

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

**COEX, Conference Room 302
Seoul, Republic of Korea**

27 October 2011

MINUTES

Participants

Mr. Ki-Suk Lee, Convenor, WG on Evaluation and Implementation, UNGEEN (Republic of Korea)
Mr. David Munro, Convenor, WG on Publicity and Funding, UNGEEN (United Kingdom)
Ms. Helen Kerfoot, Chairperson, UNGEEN (Canada)
Mr. Brahim Atoui, Vice Chairperson, UNGEEN (Algeria)
Mr. Ferjan Ormeling, Vice Chairperson, UNGEEN (Netherlands)
Mr. Botolv Helleland, Rapporteur (Norway)
Mr. Sungjae Choo, Professor, Kyung-Hee University (Republic of Korea)

Observers

Ms. Yua Jin, North East Foundation (Republic of Korea)
Mr. Han Tae-I, North East Foundation (Republic of Korea)
Mr. Gun-Hyuk Lim, National Geographic Information Institute (Republic of Korea)

1. Welcome

Welcoming remarks were made by Ms. Kerfoot (UNGEEN Chair), Mr. Lee and Mr. Munro (Working Group Convenors) and the participants were introduced. Thanks were expressed to the organizers and the sponsors.

2. Administrative matters

It was agreed that Mr. Munro would chair the first five items on the agenda and Mr. Lee the remainder of the items, and that Mr. Helleland would act as rapporteur. The provisional agenda was adopted with numbering changes from item 9 onwards. It was agreed that minutes of the meeting would be circulated by email after the meeting.

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

The mandates as currently on the UNGEEN website were reviewed and it was agreed to update some paragraphs of the text to reflect current activities of the Working Group on Publicity and Funding.

4. Report from the UNGEGN Secretariat

In the absence of representatives from the Secretariat, the UNGEGN Chair reported on their behalf.

a. Completed items since the 26th Session of UNGEGN

- The publication and posting on the website of the Report of the 26th Session of UNGEGN. The report was accepted by ECOSOC.
- Information Bulletin #41 was published in October 2011 and is posted on the website (see <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/bulletin.html>).
- The World Geographical Names Database was last updated 13 September 2011 and will be updated on a quarterly basis.
- Work on the UNGEGN website continued.
- Dates and venue for the 10th UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names have been finalized: 31 July to 9 August 2012 in New York.
- The 27th Session of UNGEGN will be held in New York on 30 July and 10 August 2012, in conjunction with the Conference.

b. Staff changes

Sibylle Marxgut who looked after the UNGEGN World Geographical Names Database has now left the UN, and other arrangements have been made for updating and uploading the new data.

c. A look ahead

i. Status of funding for training

UNSD will continue to support UNGEGN training activities, within its limited means, especially the participation of representatives from developing countries.

ii. Funding for participation of developing countries at the 10th Conference

The WG members expressed the need for the Secretariat to fund the participation of two or three participants from developing countries.

iii. Information Bulletin

The next Bulletin (No. 42) is due for March 2012. Contributions will be collected through January/February.

iv. UNGEGN website

The website will continue to be updated on a regular basis and the work on uploading past documents will continue. The contributions of experts may be needed for documents that have not been located at UNHQ.

5. Progress Report of the Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation after the Vienna meeting

Mr. Lee reported on the activities of the Working Group, highlighting the preparations for the UNGEGN participation in the GGIM Forum. Mr. Choo reported on the UNGEGN resolutions database. Discussion followed on the creation of a French version to be undertaken by NGII. It is anticipated that Marie-Eve Bisson will assist Mr. Choo with any translation needed and that the French language database will be ready in 2012. Mr. Choo has already arranged for 10th Conference resolutions to be included when they are ready.

Action: *Mr. Atoui to confirm Ms. Bisson's participation with Division francophone. Chairperson to send French text (in Word) to Mr. Choo.*

5.1 Review of Evaluation questionnaire forms received at the 26th Session of UNGEGN

Three documents were tabled:

- Conference evaluation: 26th Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, Vienna 2–6 May 2011 (Annex 1)
 - Some data from the Tabulation of Evaluation responses from the 26th UNGEGN Session 2011 (Annex 2)
 - Information extracted on suggested changes etc., according to responses received
- The UNGEGN Chair described how and why the evaluation had been compiled. There were more responses this time than in Nairobi (2009) because only one form had been circulated for completion in Vienna (8 responses received in 2009, 77 in 2011)
- Ms. Kerfoot thanked Ms. Warschburger and Ms Frani for arranging to organize the material gathered in the evaluations. She summarized findings shown in the tabulation sheet (Annex 2) which indicated a general level of satisfaction with the meeting. Of UNGEGN's goals the most important were viewed as:
- (a) to provide a forum for discussion of geographical names standardization, and
 - (b) to provide updates on working on geographical names standardization around the world

