National Dialogue

Agenda item 4a

Governments on the situation in their countries and on the progress made in standardization of geographical names
Day 1
Theme: National names standardization

Topics:

a. Legal frameworks, laws involved, Place Names Acts
b. Policies, principles & procedures
c. Programme planning (e.g. national/board strategic plans)
d. New boards, or those in process of development
e. International names standardization (inc. exonyms/country names)
f. Challenges (e.g. where several gov. depts & local authorities have naming responsibilities. How does this work and good practices.
1a. Legal frameworks, laws involved, Place Names Acts

National reports that consider this topic:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Armenia</th>
<th>Iceland</th>
<th>Peru</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>Islamic Republic of Iran</td>
<td>Poland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cabo Verde</td>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>Republic of Moldova</td>
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<td>Cambodia</td>
<td>Jordan</td>
<td>Russian Federation</td>
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<td>Canada</td>
<td>Lithuania</td>
<td>South Africa</td>
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<td>Mozambique</td>
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<td>Kingdom of the Netherlands</td>
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United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNEGGN)
THEME 1a: National names standardization: Legal frameworks, laws involved, Place Names Acts

UKRAINE

ALINA SUSHCHYK
Head of the International Cooperation Division

The State Service of Ukraine for Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre
1st May 2023
Updating geonames responsibilities - what are the changes?

On 20 September 2022, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine amended the Law of Ukraine "On Geographical Names" to improve activities related to geographical names. These amendments:

- define the powers of the Government;
- establish the principle of openness of the State Register of Geographical Names;
- determine the holder and administrator of the State Register of Geographical Names;
- regulate the procedure for conducting expertise of proposals and decisions of state authorities and local self-government bodies on naming and renaming geographical objects, etc.

In the ongoing process of renaming the settlements and other geographical objects, the citizens take an active part via online tools.

The State Register of Geographical Names contains more than 105,000 names of geographical objects of Ukraine, which are constantly updated according to official sources of information.
# Policies, principles & procedures

*National reports that consider this topic:*

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<td>Denmark</td>
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THEME 1b: National names standardization: Policies, principles and procedures

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

CATHERINE CHEETHAM
Head, Permanent Committee on Geographical Names
1st May 2023
Treatment of Welsh on UK Ordnance Survey maps

Ordnance Survey applies dual names to features when both names are accepted and in local use throughout Wales.

Names are never translated and must be in active use. Some names are shown only in Welsh as this is the accepted name.
THEME 1b: National names standardization: Policies, principles and procedures

ARGENTINA

María Dolores Puente
Head of the Directorate of Geography
National Geographic Institute
1st May 2023
Argentina, through the National Geographic Institute (IGN), seeks to strengthen links and relationships with other geographic information producing agencies in order to create a single official Geographic Names Database.
1c. Programme planning (e.g. national/board strategic plans)

National reports that consider this topic:

Canada
Croatia
Denmark
Indonesia
Malaysia
THEME 1c: Programme planning (e.g. national/board strategic plans)

GREENLAND (DENMARK)

ARNAQ B. JOHANSEN
PROJECT MANAGER IN COLLECTION OF PLACE NAMES
Oqaasileriffik
May 1, 2023
The new features in the landscape and communicative functions in place names

Examples on changes in features and the new ones

| Red          | Greenland Ice Sheet before |
| Purple       | Greenland Ice Sheet now    |
| Yellow / Blue| Before nunatak              |
|              | Now island                  |
| Green        | New features nunataks       |
|              | bay sound                   |

Examples on communicative functions in place names

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Greenlandic</th>
<th>Interpretation to English</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nuuk</td>
<td>A cape</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maniitsoq</td>
<td>Uneven [terrain]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avalleq</td>
<td>The outermost</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kujalleq</td>
<td>The southernmost</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timerleq</td>
<td>The innermost</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kitsissut</td>
<td>Islands lying far out to sea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ukiivik</td>
<td>Winter place</td>
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<tr>
<td>Upernivik</td>
<td>Spring place</td>
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<td>Aasivik</td>
<td>Summer place</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ammassivik</td>
<td>Capelin fishing place</td>
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<td>Eqaluit</td>
<td>Arctic Chars, trouts</td>
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1d. New boards, or those in process of development

*National reports that consider this topic:*

- Cambodia
- Dominican Republic
- Peru
- Republic of Moldova
1e. International names standardization (inc. exonyms/country names)

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THEME 1e:
National names standardization:
International names standardization
(inc. exonyms/country names)

POLAND

Maciej Zych
Chair, Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names
Outside the Republic of Poland
1st May 2023
Standardization of geographical names of the world (exonyms) in Poland

- Establishing, changing and abolishing the recommended Polish geographical names of the world (Polish exonyms)
- Publishing lists of the recommended Polish geographical names of the world:
  - list of exonyms
  - list of country names
- Establishing the principles of romanization from languages which use non-Roman writing systems:
  - romanization rules for 38 languages
- Recommending foreign names of important geographical objects located in the territory of Poland:
  - recommended English names
- International cooperation in the field of standardization of geographical names:
  - participation in UNGEGN activities
  - representation of Poland on international conferences
1f. Challenges (e.g. where several gov. depts & local authorities have naming responsibilities). How does this work and good practices.

National reports that consider this topic:

- Estonia
- Greece
- Indonesia
- Japan
- Latvia
- Norway
- Saudi Arabia
THEME 1f: Coordination Between Various Departments on Geographical Names

JAPAN

Akira Sasagawa
Director of Geographic Information Analysis Research Division,
Geospatial Information Authority of Japan
May 1st, 2023
Coordination Between Various Departments on Geographical Names

In Japan, geographical names are collected, arranged, and standardized by relevant governmental agencies through the coordination among their administrative activities and mandates.

A. The efforts made by relevant organizations for standardization
   1. Standardization of geographical names of administrative districts
   2. Unification of geographical names of natural features
   3. Standardization of geographical names of undersea features
   4. Adoption of Antarctic geographical names

B. National Geographical Names Gazetteer
THEME 1f: Challenges of multiple departments or agencies/academia participating in standardization

SAUDI ARABIA

Dr. Eng. Mohammed Yahya Alsayel
President of General Authority for Survey and Geospatial Information
May 1st, 2023
National names standardization

Some general questions

• As there are many approaches to establishing a national names authority, are there materials you would like to see included on the UNGEGN website to assist countries in this process?

• Some countries have a national names authority established by law/act/decree, but it is not fully functioning. Can UNGEGN provide any documentation or links to assist in these cases?

• Only some countries have boards with a mandate to decide on the use of names for places, etc. outside their own countries. How do other countries derive the authority for such names, for example, for international maps and in texts?