



UNITED NATIONS GROUP OF EXPERTS ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

INFORMATION BULLETIN

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UNGEKN website:

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo>

UNGEEN
INFORMATION
BULLETIN

(FORMERLY NEWSLETTER)

The *Information Bulletin of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names* (formerly UNGEGN Newsletter) is issued approximately twice a year by the Secretariat of the Group. The Secretariat is established within the Statistics Division (UNSD), Department for Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), Secretariat of the United Nations. It publishes contributions/reports from the Experts of the Group, its Linguistic/Geographical Divisions and its Working Groups. Contributions for the Information Bulletin can only be considered when they are made available in digital form. They

should be sent to the following address:

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The Bulletin is issued without formal editing.

Preface

Message from the Chairperson

Dear Colleagues

International Year of Languages

Did you know that 2008 has been declared by the United Nations as the International Year of Languages? In this context you might be interested to read the *UNESCO Courier*, vol. 1, 2008, which can be accessed online on the UNESCO website, or more specifically at http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL_ID=41344&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html. You will find interesting articles on dealing with 1,650 languages in India, writing in Wolof, language of the Kallawaya in the Bolivian Andes, the Ainu language in Japan, Kyrgyz as the national language of Kyrgyzstan ... and so on.

Meetings - the UNGEGN website

You may have noticed on the UNGEGN website (unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo) that a new link has been made to ***Events in 2008 and 2009***. When Division chairs or Working Group convenors have supplied information, this is included on the page of *Events*. It is most encouraging to see the various initiatives that are taking place in different parts of the world to discuss questions related to geographical names standardization and to follow up the resolutions of past UN Conferences. In this issue of the *Bulletin*, you can find reports of some Working Groups and Divisions that have met recently, as well as information on forthcoming meetings.

25th Session of UNGEGN, 2009

We are well on the way to the 25th Session of UNGEGN to be held at the United Nations facilities in Nairobi, Kenya in May 2009. Further information about the dates, the facilities, security, etc will be posted on the UNGEGN website.

Please let us know if you have suggestions to be considered for:

- *Special presentations*
- *Workshops*

❖ *Poster display*

A message to all African countries! At the UNGEGN Session in Nairobi, we would again like to have a poster exhibit. On this occasion, it is suggested that African countries should have the opportunity to show their material ... any work on names in connection with mapping or cultural heritage, for example: field collection of names; names and maps; gazetteers and/or databases, etc. You will be contacted about this, but please email Yacob Zewoldi (zewoldi@un.org) if you have particular ideas to offer at this time.

❖ *Some pointers for papers and presentations at UNGEGN in 2009.*

- An Abstract should be included
- The appropriate Agenda item should be identified
- There is NO agenda item for Country reports. If necessary, such material must be included within Division reports or related to other agenda items

- In papers submitted, if possible draw attention to issues and resolution of these issues, rather than just providing a report
- In general, paper presentations will be allocated 5 minutes for summary or highlights

❖ *Division reports*

- A template for activities and reporting of Divisions has been considered by the Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation, but the great variation between Divisions makes one realize that one solution does not fit all cases.

- Suggestions for reporting to UNGEGN:
 - (1) Divisions and countries within them which are not very active. Report could include the status quo in countries of the Division; “assets” of the Division; needs of the countries of the Division; possible plans to move ahead.

- (2) More active countries and divisions Report should concentrate on divisional projects; common issues, plans and solutions; results of division meetings; possible assistance to less organized divisions/countries ... (Information from individual countries could be included as annexes to the report or presented in relation to other agenda items.)

Please help us to help you!

Publicity and communication!

We encourage you to put a link to the UNGEGN website (unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo) on your own group/departmental websites.

UNGEKN Bulletin

What would you like to see in the *UNGEKN Bulletin*?

- Short articles on topics related to geographical names standardization
- Part of the Bulletin dedicated to themes, for example
 - Place names changes

- Examples of best practice
- Highlighting some terms from the UNGEGN *Glossary*
- Information on conferences of associated organizations, for instance ICA, IGU, ICOS
 - Please send your information!!
- Your suggestions???

Would you contribute a short article for 2008 or 2009? Topic:

UNGEKN World Geonames Database

We are trying to gather the endonyms of cities/towns over 100,000 for each country of the world. We need your help! So far we have received data from 46 countries (Australia, Austria, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Madagascar, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uzbekistan, Vietnam).

If your country is not listed here, please ask those responsible for your geographical names to do the following:

- Find the listing for your country on the UN Statistics Division website (<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sconcerns/densurb/urban.aspx>)
- Update the list of names to reflect cities/towns with a population over 100,000 (actual population is not needed)
- If you are using a non-Roman script, prepare the list of names in your own script and in the Romanized forms (noting the Romanization system used)
- Add the coordinates of latitude and longitude for each name, if at all possible.
- Email a Word or Excel file of this information to Yacob Zewoldi (zewoldi@un.org) and

myself (hkerfoot@nrcan.gc.ca). For less common characters please use Unicode, embed the characters, or supply the font with the file.

- If a voice file (.wav file) can be recorded for these city names, we would really like to include it in the database.

Do you have questions? Please contact Yacob or myself!

A plea to Division chairs ... could you please help us by contacting countries in your Divi-

sion so that we may continue to make progress with the UNGEGN Database.

I thank you all for your continued interest in geographical names standardization. I wish you success in the months ahead and look forward to meeting you again in 2009.

Helen Kerfoot

UNGEEN Chair

Ottawa, Canada

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News from Headquarters

Message from the Secretariat

Dear UNGEGN Experts,

The Secretariat would like to inform you that the report of the Ninth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (UNCSGN) has been adopted by ECOSOC at its Substantive Session on 23 July 2008. An electronic copy of Ninth UNCSGN which took place in New York, from 21 to 30 August 2007 (E/CONF.98/136) is available in all the six official languages of the United Nations at <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/9thuncsgnsessionreport.htm>. The Report of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) on the work of its twenty-fourth session (E/2007/89) is also available at <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/24thungegnsessionreport.htm>.

As you may well know, the twenty-fifth session of UNGEGN will be held in Nairobi, Kenya as recommended by the Ninth UNCSGN. The date for the session is 5 to 12 May 2009. We will post, on the UNGEGN website, information on hotels, transport and the like in due course. We will also inform you when Note Verbales are sent to the Permanent Missions to UN in New York so that you can follow up on accreditation. You can visit the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON) web site for information on the conference service at <http://www.unon.org/about.php>.

