

**UNGEGN Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation**  
**Seoul National University, Seoul**  
**December 2-4, 2003**

**Participants:**

Mr. Ki-Suk Lee (Republic of Korea), Convenor  
Mr. Brahim Atoui (Algeria), Vice-Chair UNGEGN  
Ms. Helen Kerfoot (Canada) Chair UNGEGN  
Mr. Botolv Helleland (Norway) Rapporteur  
Mr. Amor Laaribi (UNGEGN Secretariat)  
Ms. Uranbileg Sandag (Mongolia)

**Agenda:**

Adoption of the Agenda

- 1: General aims and objectives of the Working Group
  - 2: Report and analysis of the Berlin evaluation sheets
  - 3: Discussion on better and more effective operation of UNGEGN and Conferences
  - 4: Supporting and encouraging developing countries for names standardization
  - 5: Implementation of UN resolutions and the Aims and Functions of UNGEGN
  - 6: Other aspects of Working Group tasks
  - 7: Adoption of report of the meeting
- Closing the meeting

Prof. Lee, as Chair, opened the meeting and welcomed participants. Past and present membership of the Working Group was reviewed, along with the summary about the WG as currently found on the UNGEGN website. It was stressed that membership of the WG is still open and that others may be interested in participating in any meetings of the WG at the 22<sup>nd</sup> UNGEGN.

**General objectives** of the Working Group were established:

- (1) To follow up systematically the implementation of UN Conference resolutions and to find ways to encourage their implementation
- (2) To evaluate the status quo and to propose actions to increase the effectiveness of the UN Conferences, UNGEGN and its divisions and Working Groups, in their efforts to achieve national and international standardization of geographical names

## Operational objectives

- (1) Identify resolutions that have been difficult to implement and make recommendations
- (2) Make recommendations to increase effectiveness of UN/UNGEGN under the following broad categories:
  - A. Participation
  - B. Documentation
  - C. Conferences/Sessions – their location, timing and length
  - D. Organization of the Conferences/Sessions
  - E. Structure and functioning of UNGEGN/Divisions/Working Groups
  - F. Support and funding for developing countries
  - G. Communications

## General observations and some particular tasks to be followed up

### 1 Implementation of resolutions

- Further discussion to address operational objective (1)  
Action: Working Group on Evaluation
- Try to get geographical names on the agenda of Committee on Development Information / Economic Commission for Africa (CODI/ECA)  
Action: UNGEGN Secretariat
- Divisions encouraged to look at the implementation of new resolutions  
Action: Divisions
- Implementation of resolutions is the responsibility of countries – also to make them known to authorities  
Action: Countries
- Table summarizing information received on existing national names authorities to be put on the UNGEGN website  
Action: Chair/UNGEGN Secretariat
- UN Statistics Division's suggestion to create a world database of names of countries, major cities etc. should be encouraged and accessible through the website  
Action: UNGEGN Secretariat outline possibility at 22<sup>nd</sup> UNGEGN Session

### 2A Participation

- Working Groups should be open for all participants with an active interest
- More effort to invite special agencies to Conferences  
Action: UNGEGN

Secretariat/Chair

- Increase participation of non-participating countries, by
  - Mailing useful documents
  - Sending information about the UNGEGN website
  - Through personal contacts
  - Add Surveyors General to UNGEGN mailing list for countries where no experts are listed Action: Chair/UNGEGN Secretariat

## 2B Documentation

- Enforce deadline for submission of Conference documents; put on the website ahead of time Action: UNGEGN Secretariat
- It is difficult to change document numbering and method of distribution, as this is governed by UN practice
- Create lists of older documents on particular topics of interest (e.g. exonyms) for posting on the UNGEGN website Action: Various Working Groups

## 2C Conferences/Sessions – their location, timing and length

- Try to alternate UNGEGN sessions between North America and Europe (i.e. Europe in 2006). Note: other UN locations less possible Action: UNGEGN Secretariat
- No country has yet offered to host 2007 Conference
- Prepare to rejuvenate conferences; ideas to go to 2007 Conference should be brought to UNGEGN in 2006. For example, invite speakers on certain topics Action: Working Group on Evaluation

## 2D Organization of the Conferences/Sessions

- Holding division meetings during Conference hours should be considered in planning the Conference schedule Action: UNGEGN Secretariat
- Country reports should have summaries and should have a limited time for presentation at Conferences Action: UNGEGN Secretariat/Chair
- To avoid political issues:
  - restate that work is by consensus;
  - documents only accepted before deadlines (allowing UN editing);
  - schedule small group meetings with relevant parties ahead of Conference/Session Action: UNGEGN Secretariat
- In Conference schedule allow adequate “free” time for the development of

resolutions

Action: UNGEGN Secretariat

- Presentations using PowerPoint, videos, overheads are possible, if necessary, and arranged ahead
- In setting up schedules, plans for agenda items on particular days can only be done a few weeks ahead
- For the UNGEGN website, information should be added to assist new participants for registration and the start of the Conferences/UNGEGN Sessions