Action: *Mr. Ormeling to provide Mr. Choo with English translation of French & Spanish responses. Mr. Choo and Working Group to prepare a paper on the survey for the 27th UNGEGN Session and also to provide a short overview for the 10th Conference.*

• After reviewing the comments and suggestions, the following ideas were recorded for planning the 10th Conference:

- **Special presentations**
 - GGIM
 - Disaster management and crowd sourcing
 - Names developments in Africa
 - World map (UN Cartography)
 - UN Gazetteer framework, highlighting Indonesia pilot project
 - UNESCO (intangible cultural heritage)

- **Lunch time activities**

- How to standardize geographical names (in particular for developing countries)
 - challenges of standardization
 - geographical names and laws
- ESRI
- ISO
- Data dissemination
- Street names of New York

- **Exhibition**

- Available space to be checked
- Possibility of virtual posters
 - on web
 - rolling by on a TV screen
- Materials for display
 - Use core material
 - From Working Groups, Divisions and Countries, if enough space

- **Other suggestions**

- Possibility of presenting abstracts of papers on a screen
- Assure that chairs introduce and summarize agenda items
- In Bulletin, encourage filing of papers under agenda item 7 (following up UN resolutions)
- Working Groups could come up with other ideas for activities

Action: Chair and Secretariat

6. Progress Report of the Working Group on Publicity and Funding

The Convenor reported on activities of the Working Group since the joint meeting in Vancouver, June 2010, including completion of the media kit (launched in Vienna and on the UNGEGN website), postcard for Vienna, preparation of press releases for the 26th Session, a Working Group report for the 26th Session and drafting of a submission for postage stamps (to commemorate the 10th UNSGN Conference) to UN postal authorities for 2012 (unsuccessful). Mr. Choo mentioned plans to translate the media kit into Korean. Mr. Atoui requested that copies of the media kit be sent to CODIST in 2012.

Action: Convenor to request potential publications for 2012-2017 in the Bulletin (so that a resolution can be prepared) and to update information on UNGEGN in Wikipedia.

Funding

- As no indications of training courses have yet been received for 2012, Mr. Ormeling would like to see funding be made available to complete the web training course.

- Funding for 2–3 people from developing countries for the 10th Conference to be requested from UN Statistics. Those looking for funding should be encouraged to send in a request to the Secretariat. It would be helpful if those countries offering financial support could also inform the Secretariat.
- A general resolution needs to be written for the 10th Conference for Secretariat support. This should include any publication being proposed by UNGEGN for the next five years.

Action: *UNGEGN Chair, Secretariat and Convenor*

7. Future of the two Working Groups (membership, new convenors, ongoing work)

It was agreed that the two Working Groups should continue as separate groups. Mr. Choo would be pleased to take over the Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation. A new convenor and rapporteur are still to be sought for the Working Group on Publication and Funding.

8. Overview of Forum of GGIM

Everybody agreed that UNGEGN's participation at GGIM, through its activity room, had been a worthwhile venture. 35 countries/organizations had visited for the posters, the talks and to pick up publications. ESRI requested copies of 8 of the posters for use in a December conference. A brief press note on geoinformation and geographical names was written for translation into Korean.

Action: *Chair to gather contact information from business cards for the Secretariat's mailing list. Chair to arrange for lunch talks and general press article to be included on the UNGEGN website.*

9. Progress of the Joint (ICA/IGU) Commission

Correspondence regarding a joint ICA/IGU toponymy commission was reviewed. In Paris at ICA in July 2011 it was agreed that a toponymy working group should be established under the leadership of Paolo de Menezes from Brazil. This will be followed up at the IGU in Santiago, Chile in November 2011 so that an IGU Commission can be formalized. The President of ICA indicated that the joint Working Group/Commission should set goals (preferably a publication) for the coming 4 years. This should relate closely to the work and the needs of UNGEGN.

10. Task Team for Africa

It was reported that UNECA is organizing a workshop in Botswana in November 2011 to work on a strategy for UNECA to promote and assist with the standardization of geographical names in Africa. Yacob Zewoldi will be involved as an advisor with this endeavour.

11. Appreciation

The Working Group members expressed their appreciation to Mr. Munro and Mr. Lee for their leadership, their efforts and their contributions to UNGEGN over the past ten years.

12. Next meeting

The next meeting will take place in New York in 2012 in conjunction with the 10th Conference.