

**Thirtieth session
New York, 7 and 18 August 2017**

English

Item 3 of the Provisional Agenda*

Reports of the working groups

Report of the Convenor of the Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy 2012-2017

Submitted by the Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy**

* GEGN/30/1

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Report of the Convenor of the UNGEGN Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy on its activities 2012-2017

Summary of the report:

1. UNGEGN-sponsored international training courses in toponymy held since the 10th UNCSGN, in Yogyakarta, Indonesia (2012), in Antananarivo, Madagascar (2013), Oran, Algeria (2014), Tunis (Tunisia (2015) and in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) as well as the José Joaquín Hungría Morell Geographic Names Course offered under the auspices of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH) held since 2012 in Panama City (2013) and in Aguascalientes (2014) are described; the international UNGEGN training course currently planned (for the Philippines, 2018) is mentioned.

The currently available educational material is discussed and the UNGEGN Advanced Toponymy Manual is described. The report ends with the composition of the working group.

A. International Training Courses held

2. UNGEGN stimulates the organisation of training courses in toponymy in order to increase awareness of the need for geographical names standardization and, more specifically, to help fill the need for qualified personnel. The general model of such courses is a one or two-week programme of lectures, alternated by exercises and fieldwork, and completed by instruction in digital processing techniques. As since 1982 at least one such a course, meant for an international audience, has been held each year, a suitable collection of lecture notes, manuals, fieldwork guides, etc. has been built up, from which prospective lecturers might draw their inspiration. A parallel series of courses has been organised by the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH), since 1987, in Latin American countries.

3. Since the tenth UNCSGN in 2012 the convenor has been informed about international training courses or workshops in toponymy held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia (2012), in Antananarivo, Madagascar (2013), in Panama City, Panama (2013), in Oran, Algeria (2014), in Aguascalientes, Mexico (2014), in Tunis, Tunisia (2015) and in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (in 2017).

4. From September 17-21, 2012, the National Geospatial Information Agency Badan Informasi Geospasial (BIG, formerly Bakosurtanal) in Indonesia was the local organizer of the 4th international training course held in conjunction with UNGEGN in that country. The venue was **Yogyakarta**. 75 participants, 9 of which from foreign countries (Oman 2, Philippines 2, Malaysia 4, Sri Lanka 1) attended the course. The local participants represented 33 Indonesian provinces and a number of local government areas - as the task of collecting and processing geographical names has been decentralized in Indonesia since 2008 - and some universities.

The second part of the fieldwork took place in two nearby archeological complexes, the Ratu Boko 8th century extensive acropolis overlooking the Prambanan plain, and the 9th century Banyunibo Buddhist temple close by, stressing the role of geographical names standardization as a means of preserving the cultural heritage.

5. In **Antananarivo, Madagascar**, Foiben-Taosarintanin' i Madagasikara (FTM) was the local organizer for a new kind of training course, held June 17-21, 2013, "Training the

trainers”, this time targeted at those who could be required to provide training in toponymy, either in-house at mapping organizations or at higher education teaching facilities. So, the emphasis had changed from passing on information about toponymy to providing awareness of the ways of passing along the information and skills and teaching the subject with the best training practices. There were 30 participants from 6 countries (Botswana (2), Burundi (1), Ethiopia (1) Kenya (1), Madagascar (24) and Uganda (1). A representative of UNECA in Addis Abeba (Ababa) joined the lecturing team in order to demonstrate how to work with the GEONYMS software, designed by UNECA and made available to African countries for the production of databases and gazetteers.

6*. The 23rd José Joaquín Hungría Morell Geographic Names Course offered under the auspices of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH) was held in **Panamá City, Panamá** from 15 -19 July 2013. The Instituto Geográfico Nacional Tommy Guardia served as host and provided excellent training facilities and administrative support at the Institute. The course was attended by 23 students, all from the Tommy Guardia Institute. The focus of this module was to have the students examine the existing committee’s structure, secretariat, and policies; and then to make presentations regarding the nature of the administrative organization and a complete analysis of the existing policies based upon lectures and exchange of ideas and analyses.

The primary focus of this course was on design and development of a national automated system for the national geographic names program, since the Instituto Geográfico Nacional Tommy Guardia (on behalf the national names authority) is developing an automated names database for this purpose and is in the initial stage of that development. The team of three instructors came from the USA, Mexico, and Honduras.

