

been working on the elaboration of the principles, policies and procedures concerning geographical names in Brazil.

News on the activities of the Committee can be accessed at <http://www.concar.ibge.gov.br/detalheEntidades.aspx?cod=8>

The I Seminar of Geographical Names in Sergipe State (Brazil) and the II Seminar of Geographical Names in Ceará State (Brazil) were held, respectively, in July and October 2009. The seminars are an effort of IBGE's (Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics) Reference Center on Geographical Names at constituting a National Network on Geographical Names in Brazil.

Together with the Seminar in Ceará, the Reference Center carried out a training course on Practical Aspects of the Survey of Geographical Names. The training course was attended by IBGE personnel and by civil servants from institutions of Ceará state government.



Linguist Márcia Mathias in Ceará



Systems Analyst Graciosa Rainha Moreira in Sergipe

Ana Cristina da Rocha Bérenger Resende

IBGE, Brazil

Email: ana.resende@ibge.gov.br

Cláudio João Barreto dos Santos

IBGE, Brazil

Email: claudio.santos@ibge.gov.br

Mozambique

The Permanent Mission to the United Nations announced in April 2010 that the Republic of Mozambique has created the Institute of Geographic Names (INGEMO) and looks forward to cooperating with the United Nations in this field of endeavour.

Serbia

The Government of Serbia has established the Commission for the Standardization of Geographical Names by its decision No. 02-6469/2009 of 22 October 2009. Currently the Commission consists of five members and is based in Belgrade (email contact: komisija.gn@kim.gov.rs).

Special Projects and News Items

Trends in Toponymy 4

Over 80 delegates from 25 countries attended the 4th Trends in *Toponymy Conference* which was hosted by the School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland from 28th June to 1st July 2010. This event followed three highly successful interdisciplinary toponymic conferences held previously in Kárašjohka-Karasjok, Ballarat and Durban.

The multilingual heritage and culture of Scotland provided an excellent context within which to discuss recent advances in onomastics and strengthen the international links between researchers. Through the conference theme of ‘attitudes to names and naming’, the aim was to improve understanding of the dialectic between different views on naming practices and policies. Bringing together leading experts on names from around the world, including a number of UNGEGN experts, the conference presented a forum for sharing ideas between name scholars and practitioners, including those currently dealing with the standardisation of Gaelic names in Scotland.

Two keynote papers were presented. The first by Simon Taylor of Glasgow University outlined the development of place-name studies in Scotland in the context of culture and language. The second by Laura Kostanski of the Office of the Surveyor General in Victoria, Australia, introduced the new theory of

toponymic dependence, exploring ways in which it is related to, but distinct from, existing widely-published theories on place attachment.

In a rich and varied programme nearly 50 papers were presented by scholars from a wide range of disciplines including anthropology, sociology, geography and lexicography, demonstrating how toponymy is a well established and vibrant discipline that has a bearing on so many subject areas. The conference served not only to highlight innovative approaches to the study of place names but also the tension between official and unofficial naming as well as the connections between studies in one part of the world and researches in other.

In conjunction with the conference, a public event was held at the National Library of Scotland to further understanding of the importance of promoting Gaelic and the official use of Gaelic place-names in Scotland. David Munro, Convenor of the UNGEGN Working Group on Publicity and Funding, provided an international context to place name standardization as one of the four panel discussants.

David Munro

Convenor, Working Group on Publicity and Funding

Email: davidmunro@kinaskit.co.uk

United Nations Global Geographic Information Management (UN GGIM)

Now: United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management (UN GGIM)

Second Preparatory Meeting, New York, 10-11 May 2010

Purpose of the meeting

At the invitation of Paul Cheung, Director of the UN Statistics Division, representatives from countries and international organizations were invited to this meeting in New York. The purpose was to discuss the interest in and the feasibility of, establishing “a global mechanism for discussion and coordination of critical issues in the field of geographic information management”. A UN Committee of experts would provide a wider global overview of GGIM than is currently achieved by the Regional Cartographic Conferences (held in Asia and the Pacific, Africa, and the Americas). At the same time it would provide an opportunity for better integration with the world’s statistical agencies.

Rationale: A global mechanism, country-driven, would enable more effective responses to global humanitarian issues, support sustainable development, improve management of new innovations and technology, and promote the need for multinational multi-layered data.

Result of the meeting

The Republic of Korea through its National Geographic Information Institute (NGII) has offered to host a World Forum on Global Geospatial Information Management, October 25-28, 2011, in Seoul. This should raise the awareness of the high-level decision makers in the necessity and value of manag-

ing geographical information at a global level (through the UN). Following the Forum it is anticipated that a Committee of Experts would be established under the auspices of the UN, likely meeting annually (as in the model of the UN Statistical commission). Documentation will be prepared for ECOSOC’s meeting in July 2011 to put such a global coordination framework in place. [This item has now successfully been placed on ECOSOC’s 2011 agenda.] Many of those present in New York offered to help with preparations for the next steps – both the ECOSOC documentation and the program for the UN Forum.

For full information about the meeting, documents, report, participants, etc. see: unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/meetings/10-11_may2010/

The report from the 1st meeting in Bangkok in 2009 is also available on the website.