The Secretariat has been active in support of the work of UNGEGN. Among the activities carried out by the UNGEGN Secretariat are:

- the 2007 Addendum of the *Glossary of Terms for the Standardization of Geographical Names* is now available in the 6 UN official languages on the UNGEGN Website
http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/glossary_add.htm.
- UNGEGN, in collaboration with UNSD, has created a geo-referenced database to store the names of countries and major cities in different languages. In addition, a web interface is in development to present the geographical information on-line utilizing the services of a Web Map Server. Further detail on this is given in the section following this under the title "The UNGEGN Geographical Names Database".
- the restructuring and updating of the UNGEGN website is underway.
- more of the reports and technical documents of the nine Conferences and the 24 UNGEGN sessions held since 1967 are now available in pdf format on the UNGEGN website. This work will continue with the aim to make the website a comprehensive source of documentation.
- News and Events on the Geographic Information page of the UNSD website announces and provides brief information on UNGEGN Division and Working Group meetings at
<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/events.htm>.

Besides the 25th session of UNGEGN, the Secretariat will be organizing the following

two regional cartographic conferences in 2009:

- (i) The 9th United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas in New York, 10-14 August 2009.
- (ii) The 18th United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok in October 2009.

I hope this information will help you to plan ahead your attendance in these meetings.

Finally, I would like to thank those who contributed to this *Bulletin*. The next Information Bulletin will be issued in early 2009 before the 25th session of UNGEGN.

Looking forward to meeting you all in Nairobi!

Yacob Zewoldi

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The UNGEGN Geographical Names Database

UNGEKN, in collaboration with UNSD, has created a geo-referenced database to store the names of countries and major cities in different languages. In addition, a web interface is in development to present the geographical information on-line utilizing the services of a Web Map Server. The names are linked to a map offering information on the geographical location, the language, spelling and pronunciation.

The geographical names are provided by UNGEGN ensuring accurate and reliable data. As of now, the expert group provided country names in the official language(s) of the country resulting in close to 200 endonyms for 106 UN member states. If applicable, country endonyms are available in Romanized form.

The database also holds country names in the six official languages from the United Nations Multilingual Terminology Database (<http://unterm.un.org>), a multilingual terminology database which provides United Nations nomenclature and special terms.








Over 2300 country names for 195 countries and areas in the six official UN languages have been uploaded.

After this first collection of country names, the focus for UNGEGN is now to collect names for major cities in their endonymic form, then in the UN languages. Other language variants will be added at a later stage. As of now the expert group, through authorities in the countries, has collected city names for 45 countries, 8 including sound (.wav) files, of which about 550 names have already been included in the database. (*Please refer to the Message of the Chairperson to provide your assistance.*)

The work on capital cities is currently in progress. UNGEGN, through the Convenors of the Working Groups on Country Names and on Romanization Systems, has already provided endonyms for capitals of about 150 countries; those remaining are being verified. The United Nations Multilingual Terminology Database is also a key data source for capital city names.

The application development will continue to meet the requirements of a growing collection of geographical names. The current focus, however, is to store the information provided on city names, in database format so that it is archived in an organized way and therefore easily accessible.

The application will soon be open for testing the web interface and reviewing the geographical names. For further information please contact Sibylle Marxgut at marxgut@un.org.

Country names			
Endonyms			
Language	Short name	Formal name	
German	Deutschland	Bundesrepublik Deutschland (die)	
United Nations languages			
Language	Short name	Formal name	
Arabic	ألمانيا	جمهورية ألمانيا الاتحادية	
Chinese	德国	德意志联邦共和国	
English	Germany	the Federal Republic of Germany	
French	Allemagne (l') [fém.]	la République fédérale d'Allemagne	
Russian	Германия	Федеративная Республика Германия	
Spanish	Alemania	la República Federal de Alemania	

From the Divisions

East Central and South-East Europe Division

19th Session of the East Central and South-East Europe Division

Zagreb, 19-21 November 2008

The 19th Session of the East Central and South-East Europe Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) is being organized by the Croatian Geodetic Institute and State Geodetic Administration, 19-21 November 2008 in Zagreb.

One of the main purposes of activities on the UNGEGN Division level is realization of resolutions from the UN Conferences. For November in Zagreb, we would like the problem of national standardization in connection with global and regional standardization processes to be the main theme of the meeting, as well as development of database products and services.

This will be an opportunity to develop collaboration with colleagues from other countries and institutions, as far as our linguistic/geographical UNGEGN Division is concerned.

More information – letter of invitation, general program, agenda, registration form, and information on logistics – can be accessed on the UNGEGN website in the Schedule of Events for 2008 and 2009 (unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/events.htm)

Agenda

1. Opening of the session
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. National standardization:
 - field collection and office treatment of names
 - treatment of names in multilingual areas
 - administrative structure of national names authorities
4. Toponymic guidelines for map and other editors
5. Toponymic data files and gazetteers:
 - data collection procedures
 - data elements required
 - toponymic data transfer standards and formats
 - automated data processing systems
 - national gazetteers
 - other publications
6. Terminology in the standardization of geographical names
7. Writing Systems (romanization, Text Encoding Requirements, Unicode Consortium)
8. Pronunciation of names
9. Country names
10. Exonyms
11. Preparations for the representation of the Division at the 24th Session of the UNGEGN (May, 2009)
12. Features beyond a single sovereignty
13. Toponymic websites
14. Co-operation with neighbourhood countries and international organisations
15. Toponymic education
16. Implementation of resolutions and the aims and functions of UNGEGN
17. Other information

18. Adoption of the Report of the 19th Session of the East, Central and South-East Europe Division of UNGEGN
19. Closing the session

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Dutch- and German-speaking Division

Report on the 6th Workshop of the EuroGeoNames (EGN) Consortium & Reference Group jointly with the Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers of the UNGEGN

Freising, Germany, 3 June 2008

A fruitful joint meeting of some 50 colleagues affiliated to toponymy met in Freising near Munich, in Bavaria, Germany. The event hosted by ESRI Germany was organized to join the meeting of the UNGEGN Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers on 2nd June 2008 with the 6th EGN workshop on 3rd June 2008.

Participants from 29 organizations attended the workshop on 3rd June 2008. 14 (of 15) Reference Group members (the participating NMCAs) and 9 EGN Consortium partners, 2 from potential Reference Group members (CH, UK), the convener of the UNGEGN Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers and representatives of the INSPIRE Thematic Working Group on Geographical Names and of the European Commission.



Participants of the 6th EuroGeoNames Workshop, Freising, Germany

The EGN workshop was particularly addressed to the Reference Group participants who should obtain a complete and comprehensive understanding of the functionality of the EGN web feature services (WFS) architecture and a better insight into the inner workings of the system. The main goal was to emphasize the steps which need to be done technically and organizationally by the Reference Group to create an individual EGN Local Service (which can be considered as a node in a cascading web feature services' architecture and which is connected to one EGN Central Service). During the workshop experiences were discussed made by Reference Group members who had already started with the EGN Local Service development – amongst others, Slovenia, Latvia, the Netherlands, Austria and Germany – focusing an individual "work plan" for each NMCA, because some NMCAs will develop their own EGN Local Service, others would like to be assisted by the EGN Consortium.

