ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE ARAB DIVISION OF EXPERTS IN GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES (ADEGN)

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Introduction

• The Arab Division of experts in Geographical Names is composed of Arab experts in geographical names assigned by their countries to collect, control, standardize and process the names of places and natural landmarks in their countries. It is affiliated with the Council of Arab Economic Unity/League of Arab States and forms part of the United Nations group of experts on geographical names (UNGE GN) - the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).
Arab Countries

- Algeria
- Bahrain
- Comoros
- Djibouti
- Egypt
- Iraq
- Jordan
- Kuwait
- Lebanon
- Libya
- Morocco

- Mauritania
- Oman
- Qatar
- Saudi Arabia
- Sudan
- Syrian Arab Republic
- Somalia
- State of Palestine
- Tunisia
- United Arab Emirates
- Yemen

http://www.leagueofarabstates.net/ar/aboutlas/Pages/CountryData.aspx
ADEGN Sub Technical committees

- Arab Romanization system committee.
- Geographic Names Data Management.
Division objectives

• Preserving the cultural, social and historical heritage of Arab countries

• Establishing the necessary foundations and rules for collecting, controlling, standardizing and using Arabic geographical names at the national, regional and global levels and solving the linguistic and phonetic problems that hinder their standardization.

• Exchanging scientific and technical expertise that helps all member states find ways to issue their own geographical dictionaries, the Unified Arab Geographical Dictionary, and other topics related to their work.

• Establishing mechanisms for joint cooperation between Arab organizations dealing with geographical sciences in general and map making in particular and similar regional and international organizations.

• Paying attention to geographical names in the Arab world in terms of controlling and unifying them and enabling all member states of the Arab division to use and write them in a unified manner.

• Highlighting the great economic, social, cultural, historical and religious benefits resulting from collecting, controlling, preserving and unifying geographical names.
Division tasks

• Work to develop appropriate means and mechanisms for standardizing geographical names based on the rules and requirements applicable in each member country.
• Work to standardize geographical names in Arab countries.
• Cooperating with the relevant linguistic authorities, geographic information committees, and relevant authorities to reach the best results.
• Establishing the necessary bodies and subcommittees, developing technical means, and holding technical and linguistic training seminars to make the Division’s work successful in standardizing geographical names.
Division tasks

• Taking measures that would disseminate the principles and systems for standardizing Arabic geographical names and transferring them to Latin letters and other languages, and urging those working in the field of map making (cartography) to apply these principles and systems. And staying in constant contact with other divisions of the United Nations to push all international organizations to implement it at the local, regional and global levels.

• Preparing the work of regional conferences held at the level of member states, and global conferences held at the level of the United Nations, and finding the necessary means to implement their decisions.

• Coordinating the work of the Linguistics and Geographic Information Committees and encouraging the members of these committees to cooperate to reach the best results.
• The Arab Division of Geographical Names Experts holds a conference every two years,
• ADEGN in cooperation with the Royal Jordanian Geographical Center and the National Cadastral Authority of Oman organized the ninth conference of Arab experts in geographical names, which was held in the Omani capital during the period from 5-7/12/2022, Muscat, entitled (Geospatial Integration between Name and Location: importance and impact).
• Resolution of 9th Conference
• The Arab Division also holds sub-meetings on the sidelines of meetings and conferences of the United nations of group of experts on Geographical Names
ADEGN Meetings

• Zoom Meeting of ADEGN Bureau May 23, 2023, chaired by Engineer Muammar Kamel Haddadin, The latest developments related to the work of the Arab Division were discussed according to its agenda.

• Participation of Arab Division of experts in Geographical Names, represented by the Chair of the Division, in the 57th regular meeting of specialized Arab federations, organized by the Council of Arab Economic Unity in the League of Arab States in cooperation with the Arab Trainers Union during the period (28 - 31) May 2023 in the Jordanian capital, Amman, with the aim of organizing economic relations between Arab countries.
ADEGN website

- Jordan has created and hosted a website for the Arab Division in both Arabic and English, and it was recently updated.
- It contains information about the Arab Division and its most important achievements.
- This website is considered as a platform for Arab experts to follow news and publish specialized scientific research and articles related to geographical names, communication between experts, whether at the Arab or international levels, also enables member states to publish their achievements in the fields of geographical names for everyone to see.

www.adegn.info
Journal of Geographical Names

- ADEGN Issued the seventh issue / 2022 and the eighth issue / 2023 of the Journal of Geographical Names, which is a periodical magazine of the Arab Division, and it was published on its website,
- It included the most important activities carried out by member states and valuable scientific articles and lectures.
- https://www.adegn.info/en/asma_magazine


https://www.ngii.go.kr/portal/ungn/mainArab.do
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- **أولًا**: ألف باتية نقل الحروف العربية إلى الحروف الرومانية
- **جمعة**: حروف الرومانية

The most prominent achievements of Arab countries in 2022-2023
Achievements of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan:

- Several training workshops were held in the Jordanian capital in the field of geographical names in the period between 20-22/9/2022, as well as in the period from 25-26/1/2023, as well as in the period from 24-26/10/2023 in the field of geographical names and practical training. On Romanization.