Structure of the meeting

The meeting was opened by the Director of the UN Statistics Division/DESA and the Chief of the Cartographic Section/DFS, and chaired the first day by Luis Paulo Fortes, Director of Geosciences at IBGE in Brazil and the second day by Hiroshi Murakami, Deputy Director, Planning Department, Geospatial Information Authority of Japan.

Participants attending were from:

- (a) Countries: Australia, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, Cuba, Egypt, Finland, Germany, Guatemala, India, Japan, Mexico, Republic of Korea, United Kingdom, USA
- (b) Organizations/Agencies: FIG, ICA, IHO, IGU, ISCGM, ISPRS, GSDI, EuroGeographics, EUROGI, GEO/GEOSS, ISO/TC 211, ESRI, OGC, UNGEGN, PSMA Australia
- (c) UN Nations Statistics and United Nations Cartographic Section

The *agenda* items addressed:

- Current initiatives in Geographic Information Management
 - background and recent UN resolutions
 - existing national, regional and international initiatives
- Critical Issues in Global Geographic Information Management
 - governance: global consultation and governance
 - technical reviews
 - interoperability of systems and data
 - common technical solutions and standards
 - data integration and layering
 - public rendering of geographic information by the private sector
 - global applications: climate change, vulnerability, disaster management

- capacity building and technology transfer
- Terms of Reference for the World Conference (Forum) and the UN Committee of Experts on GGIM

Contact for more information: Amor Laaribi (laaribi@un.org)

UNGEGN and GGIM

Helen Kerfoot participated at the 2nd GGIM meeting in New York and made a short presentation about UNGEGN and its role and objectives. From the perspective of UNGEGN, participation in the UN GGIM appears essential to promote the national authorization of geographical names and their use as a vital part of any global geographic information management. At the same time, the particular issues around the world of names recording, authorization, romanization, storage and dissemination continue to require our existing forum and structure to address questions so that suitable information can be available for users.

Your suggestions are welcomed for:

- essential topics to be covered at the UN/World Forum
- material to be displayed by UNGEGN at the UN/World Forum
- aspects of GGIM that should be discussed at the 26th UNGEGN Session in 2011

Contact: Helen Kerfoot (hkerfoot@nrcan.gc.ca)

UNGEGN Essay/Poem contest

UNITED NATIONS GROUP OF EXPERTS ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES (UNGEGN)

TOPONYMY CONTEST 2011 - AFRICA

On the occasion of the Twenty-sixth UNGEGN Session, to be held in Vienna 2-6 May 2011, a second contest will be organized for African countries, to promote awareness of the importance of geographical names, the role they play in our relationship with the environment and in our spatial understanding. Geographical names form an essential component of a nation's geospatial data infrastructure, but will only function well if the written forms have been standardized, and that is what UNGEGN promotes.

The contest

The contest is to write an essay or poem about a particular geographical name or group of names (also referred to as *toponyms* or sometimes *place names* - names of settlements, rivers, mountains, areas, etc). For example, how the geographical feature got its name, what special relationship the author or his/her family has with the named feature, any specific problems in finding or collecting the name, the influence of the specific toponym on the author's life, the impact of a name change, or specific issues when a place has different names.

The objective

The contest aims to identify and honour those persons who are actively interested in researching and standardizing a country's geographical names and thus contributing to the development of a resource that is essential for a culture's survival as well as for a country's

economic development. Through the publicity for this contest, UNGEGN aims to improve the understanding of the importance of toponymy, from the point of view of preserving cultural heritage and of providing an insight into our surroundings through maps and geographical information systems.

The prizes

The winners will receive:

1. A copy of one of the following:
 - the toponymy publication *Toponymy, the lore, laws and language of geographical names* by Naftali Kadmon (New York: Vantage Press, 2002),
 - the classic work *Lexique des termes utiles à l'étude des noms de lieux* by Henri Dorion and Jean Poirier (Québec : Presses de l'Université Laval, 1976),
 - Arabic document أسماء الأماكن القبائل و الأسماء و التسمية ، الأشخاص في الجزائر (*Nomination et dénomination des noms de lieux, de tribus et de personnes en Algérie*) by فريد بن رمضان و إبراهيم عطوي (Farid Benramdane et Brahim Atoui), Alger : Éditions CRASC.
2. A two-year subscription to one of the following journals:
 - *Nomina Africana* published in South Africa,

- *Bulletin Géographique* published in Algeria,
 - *Insaniyat* published in Algeria.
3. A set of recent UNGEGN documents relevant to the standardization of geographical names.

Participants

The contest is open to citizens of all African countries, who are interested in toponymy, either from the viewpoint of preservation of cultural heritage, map production, working with GIS, or other endeavours related to toponymy.

Entries

Each entry should contain the following elements, written in one of four of the official UN languages spoken in Africa, namely Arabic, English, French, or Spanish:

1. Name, email, address and position of the participant;
2. Photograph of the participant and (optional) of the named feature cited in the entry;
3. Two letters of recommendation from employees of government institutions or from academic institutions (preferably one from each);

4. An original text (essay or poem), free from copyright, of at least 500 words for an essay and 250 words for a poem, and with a maximum of 1000 words. This text should reflect the themes indicated above.
5. A declaration in which the author transfers copyright of the entry to UNGEGN, recognizing the right of UNGEGN to use and publish the photos and text, whole or partially, either in paper copy or on the web.