Generally the audience assessed how the EGN infrastructure and services fits to other projects and initiatives. They reproduced how the EGN can be used in concrete use cases and understood the added value of it. Particularly the differences, advantages and unique selling points between the EGN concept and other initiatives

(i.e. geonames.org) were pointed out, i.e. the official character and completeness of the EGN infrastructure and services vs. fast and easy-to-implement web services.

Additionally the audience gained a good understanding about the work of the INSPIRE Thematic Working Group on geographical names and about the development of the respective implementing rules.

The main outcome of the workshop is that the EGN infrastructure and services has a very good position within INSPIRE to provide the whole service architecture for a real service needed for Europe. The EGN data model (which can be considered as a gazetteer profile) supports the major concept of the ISO

19112 standard and it is compliant with the INSPIRE requirements.

The most relevant technical issues for implementing the EGN infrastructure and services were discussed and possible solutions presented.

All presentations discussed as well as the minutes of the workshop will be uploaded to the EGN website:

<http://www.eurogeonames.com/>.

Pier-Giorgio Zaccheddu

Co-ordinator Project EuroGeoNames

Co-convenor of the UNGEGN Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers

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Report of the Symposium “GeoNames 2008”: Geographical names as part of the cultural heritage

Vienna, 19-21 May 2008

The Symposium was organized by the Dutch- and German-speaking Division (DGSD), locally represented by the Austrian Board on Geographical Names (AKO). Due to the support of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, its Institute of Urban and Regional Research and its Institute of Lexicography of Austrian Dialects and Names it was possible to hold the symposium in the Academy’s convenient facilities, to use the Academy’s scientific exchange programmes with other academies for inviting some participants and to keep symposium as well as excursion and social programmes free of charge.

It was a great pleasure for the organizers to welcome such a large number of participants: 83 experts from 24 countries and 4 continents had registered regularly; including additional guests overall participation may well have reached a hundred; 31 papers from 21 coun-

tries were presented. It was fine to see especially the eastern part of Europe so well represented. The event was especially honoured by the presence and very active participation of Helen KERFOOT, UNGEGN chair and of Ferjan ORMELING, UNGEGN vice-chair. Hans MARTE, chair of the Austrian UNESCO Commission, as well as Heinz FASSMANN and Ingeborg GEYER, the directors of the two Academy institutes, also kindly welcomed the participants.

The theme of the symposium, names as part of the cultural heritage, had been a major topic at the 9th UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names in New York, August 2007. It was the goal of this symposium to elaborate on this, to step forward in defining the research theme, its sub-themes and research fields more precisely and to encourage further

research. Important questions to be answered were certainly:

- Why are geographical names an important part of the cultural heritage?
- Which kinds of names have a special need for protection?
- What are the dangers to which geographical names are exposed?

The two days of paper presentations were structured into the sub-themes and sessions

(1) Safeguarding geographical names as part of the cultural heritage by national standardization;

(2) Geographical names as keys to cultural and settlement history;

(3) Geographical names in minority and indigenous languages and dialects;

(4) Place names as a means of politics;

(5) Geographical names as ingredients of space-related identity and

(6) Techniques of recording and handling names in danger or getting out of use.

Emphasizing the recent rise in recognition of cultural aspects of toponymy, Helen KERFOOT referred in her opening speech to UNGEGN activities and UNCSD resolutions relevant in the context of geographical names and heritage.

The **role of national names standardization** in safeguarding the cultural heritage was specifically highlighted by the examples of South Africa (M. T. KUBHEKA), Germany (J. SIEVERS), Ireland (D. MAC GIOLLA EASPAIG), Latvia (V. STRAUTNIECE), Finland (S. PAIKKALA),

Sweden (L. NILSSON, St. NYSTRÖM, A. TORENSJÖ), Bulgaria (M. VLAHOVA-ANGELOVA), Cyprus (M.N. CHRISTADOULOU), FYROM (E. JAČEVA-ULČAR) and Austria (H. BERGMANN). Already in these presentations **place names of linguistic minorities** played a prominent role. The importance of their preservation was further stressed by papers on Australia (W.H. WATT, his paper was presented in his absence), the Netherlands (F. ORMELING), Norway (L.M. ASLAKSEN) and Finland (K. VUOLAB-LOHI), both referring especially to Sami names, Latvia (Z. CEKULA), Hungary (B. POKOLY, G. MIKESY) and Romania (R. CREȚAN). The paper of H.R. MÖSCHING hinted at the importance, but also at the difficulties of preserving dialect names by the example of Switzerland.

The aspect of **names as keys to cultural and settlement history**, very important in the overall context, was addressed by papers on different historical and linguistic layers of mountain and pasture names in parts of the Austrian province Tyrol (G. RAMPL), on Byzantine names at the Greek peninsula of Chalkidiki (P. SOUSTAL) and on Byzantine and Old Slavonic names in the Macedonian Strumica Valley (M. POPOVIĆ).

Since **place name changes** indicate on the one hand the symbolic power of place names and constitute on the other a challenge to preservation efforts, five papers were also devoted to this sub-theme. They were introduced by an attempt to classify place names changes (R. STANI-FERTL) and exemplified by situations in Ukraine (P. HRYTSENKO, R. SOSSA, N. SYVAK), Uzbekistan (B. MAKHSUDOV), Hungary (A. DUTKÓ) and at the Slovenian/Croatian Istrian coast (D. KLADNIK, P. PIPAN).

The role of **geographical names as ingredients of space-related identity** was highlighted in a more abstract and general manner from the geographical (P. JORDAN) as well as from the

linguistic (B. HELLELAND) points of view and regionally exemplified by examples from Croatia (D. BROZOVIĆ-RONČEVIĆ).

The presentation of an interactive web application for the spelling of geographical names as an educational tool for students (E. SIMONNÉ-DOMBÓVÁRI, G. B. SIMON) offered also an outlook to up-to-date **techniques of recording and handling place names**.

As a preliminary conclusion without any claim to be complete or balanced the following may be stated:

- **Place names are an important part of the cultural heritage.**

- Traditional geographical names are partly very old, have been shaped in a certain linguistic, political, social and economic situation and have partly been transferred to succeeding languages. They are therefore a key to settlement and cultural history. They tell a lot about the character and the essence of a place, earlier economic and linguistic situations. They form an inter-related system of names in a certain region, a “place names landscape”, describing historical, but very often still existing situations.

