

**Twenty-seventh session  
30 July and 10 August 2012, New York**

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**Item 4 of the Provisional Agenda**

**Reports of the liaison officers**

**Report of the Liaison officer with the  
Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH)\***

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\* Prepared by: Roger L. Payne, Chairman, Working Group on Geographical Names, PAIGH

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### **Overview, 2007-2012**

Since the last conference, the working group has presented the José Joaquín Hungría Morell Geographic Names Course three times in Quito, Ecuador; Madrid, Spain; and Tegucigalpa, Honduras respectively. The course in Ecuador was from 31 March through 11 April 2008. The Instituto Geográfico Militar served as host and provided excellent training facilities and administrative support. The course was also scheduled to coincide with the 80th anniversary of the establishment of the Instituto Geográfico Militar, and was part of the numerous celebration events. The course in Madrid was held from 19 October through 30 October 2009 at The Instituto Geográfico Nacional, which served as host and provided excellent training facilities and administrative support. The course is, by design, held in a member State of PAIGH, but in 2009 by special request to and dispensation from the Office of the Secretary General, the course was held in the PAIGH observer State of Spain. The course was last presented 20 February – 2 March 2012 in Tegucigalpa, Honduras where the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Honduras served as host and provided excellent training facilities and administrative support at Facultad de Ciencias Espaciales (FACES).

### **The future**

#### ***Online web course***

The Cartographic Commission's Working Group on Geographical Names at the Pan American Institute of Geography & History (PAIGH) has only one major project at this time, which is the development of an online version of the geographic names course in applied toponymy. The goal is to implement the full online version by late 2012. No doubt, the conventional version of the course will become periodic, have a changed focus, and with special application once the full online version is available.

#### ***Integrated geographic names data system for the Latin American Community***

As we continue to report, the Working Group is most interested in pursuing and even directing or assisting in the establishment and development of an integrated geographic names data system for the Latin American Community to serve as the single authoritative source for users requiring standardized names for use in any project or task and also for toponymic support of national and regional spatial data infrastructures.

Further details on PAIGH's Working Group on Geographical Names have been filed under agenda item 15 of the 10<sup>th</sup> UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (E/CONF.101/CRP6).