Closing date

The materials have to be submitted digitally to the UNGEGN Secretariat in New York on or before 1 February, 2011. The address of the UNGEGN Secretariat is: geoinfo_unsd@un.org.

Announcement of the winners

The winners of the prizes will be announced at the 26th UNGEGN Session, May 2011, in Vienna. The decision of the jury appointed by the UNGEGN Bureau will be final. It is the intention of the UNGEGN Bureau to publish the winning entries on the UNGEGN website, and possibly to assemble other top entries in a special web-based publication.

September 2010

GROUPE D'EXPERTS DES NATIONS UNIES POUR LES NOMS GÉOGRAPHIQUES (GENUNG)

CONCOURS DE TOPONYMIE GENUNG-2011

À l'occasion de sa 26^e session, à être tenue à Vienne, les 2-6 mai 2011, le GENUNG organise un autre concours à l'intention des pays

africains visant à promouvoir l'intérêt porté aux noms géographiques, à leur importance et au rôle qu'ils jouent en matière

d'environnement et de connaissance du territoire. Les noms de lieux constituent une composante essentielle des données spatiales de tous les pays, mais ils ne pourront pleinement remplir leur rôle que si leur forme écrite aura fait l'objet d'une normalisation précise. C'est là l'objectif poursuivi par le GENUNG.

Le concours

L'objet du concours consiste en l'écriture d'un texte, essai ou poème, au sujet d'un toponyme ou d'un groupe de toponymes (noms d'accidents géographiques, tels que cours d'eau ou montagnes, ou d'espaces humanisés, tels que villages ou régions) relatant, par exemple, l'origine du nom, la relation que l'auteur entretient avec le ou les noms choisis, les problèmes rencontrés lors d'un inventaire toponymique, les conséquences du changement du nom d'un lieu ou du fait qu'un lieu géographique est désigné par plusieurs noms.

L'objectif poursuivi

Le concours vise à identifier et récompenser des personnes activement intéressées à la recherche et à la gestion toponymiques et apportant ainsi leur contribution au développement d'une ressource essentielle à la conservation du patrimoine culturel et au développement économique des pays. Par la publicité faite relativement à ce concours, le GENUNG vise à faire reconnaître la relation intime et fonctionnelle entre les aspects culturels et socio-économiques de la toponymie, d'une part, et la cartographie et les bases de données, d'autre part.

Les prix

Les gagnants recevront :

1. l'un des documents suivants :
 - a) l'ouvrage de Naftali Kadmon, *Toponymy, the lore, laws and lan-*

guage of geographical names, New York, Vantage Press, 2002 ;

- b) l'ouvrage classique de Henri Dorion et Jean Poirier, *Lexique des termes utiles à l'étude des noms de lieux*, Québec, Presses de l'Université Laval, 1976 ;
- c) document en langue arabe, أسماء الأماكن، القبائل و الأشخاص في الجزائر التسمية، de Farid Benramdane et Brahim Atoui, *Nomination et dénomination des noms de lieux, de tribus et de personnes en Algérie*, Alger, Éditions CRASC.

2. un abonnement de deux ans à l'un des périodiques suivants :
 - a) *Nomina Africana*, publié en République sud-africaine ;
 - b) *Bulletin géographique*, publié en Algérie ;
 - c) *Insaniyat*, publié en Algérie.
3. un jeu de documents récents du GENUNG relatifs à la normalisation des noms géographiques.

Candidatures

Tout citoyen d'un pays d'Afrique intéressé à la toponymie, soit sous l'angle de la valeur patrimoniale de la toponymie, soit sous celui de la production cartographique ou des systèmes d'information géographique, peut soumettre sa candidature en présentant un dossier comprenant les éléments ci-dessous.

Le dossier de candidature

Le dossier de candidature, rédigé dans l'une ou l'autre des quatre langues officielles des Nations Unies parlées en Afrique, à savoir l'anglais, l'arabe, l'espagnol ou le français, doit comprendre les éléments suivants :

1. Nom, courriel (email), adresse et fonction du candidat ;

2. Une photographie du candidat et (optionnel) du lieu ou d'un lieu cité dans le texte soumis ;
3. Deux lettres de recommandation d'une personne d'un organisme gouvernemental ou d'une institution académique (préférentiellement des deux) ;
4. Un texte original (essai ou poème) libre de droits d'au moins 500 mots pour un essai ou de 250 mots pour un poème, et d'au maximum 1 000 mots, rédigé dans l'esprit du concours tel qu'évoqué plus haut ;
5. Une déclaration signée de l'auteur constituant une cession de droits au bénéfice du GENUNG, lui reconnaissant le droit d'utiliser en tout ou en partie le texte

soumis et les photos, sur support papier ou numérisé.