- Place names support space-related identity building. Mentioning or memorizing the name of a familiar place lets the whole set of imaginations of a certain place arise, expresses or confirms the emotional relation of a person to a place. Geographical names are therefore an important element of feeling at home, not the least for linguistic minorities.

- **Special protection is needed** for names in minority languages, names in other receding languages and also in dialects, the latter being subject to a significant erosion process due to the power of nation-wide media and trends towards cultural globalization. Also exonyms

need protection, since they are very often not standardized and not systematically documented. When documenting them, it is important to refer them as well as other variant names to the standardized endonym.

- **Dangers to which geographical names are exposed** are partly provoked by the strong symbolic power of place names. Place names are frequently interpreted as a claim for dominance over a certain region or country. The dominant force in a society wants to have the definition power over geographical names. Changes in dominance (at all spatial scales, from the country down to the settlement level; also, e.g., from the political to the economic sphere) may result in renaming. Other dangers emerge from inadequate legislation to protect names, the loss of knowledge of particular names, the changing way of life from rural to urban, the loss of oral traditions due to a lack of recording, globalization and influence of other cultures as well as indiscriminate renaming and perpetuation of incorrect/incorrectly spelled versions of names.

The paper presenters were offered to publish their papers in proceedings. They are to appear within the book series “Wiener Schriften zur Geographie und Kartographie” at the University of Vienna by the 25th UNGEGN Session in May 2009 at the latest.

The symposium was rounded up by two social events: by an evening invitation to a Viennese wine restaurant at Cobenzl by the Town Hall of Vienna and the Institute of Lexicography of Austrian Dialects and Names. It conveyed a certain insight into Viennese dining and drinking culture. Harald TROCH, member of the Vienna City Council, and Isolde HAUSNER, Institute of Lexicography of Austrian Dialects and Names, welcomed the participants on behalf of the two host institutions. A bus excursion titled “Multicultural variety around a lake” led 46 participants to Lake Neusiedl at the border be-

tween Austria and Hungary. Croatian minority situations in the Austrian province of Burgenland like in Oslip/Uzlop and German and Croatian minority situations in the Hungarian border region like in Fertőrákos/Kroisbach and Sopron/Ödenburg were in the thematic focus of this day trip guided by Peter JORDAN and Koloman BRENNER.



The excursion in the Croatian Catholic church of Oslip/Uzlop in Burgenland, Austria (Photo by Helen KERFOOT)



A small part of the excursion participants facing a serious naming problem in Fertőd, Hungary (Photo by Primož PIPAN)

Peter JORDAN

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Norden Division

Division meeting, Copenhagen, 8 - 9 October 2008

The next Norden Division Meeting is to take place in Copenhagen 8-9 October at the National Survey and Cadastre, Rentemestervej 8, 2400 Copenhagen NW. The agenda is in the process of being finalised, but suggested discussion topics are:

- The content of the 25th UNGEGN-Session Norden Division Report.
- EuroGeoNames and INSPIRE.
- Place-Name Laws.
- Place-Name on electronic maps.
- Linguistic minorities and place-name usage.

Additionally, we plan to present the latest GIS and Internet developments and projects of relevance to the Norden Division area.

As an appetizer to the Norden Division meeting a half-day symposium is also being planned, the topic of which will be linguistic minorities and their rights to use their own place-names. The date of this symposium is set for October 7th.

Peder Gammeltoft

Chairman of the Norden Division

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Portuguese-speaking Division

Report from Brazil

Portuguese Speaking Countries advance in standardization

Brazilian experts are determined to advance in the work started by them, together with experts from Mozambique and Angola, directed towards the strengthening of standardization and of the ties linking the three countries who succeeded in creating the Portuguese Language Division of UNGEGN in the last session held in New York in 2007. “We regret so much the loss of Luís Abrahamo, of Mozambique, who was our guest in Rio de Janeiro in 2006 and spoke about UNGEGN in the Brazilian Conference of Geography and Cartography. Now, we have to take good care of the very precious heritage left by him, and advance in the common efforts towards the standardization of geographical names in all Portuguese speaking countries”, said Moema Augusto, vice-chair of the recently created division and Brazilian representative.

Many actions are planned by the Portuguese Speaking Division for 2008-2009, including a possible UNGEGN course later this year in Angola. In Brazil, it is already under way the research directed towards the edition of the first Portuguese language glossary of terms for the standardization of geographical names and for research on Toponymy (see abstract of the project below). Other planned actions include

the support for the programs led by the working groups of UNGEGN, the creation of a program of publications in Portuguese to support research and standardization of geographical names in these countries, and the compilation of lists of country names and exonyms used in each Portuguese speaking country, possibly leading towards a dictionary of exonyms and traditional names.

The creation of the Portuguese-speaking Division during the last session of UNGEGN in New York represents a great step forward to the standardization of Toponymy in all eight countries where the language is official, as it is the case with Brazil, Mozambique and Angola. These countries – and Cape Verde sent representatives (government officials) to participate in the last session of UNGEGN in 2007 and in the ten-day course held by UNGEGN in Maputo in 2006, when the three countries made the first moves towards this goal. Following the approval of a new treaty among them, the Portuguese language countries will shortly adopt new language rules (for writing) and the recently created division must be able to help on the implementation of the new standards regarding geographical names.

Abstract of the Project “Terminology and Toponymy”

IBGE-USP (Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics – University of São Paulo)

Date: From March 2008 to March 2009

Researchers: Ana M. G. Bustamante (IBGE) and Maria Vicentina P. A. Dick (USP)

“Terminology and Toponymy” is a project aimed to create a Portuguese language glossary of more than two hundred terms used in areas dealing with toponyms, such as Linguistics,

Ethnolinguistics, Cartography, and Geosciences. All the terms are presented with proposed definitions in Portuguese and the equivalent terms in three languages (Spanish, Eng-

lish, French). A minimum of 150 terms will be selected and translated from the multilingual *Glossary of Terms for the Standardization of Geographical Names*, edited by the Working Group on Toponymic Terminology of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN).

Other glossary terms will be collected in the vocabulary used by the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE) and in the research and classes conducted by Dr. Maria Vicentina de Paula do Amaral Dick at the Uni-

versidade de São Paulo (USP). The glossary can use results of the technical cooperation among Mozambique, Angola and Brazil, now active in the Portuguese Language Division of UNGEGN, proposed by them and approved in the Ninth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names.

Moema José de Carvalho Augusto

Coordinator in Brazil; Vice-chair, Portuguese-speaking Division

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Division francophone

La division francophone s'active notamment dans deux domaines qui intéressent les experts non francophones.

