

UNGEEN Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation and UNGEEN Working Group on Publicity and Funding

Joint Meeting

**United Nations Headquarters, Temporary North Lawn Building, Conference Room D
New York**

**7 August 2012
18:15-19:20**

MINUTES

Participants

- Mr. Ki-Suk Lee, Convenor, WG on Evaluation and Implementation, UNGEEN (Republic of Korea)
- Mr. Ferjan Ormeling, Vice-Chair of the UNGEEN (Netherlands)
- Mr. Botolv Helleland, President of the 10th UNCSGN (Norway)

- Mr. Hubert Bergmann, Austrian Academy of Sciences (Austria)
- Mr. Sungjae Choo, Kyung-Hee University (Republic of Korea)
- Mr. Peder Gammeltoft, University of Copenhagen (Denmark)
- Mr. Tae-Ho Kim, National Geographic Information Institute (Republic of Korea)
- Mr. Hyunjin Jang, National Geographic Information Institute (Republic of Korea)
- Ms. I Ji Kim, Korea Hydrographic and Oceanographic Administration (Republic of Korea)
- Mr. Yeon-Taek Ryu, Chungbuk National University (Republic of Korea)
- Ms. Hyo Hyun Sung, Ewha Womans University (Republic of Korea)

1. Welcome

The meeting was opened by Mr. Ki-Suk Lee, Convenor of the WG on Evaluation and Implementation, who welcomed all participants.

2. Administrative matters (chairs, rapporteur, times, etc.)

Mr. Lee announced that he has the intention to step down as Convenor of the Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation, and that also Mr. David Munro will resign from his position of Convenor of the Working Group on Publicity and Funding. He presented the new Convenor of the Working Group of Evaluation and Implementation, Mr. Sungjae Choo, and the new Convenor of the Working Group of Publicity and Funding, Mr. Peder Gammeltoft, and handed the meeting conduct over to the two new Convenors.

Mr. Choo expressed his gratitude to Mr. Lee and the previous Rapporteur of the two Working Groups, Mr. Botolv Helleland, who would also resign from his position, for their accomplished work. Mr. Peder Gammeltoft said that although he is relatively new to the UNGEGN family he is looking forward to act as Convenor of his Working Group.

3. Mandate, objectives, responsibilities, etc. of the two Working Groups

Mr. Choo took the opportunity to welcome the representatives of two organizations that are sponsoring the two Working Groups, the National Geographic Information Institute of the Republic of Korea and the Korea Hydrographic and Oceanographic Administration, as well as the representatives of two academic institutions from the Republic of Korea, the Ewha Womans University and the Chungbuk National University.

4. Report from the UNGEGN Secretariat

Mr. Gammeltoft reported about activities of the UNGEGN Secretariat concerning the two Working Groups. He mentioned the well done and very informative UNGEGN homepage as well as the press kit and pointed out that with the speed UNGEGN activities and the activities of the participating countries are developing, updates have to be done though.

Mr. Botolv Helleland underlined the importance of PR and stated that updates will always be necessary. Mr. Choo reported that a Korean version of the press kit is being prepared which will probably be ready for the next UNGEGN session in 2014. The postcard published for the 10th UNCSGN was also mentioned.

5. Progress Report of Working Group on Publicity and Funding

a. Completed items since last WG meeting

The press kit and the commemorative post card (see item 4) were noted again.

b. Future funding activities

i. Burkina Faso: Expert to help with the work of the new place-names commission

Mr. Ferjan Ormeling suggested that this task should be taken over by a French speaking expert, who should return to that country after a couple of months in order to obtain information about the progress that has been made. He mentioned that costs would include two flights, whereas the stay would be provided by Burkina Faso.

ii. Toponymy course in Madagascar in 2013

Mr. Ormeling reported that UNGEGN had been approached by representatives from Madagascar present at the 10th UNCSGN and asked for a toponymy course. He proposed to select some parts of the courses already held and mentioned that in this very case the matter of language was rather delicate, with Madagascar being a francophone

country surrounded mostly by English speaking ones. As many participants from English speaking countries would participate, he proposed that the course should not be held in French exclusively, but that at least translation should be provided. He stated that this question was still to be resolved and that the course is planned for June 2013.

iii. Toponymic Terminology database

Mr. Gammeltoft reported that the basic framework for the UNGEGN Toponymic Terminology Database had been elaborated. He mentioned though that the UNICODE encoding of the Chinese and Arabic versions still has to be done, as well as the creation of a database structure, and that he hoped to get both financed by UNGEGN. According to an IT expert consulted total costs are supposed to amount to about 10.000-20.000 USD. Mr. Choo mentioned that the UNGEGN Resolution Database had been sponsored by the National Geographic Information Institute of the Republic of Korea, and that it is also hosted by this institution.