Échéances

Le dossier de candidature doit être soumis sous forme numérisée au Secrétariat du GENUNG à New York le ou avant le premier février 2011. L'adresse en est : geoinfo_unsd@un.org.

L'annonce des gagnants sera faite lors de la 26^e session du GENUNG, en mai 2011, à Vienne. La décision du jury nommé par le GENUNG sera finale. Les textes des gagnants (et possiblement ceux d'autres candidats jugés intéressants) seront publiés sur le site Internet du GENUNG.

Septembre 2010

World Statistics Day 20-10-2010



In its resolution 67/267 of 3 June 2010, the General Assembly decided “to designate 20 October 2010 as World Statistics Day under the general theme Celebrating the many achievements of official statistics and the core values of service, integrity and professionalism” and invited “all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations, as well as civil society, including non-governmental organizations, such as research institutions, media and all producers and users of official statistics, to observe World Statistics Day in an appropriate manner.”

The first ever World Statistics Day on 20 Oc-

tober 2010 was an overwhelming success since it was celebrated in more than 120 countries and by some 40 international organizations. Special events to mark the Day included conferences, symposia, roundtables, quizzes and press conferences. In some countries, Heads of State or Governments either hosted a conference to celebrate World Statistics Day (Peru) or issued official messages to mark the Day (including Fiji, Namibia, Jamaica, and even US President Barack Obama).

Many countries used 20.10.2010 to raise public awareness about their censuses, through press events and promotional materials in schools (Bahamas, Mauritius, Qatar, Russia, etc.). The Statistical Division of DESA released at UN Headquarters, Shanghai's World Expo and ESCAP Bangkok its report *World's Women 2010* as an example of offi-

cial statistics' contribution to social progress. UN bodies organized joint conferences, meetings or receptions to mark World Statistics Day, in Geneva, Vienna, Washington and Montreal.

To mention some of the activities at national level: Commemorative WSD stamps were be issued in China, Cuba, Dominica and Papua

New Guinea); The UK's Royal Statistical Society launched on 20 October a major 10-year statistical literacy campaign to sensitize the public on the benefits of statistics.

Information on the WSD is available website:

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/wsd/>

Toponymic Research

UNGEGN has been encouraged to include in the Bulletin research material that relates to geographical names and their standardization. While this is seen as most useful to recipients of the Bulletin and a way for researchers to spread their knowledge for the assistance of UNGEGN experts, we must include a caveat. No formal review process has been initiated by the UNGEGN Secretariat or the UNGEGN Bureau for research articles, facts have not been verified and no editing process has been put in place; information included is solely the author's responsibility and does not reflect any position held by UNGEGN. Questions about the articles or their content should be directed to the authors.

The impact of foreign languages, local dialects and colonisation on the evolution of geographical names in Tunisia

Introduction

It is generally admitted that place names serve not only as spatial reference points to identify, locate and describe our position on the earth, but are also important signposts of the historical and cultural influences and value of the people who named them.

Tunisia, for most of its history, was a theatre for many wars and conquests leading to successive and bright civilisations: Berber, Phoenician, Carthaginian, Roman, Byzantine etc... moreover, the various cultural levels and the local dialects have had an impact on the evolution of the geographical names.

In this paper, the emphasis will mainly be put on three aspects considered to be of major influence on place naming in Tunisia: these are the different languages, the local dialects and the French colonisation which lasted from 1881 to 1956. This led to the distortion of geographical names and to a situation which prevented the adoption of a unique system of transliteration from Arabic to Latin.

It has to be pointed out that the standardized Beirut 1972 transcription system (with some changes introduced to take in consideration certain aspects of the Tunisian dialect) has been used since 1983 in Tunisia to produce different scale topographic maps.

It is hoped that this situation will get redressed in the future thanks to increased efforts of the national toponymic authority.

1- The geographical names in Tunisia

As in every other place, geographical names reflect the country's history. In our case, we are dealing with a country with a long history spanning three millennia since the first Phoenician settlement in Utique.

In Tunisia, the geographical name is a mixture of Lybic, Berber, Phoenician, Roman, Arabic, Spanish, Turkish, French and other languages and has maintained to some extent its historical origin through centuries.

Some geographical names are affected by historical events contributing in making

them a permanent part of the national cultural heritage as in the case of Carthage, Utique, Dogga, Kairouan. Others are linked to dramatic circumstances, such as the village of Sakiet Sidi Youssef where both Tunisians and Algerians sustained casualties during the liberation war of Algeria. On the other hand, places known for their tourist resorts such as Hammamet, Jerba, Port El Kantaoui etc...with their valuable contribution to the national economy are positively advertised by the media and then made known throughout the world.

However, a number of place names remain ignored or may have undergone changes despite the fact that they stand as the early witnesses of the Tunisian cultural heritage, the history of the country and the customs of its people and their ways of life.

The Arabic name was imposed in the 11th century as a result of economic and cultural factors. Added to this, the religious Marabouts which were viewed as the favourite place for gathering people and teaching them the Koran, contributed in the spread of the Arabic language at the expense of the Berber language and habits.

This has played a significant role in the spread of residential areas named after saints like Sidi Boulbaba (Gabes), Sidi Belhassen Chadli and Sidi Mehrez (Tunis).