1. Le patrimoine culturel immatériel

À la IX^e Conférence sur la normalisation des noms géographiques, en août 2007 à New York, la représentante de l'UNESCO a reconnu que les toponymes, comme la langue, relevaient bien des « traditions et expressions orales » au sens de la convention du 17 octobre 2003 pour la sauvegarde du patrimoine culturel immatériel. Cependant, la décision appartiendra au Comité institué par cette convention, qui semble privilégier, au moins dans un premier temps, d'autres domaines du patrimoine mentionnés à l'article 2. **Il importerait donc que les experts des pays actuellement membres de ce Comité¹ sensibilisent leurs représentants à ce sujet.**

Pour sa part, la Commission nationale de toponymie de France, chargée par le GENUNG de faciliter les relations avec l'UNESCO, prépare

à titre d'exemple, en lien avec les experts espagnols et avec les experts basques des deux pays, un inventaire, des mesures de sauvegarde et un programme d'éducation et de sensibilisation sur le patrimoine toponymique de langue basque.

2. La formation

Deux experts de la division francophone participeront comme formateurs à un atelier sur la gestion des noms géographiques organisé par l'Institut géographique du Burkina du 4 au 8 août 2008 à Ouagadougou. Cet atelier se situe dans la continuité d'un cycle destiné aux toponymistes africains, principalement francophones, après Tunis (Tunisie) en 2007 et probablement avant Nairobi (Kenya) en 2009 et Conakry (Guinée) en 2010.

Pierre Jaillard

Chef e la division francophone

Mél : Pierre@jaillard.net

¹ Bélarus, République centrafricaine, Chypre, République de Corée, Croatie, Cuba, Émirats arabes unis, Estonie, Gabon, Hongrie, Inde, Italie, Jordanie, Kenya, Mali, Mexique, Niger, Oman, Paraguay, Pérou, Turquie, République bolivarienne du Venezuela, Viet Nam, Zimbabwe.

Asia South-West Division (other than Arabic)

Report of the 8th Regional Meeting on the Standardization of Geographical Names for Asia South-West Division (other than Arabic)

Tehran, 13-14 May 2008

During the 9th United Nations Conference on Standardization of Geographical Names in New York (2007) a meeting was held between delegations from Iran, Cyprus, Pakistan and Turkey. In that meeting, representatives agreed to hold the 8th meeting of Asia South West Division (other than Arabic) in Tehran. Preparation for the 8th meeting started in January 2008 and invitations were sent to the respective embassies of member countries.

In February 2008 a meeting with representatives from the embassies of member countries was held at the National Cartographic Center of Iran in Tehran. The main objective was coordination with responsible authorities of member countries through their embassies. ICSGN prepared and sent the agenda for the 8th meeting of the Asia South West Division to responsible authorities of member countries through their embassies in Tehran.

The 8th Meeting of the South East Division (other than Arabic) began on May 13, 2008. The main objectives of the meeting were:

- Reporting national activities of member countries
- Workshops on different aspects of standardization of geographical names
- Visits to organizations dealing with geographical names
- Establishing communication channels between geographical names authorities of member countries

- Coordination for establishment of the Division web site
- Progress assessment according to UNGEGN Resolutions
- Discussion on difficulties in Geographical Name Standardization

During this two day meeting, two workshops were presented by NCC concerning the Iranian Geographical Names Database, and Geographical Names in Iranian Census by the Statistical Center of Iran. Participants also visited NCC and the Document Archive of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

After holding a number of sessions and discussions, the members ratified a resolution and agreed on the following items, which are summarized below:

- More frequent meetings of the division
- Experience and knowledge exchange concerning geographical names activities
- Establishment of six working groups for the division
- Establishment of six working groups for the division
- Publishing a seasonal electronic news letters

- Holding the Ninth Regional Meeting on the Standardization of Geographical Names in Tehran in May 2010
- Election of Dr. Yahya Djamour, Director of NCC as Chairman of the Asia South-West Division

At the end of the meeting the member countries expressed their gratitude to ICSGN of the I.R. of Iran and especially the National Cartographic Center of Iran (NCC) for their hospitality and the effective way in which they conducted the meeting.



Yahya Djamour

Head of Iranian Committee for Standardization of Geographical Names and Chairman of the Asia South-West Division (other than Arabic)
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Latin America Division

Report from Brazil

Brazil is an active participant in the Latin America Division and has achieved some important goals with other countries, such as Mexico and Uruguay, in the common aim of creating the Latin American Network for Geographical Names. A common project approved by the Pan-American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH) for 2007 made it possible to support Uruguay in sending a representative for the Ninth UNCSGN. There the officials agreed on the need of cooperation for network building and the use of the same modelling as the Brazilian Geographical Names Database to store Uruguayan toponymy as well, starting with the regions where there are common boundaries.

Another PAIGH funded project allowed Brazil to receive the visit of the Chair of the Latin America Division and representative of INEGI-Mexico, Susana Rodríguez Ramos, for a meeting in which the next steps were discussed, and for the authorities meeting of PAIGH, held in Itu, São Paulo, where the results of the first phase of the PAIGH project were presented by the project coordinator and UNGEGN expert Moema Augusto (IBGE, Brazil).

Moema José de Carvalho Augusto

Coordinator in Brazil
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Arabic Division

Report of the Fourth Arab Conference on Geographical Names (4th ACGN)

The 4th Arab Conference on Geographical Names (ACGN) was held in Beirut from 16 to 22 June 2008. The Conference was well attended. The report of the Conference and the Romanization System that was adopted by the 3rd ACGN and endorsed by the 4th ACGN is found at

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/pdf/Contribution-Div-Arabic-RomanizationSystem.pdf>

A. Conference Objectives:

1. Discussion of the difficulties encountered in applying the Arabic System of Romanization issued by the resolution II/8.
2. Boosting the inter-Arab cooperation in the fields of:
 - a. Standardization of Arab Geographical Names.
 - b. Building a unified Gazetteer of Geographical Names.
 - c. Preserving Arab Geographical Names as a cultural heritage.
 - d. Making training sessions and exchanging expertise.

B. Participation:

1. Eleven Arabic countries participated to the conference: Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Qatar, UEA, Tunisia, Sudan, Algeria, Kuwait, Egypt, and Iraq.
2. Arab League.
3. Universities: USEK, Lebanese University.

4. ESCWA.
5. Vice – chairmen: UNGEGN.
6. Special delegate of the secretary general of the Arab League.
7. Special delegates of a number of Lebanese governmental bureaus and administrations.

C. Results:

Fourteen recommendations and resolutions emanated from the conference unanimously. Here they are:

1. Declaring the conference convened legally.
2. Standard Romanization System of Arab Geographical names:
 - a. Confirming the endorsement of this system and recommending its application by all Arab countries and international organizations. The system and its Romanization rules can be found at <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/pdf/Contribution-Div-Arabic-RomanizationSystem.pdf>.
 - b. Correcting the typos of the last version issued in Beirut 2007 by the 3rd ACGN.
 - c. Sending a copy of the system to the general secretariat of the Arab League and asking this secretariat to adopt it in the Economical and Social Council of the Arab League, in order to be communicated to the general secretariat of the United Nations in response to the resolution No. VII/4 issued by the Seventh Conference of the UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) in New

York 1998.