7**. The 24th José Joaquín Hungría Morell Geographic Names Course offered under the auspices of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH) was held at the INEGI (Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía) premises in **Aguascalientes, Mexico**, August 18-22, 2014. The course had been optimized into one week as a result of the more advanced status of applied toponymy. Still, techniques and problems of field collection were discussed and analyzed during the presentation of the Field Module in a classroom environment. Further, the Automation Module has been shortened by approximately 35 percent because today students require less basic training in navigating a database management system in a microprocessing environment. The course was comprised of 27 students from INEGI, representing headquarters and various field offices throughout Mexico. As part of the summary, the changing role of the name layer (one of the eight identified essential layers of a national digital map program) in a national spatial data environment, and the increasing requirements for digital mapping, both general and thematic, were examined and discussed. As part of the extensive program of data collection in preparation for populating the newly developed national name database, techniques of collecting data, extant and otherwise, were examined thoroughly, while various techniques, some already in use in Mexico and some not yet in use were examined with special emphasis on source type, value, and reliability (provenance). The team of three instructors was from the USA, Mexico, and Honduras.

8. **Oran, Algeria:** From September 13-15, 2014 – at the invitation of the Centre de Recherche en Anthropologie Sociale et Culturelle - a lecturing team of the UNGEGN Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy participated in the workshop “Formation en Toponymie”. 45 participants from all over Algeria: universities, local administration, ministries and the national

mapping agency attended. The first day, with a programme on the “Importance of standardization of place names” was meant for the sensibilisation of local administration officials of the issues involved. The second and third day were meant for an audience of staff involved in place name standardization and researchers, and were held at the university. New in this context was the ample attention for street names, an issue often neglected in developing countries. Apart from the foreign lecturers, 3 Algerian lecturers participated, describing the current practices, rules and regulations, and the terminology involved. Local organizer was Brahim Atoui.

9. **Tunis, Tunisia**, January 12-16, 2015. The Centre National de la Cartographie et de la Télédétection (CNCT) in Tunisia and the UNGEGN organised a workshop on geographical names, in Tunis, with a double agenda: the toponymic training of the newly appointed members of the National Committee of Toponymy of Tunisia (NCTT) and the elaboration of a road map for

the creation and functioning of African national names bureaux. With those objectives in mind, the lecturing team had been strengthened by Brahim Atoui, chair of the UNGEGN Task Force for Africa, Lucy Phalaagae (Botswana), Chair of the UNGEGN Africa South Division, and Oumar Sanon (Burkina Faso), standing chair of the UNGEGN Africa West Division.

The 18 Tunisian participants represented the various Tunisian ministries composing the National Committee of Toponymy in Tunisia. The local organisation had been put in place by UNGEGN vice-chair Col. Mme Naima Friha and her team from CNCT. The fieldwork, directed by Mme Elisabeth Calvarin, was held in the Bizerte area on the north coast around the village of Ghar el Melh. As this village had been the main Ottoman naval port in Africa in the past, and currently was the centre of a wetlands conservation project, there was ample opportunity to go into the cultural heritage of the names.

For the road map for the creation and functioning of African national names bureaux at a general level, a draft framework was elaborated to be extended later by the Task team for Africa. For one particular country – Tunisia - during the workshop drafts were developed regarding the mandate and functioning of the NCTT, the principles and directives for naming to be adhered to.

10. **Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**. With 34 participants from 7 countries (Angola, Argentina, Brazil, Mozambique, Portugal, Sao Tomé and Uruguay) the Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatística (IBGE) and the UNGEGN WG on Training Courses in Toponymy organized an International Course in toponymy from 15-19 May, 2017. Lecturers came from Brazil, Canada, Germany and the Netherlands. The fieldwork that was part of the course was different from the usual (topographical) fieldwork in the following sense: usually all names found through interviews and signs would be collected in the field, but this time the exercise consisted of a certification fieldwork: the IBGE staff consisting of Vania Nagem, Ana Resende and Beatriz Souza, had studied the geographical names of the area in advance, through old maps, current map editions, historical and current publications, and had come up with a number of ‘doubtful’ names, that is names whose spelling, location or feature category could not be ascertained. So, it became the task of those participating in this fieldwork exercise to come up with the proper data for those names. In advance, the fieldwork had been introduced, through a description of the place name history of the area, (by the chair of joint ICA/IGU Commission on Toponymy Prof. Paulo Menezes) as well as by a geographical and historical description of the fieldwork area. This tied in well with the certification focus of the fieldwork, that led to more discussion on the cultural heritage represented by the toponyms in the area.