However, the Berber language has been maintained mainly in the isolated mountainous areas of the Tunisian South. It has to be pointed out that names having as generic "Jbal" which means "mountain", are mainly related to Berber tribes who were living in mountains. Example: Jbal Tmasmida is related to the Berber

tribe Masmouda, Jbal Bargou is related to the Braga tribes.

2- The impact of different languages on the geographical name in Tunisia

The old geographical name continues to exist as a result of the authenticity of early languages in North Africa (Lybic and Phoenician) and their affiliation, as well as Arabic, to the Semitic origins. For example, the name of Thapsus, which means transit, was given by the Phoenicians in Sicily under the name of Thapsa; in the Euphrates, Thapsaque; in Jerba (Tunisia), Tupasa and in Algeria, Tipasa.

The transliteration from the original languages into Latin and the difficulties accompanying the transition on the phonetic level led to several linguistic alterations such as:

- The confusion in the pronunciation and writing of some letters:
 - The « C » which is pronounced « K » and may stand for the letters « K, Q, G ». Example: Cercina becomes Kerkennah.
 - The letter « J » which represents « G ». Example Vaga becomes Beja.
 - The letter « ش, sha » which is nonexistent in Latin was represented by « S ». Example: "شمتو", Shamtu"- Simithu.
 - Main changes are related to the letters « V » and « P » which do not exist in arabic and which were represented respectively by « B » and « F ». Examples: Vaga-Beja; Capsa-Gafsa.
 - The letter « ج -j » in some cases represented by « Z » Example: "جامعة, Jama" becomes Zama; "جرجيس, Jarjis" becomes Zarzis.

- The omission of some linguistic sounds :
 - Tacape becomes Gabes
 - Qart ha desh becomes Carthage
- Subverting letters : Thabraca becomes Tbarqa
- Name distortion which results in a name very different and far from its origins. Example: Hippou Acra (1), Hippo Diarrhytus (2), Hippone Zarito (3) become Bizerte.
- The assimilation of some letters into others to the point of similarity, such as:
 - « N » and « L » : Majel Ben Abbes is replaced by Majel Bel Abbes
 - « J » and « Z » : Jarjis becomes Zarzis
 - « Sh » and « S » : Shammes becomes Sammes

3- The impact of French colonization on the geographical name in Tunisia

During the colonial period (1881-1956), there was an impact on all the structures of Tunisian society, including geographical names, this impact is shown through the following examples:

- The geographical name which had a socio-economic role became linked to the administrative division and cadastral registration imposed by the colonial law: the geographical name became an essential title to the ownership of land (Hin chir Said, Ouled Sidi Ali Ben Oun...).
- During this period, French colonial authorities directly imposed names in places where French settlers seized the most fertile tracts of land thus some places were named after these settlers: Michaud, Fermes Fabre et Cailloux, etc...
- Names of saints and clergymen were also given: Ste Marguerite, Ste Ma-

rine, St. Louis Louis, La Fayette, also appeared in the steppes names like Pavillier, Pichon, Henriville.

The colonization had also an indirect impact on the geographical name as it restricted the movements of nomads who were obliged to gather in tribes around water resources, an essential and vital factor for pastoralists, which led to the development of names of water places. Hence, the birth of generic names like: Ghdir (pond), Ogla (river bottom), Hassi (a hole in the streaming river), Bir (well), Ain (spring), Fawwar (spring), etc... Examples of relevant toponyms are: Ghdir El Golla, Hassi El Frid, Ain Jloula, Bir Roumane.

Overall, the European colonisation of Tunisia, undertaken mainly by the French, in the late 19th century led to the distortion of many local geographical names and the adoption of European ones. This resulted in the following situations:

1. Introducing exonyms: Cap Blanc, Cap Bon, Cap Afrique
2. Translating toponyms into other languages like Italian: Porto Farina, Cap Negro, La Goulette, etc...
3. Adding definite articles to toponyms: La Chebba, Le Krib, Le Kef, La Marsa, etc...
4. Introducing new vowels: قليبية - Kélibia ; سليمان - Soliman ; بنزرت - Bizerte ; قابس, نابل - Nabeul, Gabès
5. Shortening toponyms by omitting vowels at the end: سوسة (pronounced Sousa) - Sousse (although it has an « e » at the end, it is pronounced « SOUSS »)
6. Misspelling of some letters like:
 - The letter « ث » which was represented by « th » (Bou Thadi, بوثدي) or « t » (Beni Khal toum, بني كلثوم) or « s » (Selja, ثالجة)

- The letter « j, ج » is translated « dj » (Djebel Fkirine)
- The letters « ض, ظ » are translated « d » (Mdilla, مظيلة), (Enfida, النفيضة)
- The letter « k » may represent « k, ك » (Turki, تركي) or « ق » (Kelibia, قليبية) or « ق » (Kasserine, القصرين)
- The letter « gh, غ » may be translated as « gh » (Zaghouan, زغوان) or « kh » (Beni Khedech, بني خداش). Those 2 letters (gh and kh) were adopted since 1893 with decision by the French Military Service. And then in 1922, was adopted « rh » for the letter « غ » (Oued Rhezala, وادي غزالة) and « kr » for the letter « خ » (Kroumirie, جبل خمير).