3. Improvement of the working groups performance:

a. Modifying the working groups table as follows:

Work group	Chair	Vice chair	Secretary
Terminology used in Standardization of Geographical Names	Tunis	Jordan	Morocco
Exonyms to Arab Language	Lebanon	Algeria	Qatar
Gazetteers of Geographical Names	UAE	Syria	Sudan
Romanization Systems	KSA	Palestine	Jordan
Pronunciation of Geographical Names	Jordan	Morocco	Tunis
Training and Education	Kuwait	Egypt	Mauritania
Media and Finance	Oman	Libya	Bahrain

b. Urging all Arab countries to name their representatives in these working groups.

c. Asking all working groups to prepare procedures for their communications, meetings and work methods.

d. Making training sessions in coordination between the training and education working group of the Arab Division and the training group of the UNGEGN during the debut of 2009.

4. Recommending to all Arab countries to establish permanent national bodies for the unification of geographical names.

5. Confirming the membership of all Arab countries in the Arabic Division and providing the secretariat of this Division with the contact list of the related organizations in their countries.

6. Building gazetteers of geographic names:

a. Collecting geographical names and building gazetteers of major cities with population greater than 100 thousand.

b. Sending these gazetteers to the Division secretariat to be studied in the relevant work groups.

c. Establishing a unified Arab gazetteer at a later stage.

7. Arab Division website (www.adegn.org):

a. Thanking the Directorate of Geographic Affairs in Lebanon for building the website.

b. Asking all Arab countries to provide the Division secretariat with relevant material to be published on the website.

- c. Asking Arab experts to prepare their research and studies to be published on the website.
- d. Working on the continuous development of the website.
- 8. The founding conference of the Arab Cartographic Association (ACA).
 - a. Asking the founding committee to write to all Arab countries to participate to the ACA.
 - b. Postponing the founding conference till year 2009 and asking the Lebanese government to host it.
- 9. Disseminating the results of the 4th ACGN:
 - a. Publishing all the material and lectures on the Division website.
 - b. Disseminating these materials to all Arab countries and to the Arab League.
- 10. Electing a new administrative committee of the Division as follows:
 - a. Chair: Brigadier General Maroun Khraish (Lebanon).
 - b. Vice-chair: Dr. Sayf Al-Qayedi (UAE).
 - c. Vice-chair: Dr. Ibrahim Atoui (Algeria).

d. Speaker: Mr. Mohammad Al-Rashed (KSA).

e. Rapporteur: Mr. Ibrahim Al-Jaber (Jordan).

11. Holding the 5th ACGN in Beirut during the first half of year 2010.

12. Asking all Arab countries to participate in the 25th session of UNGEGN in Kenya, May 2009.

13. Expressing the feelings of gratitude to the Republic of Lebanon, the Lebanese President, the Lebanese government, the Lebanese Minister of Defense, the General Secretariat of the Arab League, the personal representative of the Secretary General of the Arab League, the Vice-chair of UNGEGN, the Lebanese Army Command and the Directorate of Geographic Affairs.

14. Appreciation and thanks to the president of the conference and the organizing committee.

Brigadier General Maroun Khraish
President of the 4th ACGN Conference
Chair of the Administrative Committee of ADEGN
Email: dagarmy@yahoo.com

Ibrahim Al-Jaber
Secretary of ADEGN

From the Working Groups

Working Group on Exonyms

1st Circular, Call for papers

UN/ICA Week of Geographical Names in Timișoara

Timișoara (Romania), 9-13 September 2008

A **joint meeting** of

- the UNGEGN Working Group on Exonyms
- and the Commission on National and Regional Atlases (CNRA) of the International Cartographic Association (ICA)

will bring together **experts on geographical names and cartographers** to discuss the topic of geographical names and their different modes of use in a comprehensive way. The week will be organized in the form of two subsequent meetings accessible not only for the members of the respective subgroup, but for all other participants interested. A common excursion to the city of Timișoara and to villages in its surroundings with various cultural backgrounds will round up the event.

Timișoara is the centre of the Romanian Banat and a multicultural city. It is easily accessible by air from several major European airports. The joint meeting will take place in the **Adam-Mueller-Guttenbrunn-House**, the German cultural centre located at the fringe of the downtown. **Accommodation** can be provided by hotels nearby.

The week is **open for all persons interested** (irrespective of UNGEGN divisions and working groups as well as ICA commissions).

English will be the usual working language, but **French** is also very welcome and special translation arrangements will be provided.

Programme outline

Tuesday, 9th September, through Wednesday, 10th September 2008

8th Meeting of the UNGEGN Working Group on Exonyms on the topic “**Guidelines for the Use of Exonyms**”

Workshop devoted to the drafting of guidelines for the use of exonyms in various communicative situations and in various media. Following the discussions at the 6th WG Meeting in Prague and the 7th Meeting in New York the first day will be devoted to the presentation of guideline proposals or compact ideas in this respect, while the second day will be reserved to discuss these proposals and to actively elaborate guidelines.

Potential presenters are invited (1) to announce their paper by 15 August 2008 and (2) to make their paper available to other WG members by 31 August 2008 in order to enable discussion on a sound basis, both by addressing peter.jordan@oeaw.ac.at

Thursday, 11th September 2008

Walking **excursion** to the city of Timișoara and bus excursion to villages in its surroundings with various cultural backgrounds. Price including lunch approx. € 40.-.

Friday, 12th September, through Saturday, 13th September 2008

Meeting of the ICA Commission on National and Regional Atlases (CNRA) on the topic **“Geographical Names in National and Regional Atlases”**

The first day will see paper presentations and discussions on the rendering of geographical names in various kinds (scientific/popular, conventional/digital, with an international/national audience etc.) of national, regional, city and thematic atlases. The second day, the group of authors and editors engaged in the elaboration of a “cook book” for atlas editors will meet to co-ordinate its work. The group looks forward to receive inputs to the chapter “Use of geographical names in national, regional, city and thematic atlases” from UNGEGN experts. Should you wish to **present a paper**, please give notice to peter.jordan@oeaw.ac.at by 15 August 2008 at the latest indicating the paper title.

All participants are kindly requested to **announce their participation** and to **register for the excursion** by 15 August 2008 (see form sheet enclosed).

The organizers are **not able to cover** any travel and accommodation **expenses**.

You are, of course, free to make your own **travel arrangements**. But having indicated your wishes by 15 August 2008 (see form sheet enclosed), we will be able to offer you discount rates for hotels near to the venue and to reserve a room for you.