It was also mentioned at that point that two institutions of the Republic of Korea (Korea Hydrographic and Oceanographic Administration and the Northeast Asian History Foundation) had sponsored the participation of three experts at the 10th UNCSGN (one from Madagascar and two from Sri Lanka). Mr. Helleland stated that the Norwegian National Mapping Agency had also sponsored two participants (from Egypt and from Madagascar). The sponsorship by Sweden was also mentioned.

c. Information Bulletin

Mr. Gammeltoft encouraged submitting contributions for the UNGEGN Bulletin which is being edited twice a year by the UNGEGN Secretariat.

d. Wikipedia homepage

Mr. Gammeltoft reported that Mr. Hubert Bergmann had proposed to extend the English Wikipedia Article on UNGEGN.

e. UNGEGN website

Mr. Gammeltoft announced that he will take active part in the expansion of the UNGEGN website.

f. General publicity

Mr. Gammeltoft announced that he would prepare a press release for the closure of the 10th UNCSGN, which would follow the press release of the 2007 Conference. The general awareness of UNGEGN in the academic world and beyond was discussed. It was highly appreciated that at the 2011 Conference of the International Council of Onomastic Studies (ICOS) many UNGEGN experts had been present. It was analyzed how to gain the attention also of cartographic fora. In this context it was mentioned that a session within the 32nd International Geographical Congress, to be held at Cologne from 26th to 30th of August 2012, would be dedicated to geographical names.

6. Progress Report of Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation

a. Completed items since last WG meeting

In regard to this agenda item reference was made to two papers submitted for the 27th UNGEGN Session (W.P.13 [Report of the Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation] and W.P.14 [Evaluation of the 26th Session of UNGEGN: A Review of the Questionnaire Survey Results]) as well as to one paper submitted for the 10th UNCSGN (E/CONF.101/3 [Actions taken on resolutions adopted by the Ninth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names]).

b. Resolutions database (English, French and others)

Mr. Choo reported that the English and the French versions of the UNCSGN Resolutions Database are already online. Some minor technical shortcomings regarding the French version would currently be removed. The Spanish version of the resolutions could have been prepared in the future when the texts would have been ready; this would also be the case with the Arabic one. A report on the usage of the database (number of accesses, etc.) was envisaged.

c. Evaluation questionnaire

Mr. Choo reported that the results of the questionnaire survey of the 26th Session of UNGEGN had been analyzed, and that a similar survey would be conducted for the 27th Session and the 10th UNCSGN. The aim would be to create a questionnaire that does not exceed two pages (= one sheet). Help with the analysis would optionally be provided by the UNGEGN Secretariat.

d. Future direction: implementing resolutions

The assessment of implementations was discussed. Mr. Choo proposed to measure the frequency of resolutions implemented by countries.

7. IGU/ICA Joint Commission on Toponymy

It was reported that a Commission / Working Group on Toponymy had jointly been established by the International Geographical Union (IGU) and the International Cartographic Association (ICA) in 2011. Whereas ICOS would focus more on linguistic aspects of geonames, the newly formed IGU/ICA Joint Commission on Toponymy would concentrate on spatial issues.

8. Future of the two Working Groups (membership, convenors, rapporteur, ongoing works)

It was stated that the new Chair and new Vice Chair of UNGEGN should be invited to join the two Working Groups, and that beyond that more members should be attracted in general.

9. Other businesses

Mr. Helleland announced that he would step down as Rapporteur of the two Working Groups, handing this duty over to Mr. Bergmann. He also expressed his gratitude to the Republic of Korea for its sponsorship. Mr. Lee thanked Mr. Helleland for fulfilling his rapporteur duties.

10. Next meeting

Mr. Choo announced that it is planned to hold a joint meeting of the two Working Groups in 2013, probably in Korea, and that he would make a survey via e-mail to agree on the date. The meeting would eventually be sponsored by the National Geographic Information Institute of Korea.

11. Closing

The joint meeting was closed by the Convenors.