But the major changes were those which transformed names into exonyms like :
 النفيضة, Enfidaville; جبل خمير, Kroumirie;
 أم العرايس, Moularès, etc...

4- The independence period

After independence and for many years, the situation remained somehow “chaotic” in defining and spelling geographical names, as French continued to be taught along with Arabic in the public schools. This has contributed to the acceptance by Tunisians of French geographical names. As a result Arabic names are much deformed and distorted through uncareful French spelling. For instance, the name El Houd (given by the colonizer) and translated into « اليهود » by Tunisians does not reflect the reality of the name which is « الحو, water basin ». Since 1956, the date of Tunisian independence, the national authorities have tried to erase the most apparent trace of colonization and have given names to

new urban places which reflect Tunisian feelings of recovered freedom and their expectations about a better future. Examples of those names are: حي الزهور, City of flowers; حي التطور, City of development, etc...

Also, names of leaders and martyrs who fought against the colonizer have replaced foreign names and exonyms: Ferryville became Menzel Bourguiba (which means House of Bourguiba, with reference to Habib Bourguiba, the first President of the Tunisian Republic); Pavillier became (Menzel Mhiri). Also were given names like Place of Ali El Belhouane, Hedi Chaker Avenue, Aziza Othmana Hospital, etc...

Historical names like Amilcar, Hannibal, Jughurta and Alissa were given to tourist complexes.

In 1969, historical names from Berber origin which were somehow forgotten by the population were officially adopted as a part of national patrimony. Among these are Haidra, telept, Utique, Chemtou, Bulla Regia.

5- The influence of local dialects on geographical names

The situation of the Arabic language in Tunisia is one of the factors having contributed to the distortion of geographical names since in addition to the original language there were various cultural levels as well as different levels of expression and pronunciation which have led to incompatibility between the historical writing of a name and its official one and between the local pronunciation and the national one. For example, the official name for Galâat Snen (Fort of Snen) may be spelled as Qalaat Snen (Fort of Snen) or Qalaat Al Asnam (Statues' Fort) or

Qalaat As Snam (a statue's Fort) and each toponym has a different meaning.

In addition to the Berber language influence, the Bedouin Arabic, which is richer in phonetic sounds than the modern Arabic, is the source of the existence of the linguistic sound « ga, قَا » in North Africa. The exodus from rural areas to cities imposed the Bedouin dialect to the urban one with an increase in the use of the letter « ga, قَا » normally inexistent in the classical Arabic alphabet. As a result, many names written and pronounced with « ga, قَا », were at the national level adopted. For instance: Gābis (قَابِس), Gamouda (قَمُودَة), Gafsa (قَفْصَة), Gsar (قَصْر), Gal'a (قَلْعَة), Al Gasrin (القَصْرِين) etc...

Local dialects have also led to the following distortions:

- The changing of the letters: « j, ج » to « z, ز » For instance: Jarjis (جرجيس) became Zarzis (زرزيس), the letter « l, ل » to « n, ن »; Takelsa (تاكلسة) became Takensa (تاكنسة)
- Replacing the letters « w, و » and « y, ي » by longer vowels: Ouled instead of Awled; Sidi instead of Sayyidi; Bou instead of Abou (Sidi Bou Said); Bin instead of Ibn (Bir Ali Bin Khe-lifa).

The name Kairouan (which means the cluster of caravans), is full of history and is emblematic of the creation and development of the Arab civilisation in North Africa. It is written in official documents « Al Qayrawān » but in daily speech it is spelled Al Qirwān.

6- The names on maps and road panels

The responsibility for assigning official names of cities and streets rests with the

Ministry of Interior under the decree of 21st June 1956 pertaining to administrative organization of the national territory. As for the majority of the names of geographic entities: rivers, mountains, localities, they are out of the reach of this system. It is through the official cartography cadastre, topographic map that those toponyms are recorded and officialized.

• 6.1 Historical phases in writing names on maps.

- The transcription from Arabic to Latin was first seriously contemplated during the French Protectorate in Tunisia when maps produced were mainly ordnance survey maps,
- Many decisions in this field were made on behalf of the Tunisian authorities and the other North African countries (Algeria, Morocco) by the French and civilian authorities such as the Military Geographic Service (SGA) and the National Geographic Institute (IGN) and the Saharan Research Institute (IRS),
- Many transcription systems either similar or complementary were adopted by different organizations,
- As a consequence, there was no common system of transcription,
- In 1983 the Tunisian Office of Topography and Cartography (O.T.C) decided to update its maps using the Latin transcription system,
- In order to set up a common cartographic transcription system in compliance with international standards, the Geographical Name Committee had held many meetings and workshops between experts from OTC and the con-

- cerned organizations like the Geographic and Hydrographic Services of the Ministry of Defense (DSGHA) and the Center of Economic and Social Studies and Researches (CERES),
- The committee has then adopted the Beirut 72 transcription system including some changes according to the Tunisian dialect, to produce and update the 1/25.000, 1/50.000, 1/50.000 and 1/200.000 topographic maps covering the country,
- Topographic maps with various scales produced with the French transcription system are still used.