A **2nd circular** will be disseminated to registered participants in August 2008.

Remus Crețan, Marin Alniței, Șerban Dragomirescu, Peter Jordan

on behalf of the organizers:

UNGEGN Working Group on Exonyms
ICA Commission on National and Regional Atlases
West University of Timișoara
Romanian Academy of Sciences, Institute of Geography
Adam-Mueller-Guttenbrunn-House

Registration form

Please, return to peter.jordan@oeaw.ac.at or send by fax to +43 (1) 51581/3533 by 15 August 2008.

Name.....

Affiliation.....

Country.....

E-mail.....

I will **participate** in the UN/ICA Week on Geographical Names in Timișoara

- 9-10 September 2008 (8th Meeting, UNGEGN Working Group on Exonyms)
- 11 September 2008 (Excursion)
- 12-13 September 2008 (Meeting, ICA Commission on National and Regional Atlases)

Please, reserve a **room** at a discount rate and close to the venue

- single bed room
- double bed room

from (day of arrival) to (day of departure)

I would prefer to be accommodated in (see attachment 2)

- Hotel Intercontinental (4 stars)
- Hotel Continental (4 stars)
- Hotel Timișoara (some rooms 3 stars, some rooms 4 stars), app. € 65-70,-
- Hotel Boavista (4 stars)
- Hotel Central (2 stars)
- Hotel Cina (2 stars)

If rooms in the category indicated are not available, please reserve a room in a

- higher
- lower category

Peter Jordan

Convenor, Working Group on Exonyms

Peter.jordan@oeaw.ac.at

<mailto: peter.jordan@oeaw.ac.at>

Working Group on Toponymic Terminology

The Working Group on Toponymic Terminology met during the Ninth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (9th UNCSGN) in New York, August 27, 2007. The meeting was attended by 21 experts from 19 countries. The Convenor for the last eighteen years, Mr. Naftali Kadmon (Israel), announced that after having initiated the Working Group in 1989 and chaired it for almost two decades, he wished to step down from the convenorship. Mr. Staffan Nyström (Sweden) had accepted to take over convenorship of the Working Group, which was acknowledged by the experts present. Mr. Kadmon will continue to serve as editor of the “Glossary of Terms for the Standardization of Geographical Names” (printed in 2002).

The Glossary is also published on the UNGEGN website in all the six UN languages (pdf-format). An Addendum with the results from the work carried out by the Working Group since 2002 was published on this website in November, 2007. Part I of the Addendum contains eleven entries in the 2002 Glossary, whose definitions have been amended, from “address” to “underground toponym”. Part II contains eleven additional entries with definitions, not included in the 2002 Glossary, from “authorized name” to “transboundary name”.

The Working Group met again in Vienna, Austria, on May 22, 2008, in connection with the symposium GeoNames 2008, arranged by the Dutch and German Speaking Division of UNGEGN. This meeting was chaired by Staffan Nyström (Sweden) and attended by 12 experts from eight different countries. On the agenda was

- a) possible additions to the Glossary (“settlement name”, “field name” and “urban name” were terms discussed among others);
- b) the numbering of the entries in the Glossary and in the Addendum (technical and practical ways of making the Glossary even more useful and more easy to revise and expand in the future were discussed); and
- c) ways to cooperate with the Terminology Group of ICOS (the International Council of Onomastic Sciences) were discussed. To start with the Terminology Groups of UNGEGN and ICOS will hold a joint meeting in Toronto, Canada, during the ICOS Congress in August 2008.

Staffan Nyström

Convenor

Working Group on Toponymic Terminology

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Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation

Summary Report on Joint Meeting with Working Group on Publicity and Funding held in San Francisco, U.S.A., 21-23 April 2008

The Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation had a joint meeting with the Working Group on Publicity and Funding at Sheraton Fisherman's Wharf Hotel, San Francisco, California, in April 2008. Participants were Conveners of the Working Groups, Ki-Suk Lee and David Munro, UNGEGN Chair, Helen Kerfoot, Vice Chair, Brahim Atoui, Botolv Helleland, Rapporteur of the Working Group, Sungjae Choo, Professor of Kyung-Hee University, and Yeon-Taek Ryu, Professor of Chungbuk National University, Korea. Stefan Schweinfest and Yacob Zewoldi from the UN Statistics Division participated through a teleconference for a part of the meeting. Mr. Hung-Muk Cho and Mr. Young-Jun Ahn from National Geographic Information Institute of the Republic of Korea participated as observers.

The meeting was generally intended to review the current working conditions and procedures of UNGEGN and make suggestions for the improvement of its tasks. First of all, through a review of evaluation questionnaire forms received at the 9th Conference, some suggestions made by delegates for a more efficient management of the meeting have been noted, including drawing more attention to issues and resolution of these issues rather than presenting country reports or general information, making full use of Division meetings and reports, and using more digitalized methods of communication, e.g. powerpoint presentations or wireless internet.

Discussion was made on assessing the extent of implementation and effectiveness of the 195 resolutions adopted at the past nine Conferences. A consensus was reached that, before

conducting further surveys on this topic, it would be more useful to develop a more user-friendly web-structured access to resolutions by subject and by key word. Discussion was also extended on how to make the work of Divisions more effective, and on how to activate the Task Team for Africa. For the latter topic, an emphasis was placed on the importance of the UNGEGN special session at the 31st IGC to be held in Tunis, August 2008.

Looking ahead to the 25th session of UNGEGN in 2009, date and venue was tentatively confirmed: 5-12 May at the UN facility in Nairobi, Kenya. For a more systemized and diversified operation of the meeting, many ideas were suggested to organize special presentations, displays, especially African, and workshops. Topics could encompass from related works of UN organizations, e.g. UNEP or UNESCO, issue areas, e.g. Darfur or Bantu, databases, to large company, e.g. ESRI or Google.

The meeting was enriched by a visit to the Google Headquarter in Silicon Valley on the morning of 23 April. Through a two-hour orientation, presentation and discussion, a better understanding was shared on how geographical names were treated in both the UN and business sides.

The next meeting of the Working Group will be held in Nairobi, May 2009. More complete minutes of the Working Group meeting are available, on request, from the Convener.

Ki-Suk Lee

Convener, Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation

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Working Group on Publicity and Funding

The Working Group on Publicity and Funding held a joint meeting with the Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation in San Francisco, 21-23 April 2008. Amongst those present were the Chair and Vice-Chair (Brahim Atoui) of UNGEGN and observers from the National Geographic Institute of the Republic of Korea. Stefan Schweinfest and Yacob Zewoldi of the UN Statistics Division in New York also took part in discussions via a telephone link.