B. International training courses planned

11. The National Mapping Agency of the **Philippines**, NAMRIA, is organizing an international toponymy course for the Asia Southeast Division in the Philippines in early 2018. This will be a new course in so far as the collecting, processing and dissemination of maritime names (both sea names and names of undersea topographical features) will be dealt with as well. Apart from UNSD, support has been promised by Canada, Germany, the Republic of Korea and the Netherlands.

C. National training

12. In the framework of the 200k project undertaken by France (IGN) in Burkina Faso, toponymy courses were given for the staff of the Institut géographique du Burkina (IGB) and for the committee on geographical names of Burkina, 2012-2014. Similar courses were given in the 2012-2016 period, for the training of the staff of the Institut géographique national (IGN Mali) in Bamako and for the benefit of the Mali national committee for geographical names. In 2015 a similar project has started up in Benin, aimed at completion in 2018, where, within the framework of the 50K project, assisted by IGN France, staff of the local NMCA in Cotonou is collecting geographical names based on a rigorous quality control.

D. Training material

13. Currently, three training courses on the web are being developed or maintained: a French-speaking course, developed by Elisabeth Calvarin (Paris) and Henri Dorion (Montréal), which might be hosted by ENSG, Paris; a Spanish-speaking course developed by Roger Payne at PAIGH, that might be hosted from the Instituto Geografico Nacional in Madrid, and an English-speaking course developed by the International Cartographic Association, to be found at both <http://lazarus.elte.hu/cet/> and at https://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/docs/_data_ICAcourses/index.html. See figure 2 for its contents. This web course, realized with support from UNSD and Utrecht University, was maintained and some corrections were made at the behest of Japan.

14. Distance training programmes are also offered by ENSG Ecole de la géomatique in Noisy le Grand, Cité Descartes, close to Paris. In 2017 it offers three toponymic course modules, that can be accessed through <http://cours-fad-public.ensg.eu/course/index.php?categoryid=41>. These are :



- a module on "linguistic toponymy",
- a module on "toponymic training for French-speaking countries",
- a module on "cartographic toponymy".

15***. One of the educational pilot projects of the French National Committee for toponymy (Commission nationale de toponymie, CNT) is focused on pupils of intermediate or bridge classes destined to receive refugee children who, arriving in France, discover a new environment and are confronted with language challenges. Linked to the activities of *Patrimoine sans frontières* (PSF) and favouring social cohesion, the toponymic project proposed by CNT for these intermediate school classes could answer in a playful way the current priorities, that is mastering the French language and social and cultural integration

When the module is chosen by the young pupils, the concepts of cultural heritage and of toponymy are explained to them and the pupils can compare their own cultural history as expressed in place names, with that of their new environment. With the help of CNT representatives the pupils would so be enabled to become aware of (and not forget) their own cultural and linguistic history and to become aware of the French cultural history as well.

Mon toponyme		Je découvre	
			
Nom du lieu	_____	Nom du lieu	_____
Situation du lieu	_____	Situation du lieu	_____
Langue	_____	Langue	_____
Histoire du nom <i>D'où vient ce nom ? Que signifie-t-il ?</i>	_____ _____ _____	Histoire du nom <i>D'où vient ce nom ? Que signifie-t-il ?</i>	_____ _____ _____
J'explique mon choix.	_____ _____ _____	J'explique mon choix.	_____ _____ _____

LA TOPONYMIE

Ma toponymie		Je découvre	
			
Nom du lieu	Bamako	Nom du lieu	Bois de Vincennes
Nature du lieu	capitale	Nature du lieu	bois
Situation du lieu	Mali	Situation du lieu	France
Langue	bambara	Langue	française
Histoire du nom	Nom qui vient d'une légende. Il signifie « marigot du crocodile »	Histoire du nom	Nom qui vient du gaulois. Il désigne la « forêt ». Il a donné son nom au château-fort.
J'explique mon choix.		J'explique mon choix.	
Date	8 novembre 2016	Date	_____ novembre 2016

Document de travail

http://cniig.gouv.fr 7

Figure 1 Forms used in the CNT educational project

16. The following books can be used in toponymic education:

-Naftali Kadmon – *Toponymy: The Lore, Laws of Language of Geographical Names* (2000) New York: Vantage Press.

