Geographical names standardization supporting national development

Tuesday 31 August 2021
from 10:00 am -12:00 EDT (New York)

Cecille Blake
UNGEGN Secretariat, UN Statistics Division,
an Initiative implemented by the Americas Regional Committee of United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM)
CARIGEEO’S PURPOSE

To improve Spatial Data Infrastructures at the national and regional levels in the Caribbean

- building on recent and on-going developments
- leveraging indigenous skills and resources
- utilising external resources and technical expertise
CARIGEO Scope of Work

Aligned to UN-GGIM Frameworks

Objectives
1. Governance and Policies
2. Collaboration and Partnerships
3. Datasets and Tools
4. Capacity Development
5. Communication and Engagement

Main Activities
1. Assessment of current situation
2. Development of national and regional fundamental geospatial datasets
3. Implementation of regional and national Web-based GIS services to improve data sharing
4. Establish a regional strategy to better connect data to decision making
5. Establish a study on geospatial information policy: recommendations and good practices
6. Capacity building, Communication and Engagement
Welcome to UNGEGN
Standardizing geographical names matters

Join a community of experts dedicated to promoting the collection, standardization and dissemination of geographical names.

Start connecting, collaborating and communicating

Website: https://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNEGGN/default.html
E-mail: geoinfo_unsd@un.org
Twitter: @UNSD_GEGN
UNGEVN - UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names

- A subsidiary body of ECOSOC
- Promotes standardization of geographical names in response to national requirements
- Provides a forum for discussion – geographers, linguists, administrators, GIS specialists, cartographers ...

- **1959 – Resolution 715A (XXVII) of ECOSOC**
  - To bring together experts to advise on geographical names for use in UN Cartography

- **1960 – 1st meeting of experts in New York**
  - USA, France, UK, Iran, Guatemala, China

- **1967 - First Conference held in Geneva**
What UNGEGN is NOT

• Decision maker on feature names
• Point of arbitration on disputes over names
• Place to air political issues, even if they are related in some way to place names
• Decision maker on what processes, legislation or policy is correct for any country
UNGEGN aims

• Encourage the creation of national names authorities
  • backed by legislation
  • respect local usage of names
  • collect, store and disseminate authorized names - for government and public use
• Raise awareness of the value and benefits of geographical names standardization
• Recognize the value of geographical names both to identify place and as elements of cultural heritage
• Develop single scientifically-based systems of romanization
• Contribute to work of UN bodies and collaborate with non-UN organizations
UNGEKGN
Structure

Supported by the UN Statistical Division through the UNGEGN Secretariat
Officers of UNGEGN

Chairperson
• Mr. Pierre Jaillard, France

Vice-Chairpersons
• Mr. Sungjae Choo, Republic of Korea
• Mr. Hasanuddin Abidin, Indonesia / Ms. Susan Birtles, Australia

Rapporteurs
• Mr. Trent C. Palmer, USA
• Ms. Wendy Shaw, New Zealand
UNGEGN working groups

- Romanization
- Training
- Data files / gazetteers
- Evaluation / implementation
- Terminology
- Exonyms
- Country names
- Cultural heritage
- Task Team for Africa
- Coordination of Toponymic Guidelines
## UNGEGN Divisions

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<td>Asia South-West (other than Arabic)</td>
<td>French-speaking</td>
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1. International Cartographic Association (ICA)
2. Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)
3. International Council of Onomastic Sciences (ICOS)
4. International Council on Indigenous Place Names (ICIPN)
5. International Hydrographic Organization (IHO)
6. International Organization for Standardization (ISO) Technical Committee 211 (TC/211)
7. Pan-American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH)
8. Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR)
9. Unicode Consortium
UNGE GN Website
https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/

Very large reference source

• UNGEGN Bulletin
• Manuals, UNSD — United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names
• World Geographical Names Database
• Resolutions/recommendations
• Web-based training
• Events, Links, Tweets, and more
Capacity building

• Coordinates toponymic training courses
  • UNSD – given the availability of funds - sponsors 3-5 participants and 3 trainers in support of Toponomy training courses.
    • 2017 Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in collaboration with IBGE and
    • 2018 Manila, Philippines in collaboration with NAMRIA
  
• Maintains UNGEGN-ICA web course in Toponomy – released in July 2012

UNGEGN-ICA webcourse on Toponymy (First release July 2012) (un.org)
Evolution of UNGEGN – recent history

• 2017 – Reorganization to “new” UNGEGN
  • To convene every 2 years starting in 2019
  • Reports to ECOSOC

• 2019 – Creating Strategic Plan
  • Including Programme of Work
    • Document (CRP.94) for approval at this session (Agenda #7)

• 2021 – Strategic Plan Approved at 2021 session
  • Inviting Member States to become involved in the implementation of the Programme of Work
Join in the standardization of geographical names

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<th>Contribute</th>
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<td>Join in</td>
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<td>Write</td>
<td>Contribute your national experiences and articles to the Bulletin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tweet</td>
<td>Tweet, retweet and follow at @UNSD_GEGN</td>
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THANK YOU

UNEGGN Secretariat
United Nations
New York

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