In addition to the aforementioned factors (succession of civilisations, French colonization, coexistence of various languages and dialects and also different cultural levels...), the existence of various transcription systems as well as the responsibility for collecting geographical names by linguistically incompetent land surveyors may cause the name to lose its identity and adversely affect the patrimony.

- **6.2 Assigning names to cities and streets**

In Tunisia, the naming of streets, squares and roads is the responsibility of the Ministry of Interior. At the practical level, a committee chaired by a municipal councillor is charged with making the proposals about the assignment of names. This committee is comprised of the following members:

- Representatives of the Directorate of roads,
- Representatives of the Traffic Division,

- Responsibles for house numbering,
- University professors specialized in history, geography, Arabic and French and linguistics.

- **6.3 Types of names given**

Roads and streets are generally named after:

- Heroes and renowned persons with the priority given to Tunisian freedom fighters and martyrs,
- Prominent figures in sciences and humanities (doctors, poets, authors...),
- Celebrities,
- Flowers, birds and natural features,
- Virtues (patience, faithfulness...)
- Religious names,
- Historical names,
- Countries and cities.

Proposals are either made by the Ministry of Interior or by the committee members as follows:

- The committee studies the names and translates them into French,
- The list of names is submitted to the municipality board for approval,
- The decision of the board is then transmitted to the Governor for enforcement,
- All geographical names are gathered into a database,
- Names related to new administrative sectors/divisions are given numbers which are replaced later on by names.

- **6.4 The Medina of Tunis**

In 1979, the Medina of Tunis was named a UNESCO World Heritage

Site. Although some names in the Medina do not always convey happy connotations (Impasse du prisonnier/ prisoner alley, Impasse du martyr/ martyr alley, rue du gibet/ Gallows street, Rue de l'obscurité/Darkness street, etc...) or are unclear (Impasse de Iwaze/ Iwaze alley, Rue Kiou Kiou/ Kiou Kiou street, Rue Al Ghasroun/ Al Ghasroun street...), the committee decided to keep those names unchanged since each name should certainly have a story which reflects the real history of the place it belongs to.

Regarding the transcription system, names written on road panels are in Arabic and in French (using at about 95% the French transcription system with different spellings). This leads us to say that for the same reasons previously mentioned, the writing of names on road panels as the case on maps is not following a unique and standardized system of transcription.

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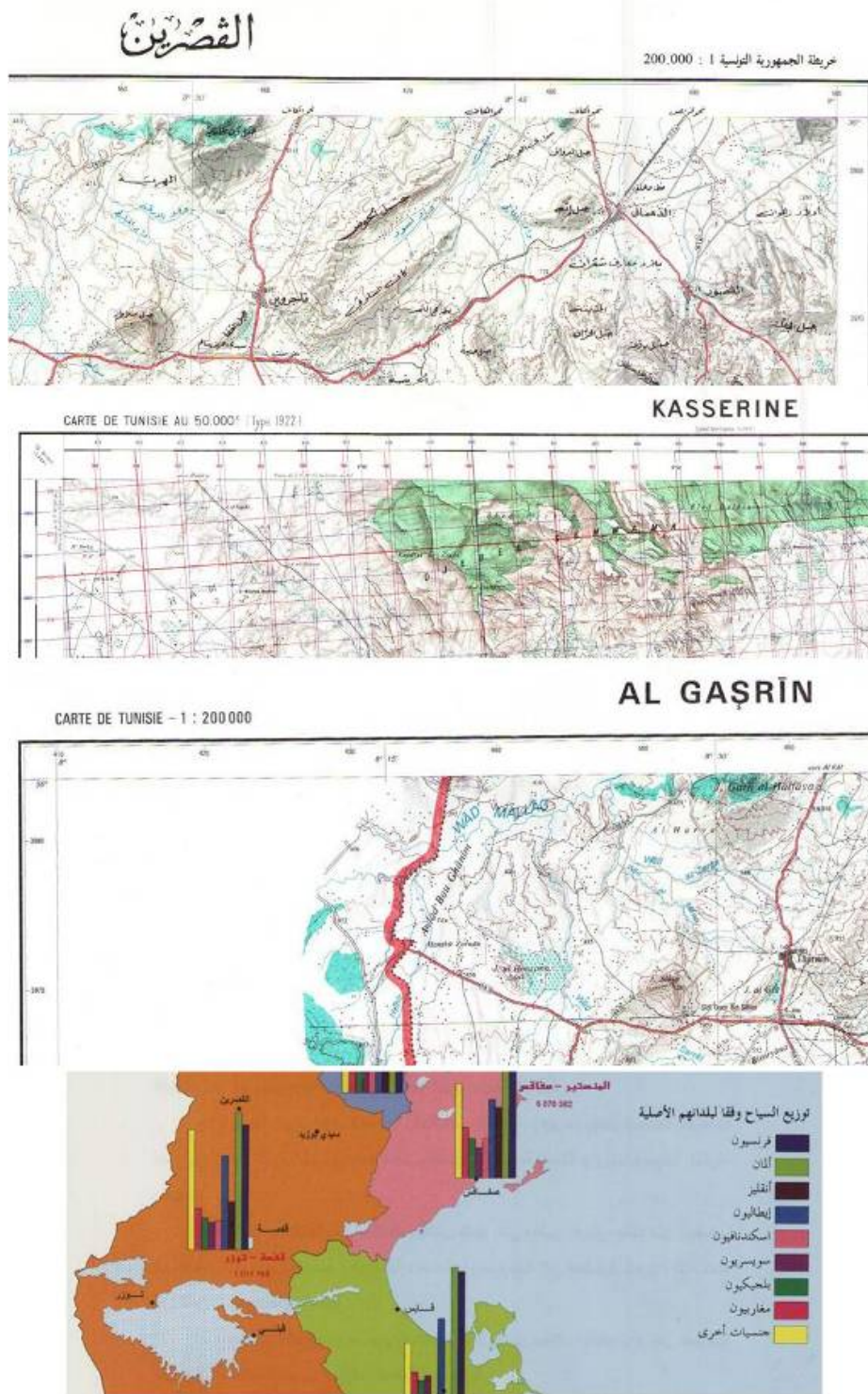
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Eng. Naïma FRIHA