-The United Nations sell the following publications which also can be downloaded: *Glossary of Terms for the Standardization of Geographical Names* (New York 2002), *Manual for the national standardization of geographical names* (New York, 2006, available in the 6 UN languages), and *Technical reference manual for the standardization of geographical names* (New York, 2007).

-*The world of maps*. This popular manual on cartography and GIS, which can be downloaded from the ICA website (<http://mapyear.org/the-world-of-maps-overview/>) and is or will soon be translated into French, Spanish, Italian, Hungarian, Chinese, German and Arabic, contains a chapter on Toponymy.

ICA course on Toponymy - PROGRAM				
	COURSE MODULES*	SELF STUDY	EXERCISE(S)	DOCUMENT(S)
	1 Introduction	S01	E01	
	2 The naming Process	S02		
	3 Functions of geographical names	S03		
	4 National Agencies	S04		
	5 Field collection systems	S05		
	6 Reference systems	S06	E06	D06
	7 Office processing, standardization	S07		
	8 Multilingual areas, minority names	S08		
	9 Languages	S09	E09	D09
	10 Writing systems	S10	E10	D10
	11 Conversion systems	S11	E11	D11
	12 UN Role	S12		
	13 Exonyms	S13		
	14 Toponymical Guidelines	S14		
	15 Toponymical data files	S15		
	16 Names placement	S16	E16	D16
	17 Legal status of names	S17	E17	D17
	18 Editorial issues (atlases)	S18	E18	D18
	19 Toponymical Planning	S19	E19	D19
	20 Names as cultural heritage	S20	E20	D20

Figure 2 – Image of the ICA course on toponymy (see section 13)

17. The advanced toponymy manual

An advanced toponymy manual, intended as follow-up for those that took a toponymy web course, was produced with the help of an international team of authors. 30 chapters were produced up till June 2017 by 21 authors from 12 countries. At least three more chapters have been promised and can be inserted later: the manual has been set up in such a way that later on additional chapters can be added, such as a chapter on the collection of Aboriginal toponyms in Australia. The contents of the manual is described in a separate paper for the conference.

E. Working group composition

18. Composition of the Working group

The UNGEGN Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy during the 2012-2017 term effectively consisted of:

Mr B. Atoui
Mme Elisabeth Calvarin
Ms Babo Gabalape
Ms Helen Kerfoot
Mr F.J. Ormeling (convenor)
Mr R. Payne
Ms Lucy Phalaagae
Mr P. Raper
Mr P-G. Zaccheddu

Appendix 1. Programme of the 2017 Rio de Janeiro UNGEGN training course in toponymy

Days	Sessions
Monday	Opening session -Addresses by local and international representatives -Introduction of the participants
	Session 1: Functions of geographical names 1.1. Naming principles 1.2. Terminology; the UNGEGN web course
	Session 2: Standardization and national names programmes 2.1. Standardization of geographical names 2.2. National agencies; functioning of geographical names bureaus 2.3. Managing a national names programme
Tuesday	Session 3 Standardization and UNGEGN support 3.1. Standardization of statistical area names 3.2. Support provided by UNGEGN in standardizing geographical names
	Session 4 Fieldwork preparation 4.1. Place name history of Rio de Janeiro state 4.2. Names collection techniques 4.3. Name forms 4.4. Geographical and historical description of the fieldwork area 4.5. GPS demonstration
Wednesday	Fieldwork
Thursday	Session 5: Processing the geographical names collected 5.1. Processing the collected names for their submission to the names bureau 5.2. Simulation of a names bureau meeting 5.3. Data base creation
	Session 6: Building the database 6.1. Hands on experience in building the database 6.2. Developing derived products from the database: gazetteers
Friday	Session 7: Map labelling and names dissemination programmes 7.1. How to insert the names collected in a digital map 7.2. Exercise in map lettering 7.3. Names dissemination programmes 7.4. Presentation of national names standardization programmes by course participants
	Session 8 : Names dissemination and cultural heritage 8.1. Names servers 8.2. World atlas databases 8.3. Toponyms as cultural heritage
	Session 9: Closing session -Handing out of diplomas -Closing addresses

*) Based on Report of the Liaison officer with PAIGH, Working paper no 67/8, Twenty-eight UNGEGN session, 2014

**) Taken from PAIGH USNS 2014 annual report, 2015

***) Based on a Report by Mme Calvarin