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Standardization of Geographical Names**

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Item 17 (b) of the provisional agenda\*

**Toponymic education and practice and international cooperation:  
training courses in toponymy****Impact of toponymy training courses in Brazil, 2007****Submitted by Brazil\*\*****Summary\*\*\***

The Brazilian Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatística (IBGE) is promoting toponymy courses through its Escola Nacional de Ciências Estatísticas (ENCE), which is responsible for the implementation of the annual training plan of the Institute. Following approval by the Institute's Committee for the Coordination of Training of a project proposed by the Coordination of Cartography, the annual training plan 2007 included courses in toponymy, two of which were held in the first semester and enrolled 33 students each. With the support of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History, the second course was the Pan American Institute International Course on Applied Toponymy, held yearly in a different country of Latin America by the Working Group on Toponymy of its Cartography Commission. It was hosted by the Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatística in its headquarters in Rio de Janeiro. Almost 30 per cent of the students enrolled in this second course work in other governmental agencies, States and countries and in consequence the course represented an important step towards the construction of the national and international network for toponymy standardization. The last Pan American Institute course in Brazil had been held in 1992. It is worth pointing out that, regardless of the technological improvements that are producing enormous changes in cartographic production procedures, the collection of names will have always to rely on human efforts. Therefore, human resources capacity must be built and renewed whenever possible and for this reason, the Coordination of Cartography plans to propose more courses for 2008.

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\*\*\* The full text of the paper is being issued in English only as document E/CONF.98/97/Add.1.



The 2007 training activities in Brazil follow the participation of Brazilian representatives in the 2006 international events supported by the United Nations: the twenty-third session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names in Vienna and the international toponymy course held in Maputo by the Group of Experts Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy.

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