- The index of Jordanian sites has been updated for the purpose of establishing a reference for all sites in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and it has been arranged and classified according to plates as well as according to alphabetical letters. This index includes more than thirteen thousand names, and for the purposes of facilitating dealing with this index, it was prepared on (CD) according to Access software. To be distributed and circulated within Jordan to all relevant ministries and institutions.

- Jordan has created and hosted a website for the Arab Division in both Arabic and English, and it was recently updated.
Achievements of Egypt

Data services, applications and products:

- CAPMAS Egypt’s Geodatabase: The central agency for public mobilization and statistics (CAPMAS) continues regularly collecting and updating its geodatabase with placenames (districts, towns, streets, villages, and water features and establishments, suburbs ...)

- CAPMAS have conducted in 2019 field survey for identifying spatial location and names of 30,065 small villages (suburbs).

- The National Project for the Integration of the Spatial Information Infrastructure of the Egyptian Planning System: the project aims to integrate the spatial data layers of government agencies with the creation of a unified base map on a scale of 1/2500 and to achieve integration and sharing of data between the various state institutions, The geographical names is among the basic layers of spatial integration.
Achievements of Egypt

Coordination and cooperation with UNGEGN:

- The international consultation to monitor and evaluate UNGEGN strategy and program (2021-2029), by providing with notes and proposed amendments.

- Preparing the UNGEGN conferences Arabic version of resolutions searchable database with Evaluation, Implementation and Publicity working group in partnership with the Korea Geographic Information Authority in and published on http://www.ngii.go.kr/portal/ungn/mainArab.do.

- Preparing The Arabic version of resolutions adapted by eleven United nations conferences of geographical names (the original document prepared by the Ministry of Natural Resources in Canada), which includes the resolutions of the eleventh United Nations conferences, https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/documents/RES_UN_Arabic_updated_1-11_CONF_final.pdf
Achievements of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

- Based on what was stipulated in the Kingdom’s Vision 2030, which stated, “We will expand the scope of electronic services provided to include other services such as geographic information systems, health and educational services,” the following has been accomplished:
  
  First: Collecting and documenting the names of geographical places for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
  
  Second: inventory, collect and verify the names of the islands.
  
  Third: Creating a database of geographical names
Achievements of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Fourth - The General Authority for Survey and Geospatial Information presented an interactive program that provides correct and accurate information about the names of places and natural and human geographical features spread throughout the various regions of the Kingdom, through modern satellite images, to be a comprehensive and reliable source that serves government and private agencies and sectors, and various segments of society, including researchers and those interested.

Fifth - A delegation of representatives of the Survey and Geospatial Works Sector at the General Authority for Survey and Geospatial Information participated in the training course in coordination with a group of geographical names experts. With the participation of 75 participants from member countries. The course aims to lay the necessary foundations and rules for establishing national committees concerned with controlling, standardizing and using geographical names, and to exchange scientific and technical expertise that helps all countries find ways to issue their own geographical gazetteers and to enable all member states to monitor and collect geographical names by using modern technologies and spreading the culture of Paying attention to geographical names, preserving them, and preparing lists of them, fully documenting them in the office and in the field, and writing them in a unified manner.
Achievements of the Sultanate of Oman

- Hosting the ninth conference of Arab experts in geographical names during the period from 5-7 December 2022.
- Launching the geospatial portal.
- Producing a map of the Sultanate of Oman (administrative scope).
- Create a database of geographical names. The database includes more than 15,000 approved names.
Achievements of the State of Qatar

• The Center for Geographic Information Systems carried out a project to collect and document geographical names through a geographical survey that extended for eighteen months, along with heritage information about Qatar. The number of geographical names collected reached 3,500 geographical names.

• The Center has developed applications to search for and display geographical names with all their details that work through the Internet, such as the Geographic Information Systems portal, and through mobile devices, such as the Al-Murshid application.

• The Geographic Information Systems Center has created digital topographic maps in sizes from 1:25,000 to 1:200,000, showing geographical names in Arabic and English, and also showing the natural landmarks present in the country.
Business plan for 2023-2024

- Arab Division obtained initial approvals to hold the tenth Arab conference on geographical names in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in 2024.
- Activating the role of the Division’s technical committees such as the Romanization Systems Committee and the Geographical Names Data Management Committee, by holding periodical meetings to achieve their tasks and duties.
- Developing various applications related to geographical names to develop work in this field, as well as applications specialized in automatic Romanization of Arabic geographical names.
- Promoting Cooperation within Arab country for building a unified Arabic dictionary and an Arabic atlas by the division’s subcommittees.
- Putting initial plan for creating a database of Arabic geographical names.
- Addressing the Arab countries and through official means to establish bodies or committees of standardization of geographical names which are not available in them.
Thank you for listening