National Centre For Cartography and Remote Sensing

Email: naima_fri@yahoo.fr

Example of different spellings for a city name



Examples of names on road panels and streets



Upcoming Meetings of Groups Associated with Geographical Names

International Conference on Indigenous Place Names 2010

- Exploring ways to reclaim cultural
identity through place names
(<http://www.icipn2010.no/>)
3-8 September 2010, Sámi University Col-
lege, Guovdageaidnu, Norway

International Hydrographic Organization – GEBCO – Sub-Committee on Under- sea Features (SCUFN)

([http:// www.iho-
ohi.net/english/committees-
wg/ircc/gebco/scufn.html](http://www.iho-ohi.net/english/committees-wg/ircc/gebco/scufn.html))
11-14 September 2010, Callao, Peru

Names Society of Southern Africa

Theme: Homo nominans: mankind, the
namer
Bertie Neethling, bneethling@uwc.ac.za)
NSA 2010, 26-28 October 2010, Club
Mykanos, South African West Coast (At-
lantic Ocean)

African Association of Remote Sensing and the Environment

8th International Conference
(<http://www.itc.nl/aarse/>)
25-29 October 2010, Addis Ababa, Ethio-
pia

Geotunis 2010

Fifth International Conference
(<http://www.geotunis.org/2010/>)
29 November – 3 December 2010, Tunis

American Association of Geographers (AAG) – Annual meeting 2011

(http://www.aag.org/cs/annual_conference),
12-16 April 2011, Seattle, U.S.A.

ICC 2011 – 25th International Carto- graphic Conference

(<http://www.icc2011.fr>)
3-8 July 2011, Paris, France

International Council of Onomastic Sci- ences (ICOS)

([http://www.icosweb.net/index.php/home.
html](http://www.icosweb.net/index.php/home.html)) – 24th ICOS Congress,
4-10 September 2011, Barcelona, Spain

International Geographical Union

(<http://www.igu-net.org/>)
IGU Regional Conference 2011 – Novem-
ber 2011, Santiago, Chile
IGU International Geographical Congress
2012 – 26-30 August 2012, Köln, Ger-
many

XXIV International Congress of Onomastic Sciences

“Names in daily life”

**Barcelona, Spain,
5-9 September 2011**

<http://barcelona.onomastica.cat/>

Promoted by the
International Council of Onomastic Sciences,
Universitat de Barcelona, and Generalitat de Catalunya

This international conference will serve as a platform and forum for the presentation and interdisciplinary and intercultural discussion and debate of all theoretical and practical questions concerning Onomastics – understood as the general science of names. The conference platform seeks to foster and promote the exchange of ideas between specialists from different language areas of the world and between specialists in different fields of knowledge and research. Its aim is to achieve this mission not in a neutral way but with a clearly defined objective: the defence and promotion of the science of Onomastics, at this the beginning of the 21st century, as a rich form of dialogue and intercommunication at the service of all branches of science.

Papers (individual, collective or institutional) are welcomed on the overall theme of names in everyday life and in the specific context of one of the **twelve sections** (the sub-sections can be found on the first circular, available on the website):

1. Terminology
2. Onomastic theory
3. Onomastics and linguistics
4. Names in society
5. Anthroponomastics
6. Toponomastics
7. Onomastics and history
8. Onomastics and geography
9. Onomastics and culture
10. Cartography and toponymy: new platforms for information management
11. Onomastics and the processes of standardization
12. Catalan onomastics

Submission of abstracts

Abstracts, as Word documents should contain a maximum of 2,000 characters and be sent to: info@barcelona.onomastica.cat, before **December 15, 2010**, and should indicate the name of the section to which you consider your paper belongs. Abstracts and paper presentations should be in the same language (Catalan, Spanish, English, German, French, or Occitan).

Forms for submitting abstracts can be downloaded from:

<http://barcelona.onomastica.cat/en/circulars/>