## **2E Structure and functioning of UNGEGN/Divisions/Working Groups**

- Provide guidelines for the tasks and responsibilities of Working Group Convenors and Division Chairs Action: UNGEGN Bureau
- Prepare guidelines for potential organizers of training courses. (Some should already be available from 2002 course and from those organizing courses in 2004.) Action: Working Group on Training Courses

## **2F Support and funding for developing countries**

- Can issue invitations to working group and division meetings through the Secretariat to help for funding of individuals by their own governments Action: Chairs/Convenors and Secretariat
- Divisions are encouraged to invite participants from neighbouring developing countries to Division meetings Action: Division Chairs
- UN fellowships for trainees from developing countries were given for training in 2002. Funds have also been used for trainers as consultants to developing countries (as for Sudan, 2003). 2004 support for training courses will be for those in Australia and Mozambique (UN likely to cover return travel costs only for a number of participants)
- UNGEGN should try for (partial) support for trainees from non-participating regions. For the 22<sup>nd</sup> UNGEGN special attention will be given to a trainee from Africa Action: UNGEGN Secretariat/Chair
- Documents “kit”. Gather basic documents (e.g. resolutions, statutes and rules) and put them together on the website and make paper copies available at each Conference/Session Action: UNGEGN Secretariat/Chair
- Prepare brief notes/guidelines to assist those wishing to create their own website Action: UNGEGN Secretariat
- Send UNGEGN experts to developing countries regarding setting up national authorities, databases and other projects (e.g. through UNDP requests)

- Better to seek funding through an integrated approach with National Spatial Data Infrastructure, cadastre, natural hazards, de-mining, etc. rather than through names projects alone
- Get speakers from UNDP, World Bank, etc. regarding funding of projects. For 22<sup>nd</sup> UNGEGN try for a speaker from UNDP Action: UNGEGN Secretariat
- Templates for development of gazetteers, fieldwork collection, etc. should be developed by the appropriate Working Groups Action: Working Groups on Training, Databases and Gazetteers

## 2G Communications

- UNGEGN Bulletin:
  - Should contain Working Group and Division summaries
  - Could go by e-mail, web, mail
  - Continue to send paper copy to permanent missions
  - Contain information on UNGEGN arrangements  
Action: UNGEGN Secretariat+ experts
- UNGEGN website: make more documents available; publicize the website as much as possible; constructive comments appreciated  
Action: UNGEGN Secretariat+ experts
- To make UNGEGN better known and to raise awareness:
  - Information sheets with dates, website, etc. for distribution at UN cartographic conferences, etc.
  - Brochures to be distributed, e.g. IGC in Glasgow, 2004  
Action: Working Group on Publicity and Funding
- Developing countries encouraged to contribute to UNGEGN Bulletin (e.g. Mongolia in No. 27) Action: Chair/Divisions
- 2006/2007 is next budgeting biennium for UN. Applications for publications should be submitted by 2004  
Action: Working Group on Publicity and Funding
- Dissemination of Conference reports and UNGEGN reports to permanent missions and to participants. Also put on the web (but not on CD-ROM)  
Action: UNGEGN Secretariat
- Pass on, as relevant, specific recommendations from Berlin evaluation sheets to appropriate Working Groups and liaison officers (e.g. regarding Antarctic names)  
Action: UNGEGN Chair
- More effort to have UNGEGN Chair/Bureau members present at meetings in

less represented regions

- Evaluation forms for 2007 Conference; distribute early in second week. Review form ahead and have it translated Action: Working Group on Evaluation
- List of all experts and their contact addresses etc. to be distributed at 22<sup>nd</sup> UNGEGN and updates collected Action: UNGEGN Secretariat
- Maintain information on national authorities. Have information form translated and available for use at 22<sup>nd</sup> UNGEGN and put form on the website Action: UNGEGN Secretariat

### **Reporting of the Working Group**

It was agreed that the following reports would be prepared:

- (1) Minutes of the Working Group meeting
- (2) Summary report of the Working Group for the UNGEGN Bulletin (Convenor to prepare immediately)
- (3) Report of the Working Group to 22<sup>nd</sup> Session of UNGEGN (Convenor to create report based on the minutes)
- (4) Report from evaluation forms from the Eighth Conference (Convenor)
- (5) Other papers to UNGEGN for discussion by this Working Group (e.g. table of information on names authorities – UNGEGN Chair)

### **Next meeting of the Working Group**

As part of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Session of UNGEGN in April 2004.

### **Note:**

In accordance with resolution VIII/5 every effort was made to have a joint meeting of the East Asia (other China) Division and the Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation. Unfortunately, countries of the Division were unable to participate, but a representative from Mongolia was invited and gave a presentation on the status of geographical names standardization in her country.