Actions completed since the 9th UN Conference in 2007

The UN Secretariat noted that the Report of the Ninth UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names had been edited, translated and circulated and an *UNGEKN Information Bulletin* had been distributed in December 2007. The UNGEGN website has also been updated with additional reports and documents as well as new events for 2008 and 2009. The Working Groups considered the possibility of making further training materials available on the website. A link from the Statistics Division home page to the UNGEGN website now exists and experts are encouraged to create links to the UNGEGN site on their own organisation's website.

Publicity

The Working Groups discussed ways in which the *UNGEKN Information Bulletin* might be used to feature short contributions on topics related to geographical names standardization such as best practice, name changes, etc. Experts are invited to submit material for publication or suggest topics to be included in future issues. The promotion of the work of UNGEGN through conferences such as those held by the International Cartographic Association and the International Geographical Union, which holds its next Congress in Tunisia

in August 2008, were discussed and it was suggested that experts be invited to provide the Convenor or the UN Secretariat with information on future conferences.

The Working Groups discussed in some detail the format of a proposed media kit designed to assist delegates in responding to media queries. Information explaining issues related to geographical names and providing key examples will be produced on individual sheets to be contained within a folder. The intention is to produce a well illustrated set of documents that can be individualized if necessary. The following topics were agreed as the backbone of the press kit: aims of the kit, the role of geographical names, geographical names in a changing world, geographical names in a multilingual and multi-scriptural world, geographical names in a digital world, why do we need geographical names standardization?, the role of UNGEGN in promoting geographical names, UN Resolutions, other bodies dealing with geographical names, quotable quotes, references, and frequently asked questions and answers. The convenor, who is currently preparing a first draft, would welcome good examples for inclusion in the media kit which will hopefully be published in 2009.

Funding

The Working Groups discussed ways in which additional funding might be obtained to support UNGEGN sessions and training activities in addition to the funding that is likely to be made available by the Statistics Division for the participation of trainee students and presenters. The funding that might be made available for 2008 training courses in Vienna, Romania and Africa was also an important topic for discussion and consideration was given to obtaining support for possible future international training courses.

The next meeting of the Working Group on Publicity and Funding will be held in 2009 during the 25th Session of UNGEGN.

David Munro

Convenor

Working Group on Publicity and Funding

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From the Countries

Indonesia

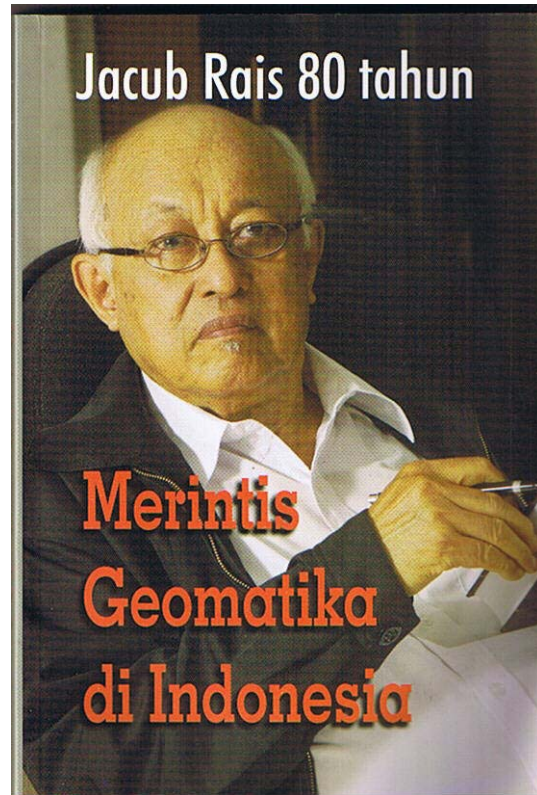
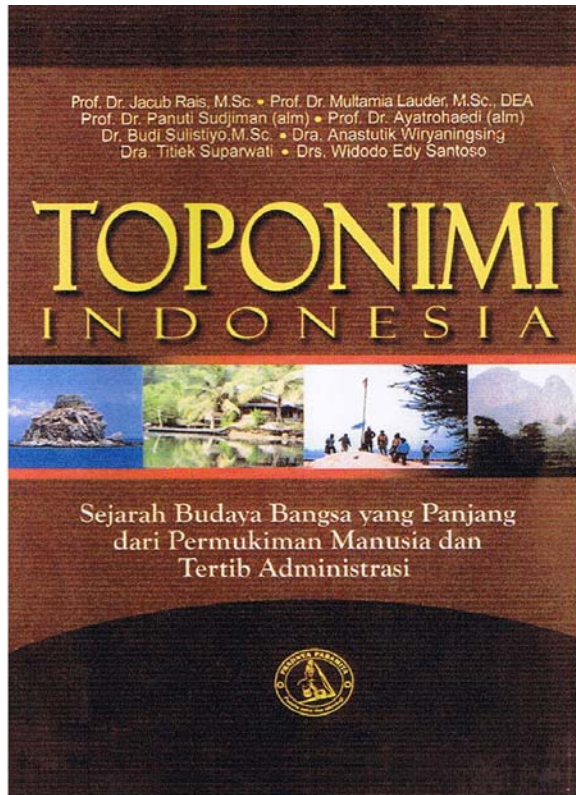
Since the President's Regulation (Perpres) No112/2006 about the National Team for Geographical Names Standardization was published on 29 December 2006, Indonesia has had a geographical names authority. Although this body is still using "national team", a name like a national team of football, I am sure in the near future this body will grow as a reliable geographical names authority. This body is led by the Minister of Home Affairs, and Head of BAKOSURTANAL as the First Secretary position, with the Director-General of Public Government as the second Secretary. The Head of BAKOSURTANAL also has the function of Chair of the Implementation Team, and in implementing its task six working groups have been established, inter alia:

- a) Working Group of Guidelines;
- b) Working Group of Maritime and Island Names;
- c) Working Group of Undersea Water;
- d) Working Group of Inland Toponyms; and
- e) Working Group of Data Files and Gazetteers, and
- f) Working Group of Training Modules.

The activities of this body officially started in 2008 and it has been compiling its Working Program for 2008. The priority activities are:

- a) compiling principles, policies and procedures of geographical names standardization;
- b) verification of island names;
- c) validation of geographical names;
- d) collecting generic terms and their abbreviations, also exonyms;
- e) gazetteers, provincially based, will be published; and
- f) a training module is being compiled to support toponymic training courses for local government apparatus.

There is one event which will be noted in Indonesian history – that is the launching of a text book on Indonesian Toponymy (*Toponimi Indonesia*) written by Prof. Jacob Rais. This book was launched in concurrence with Prof. Jacob Rais' 80th birthday on 8 June 2008, and is the first toponymy text book in "Bahasa Indonesia".



In conjunction with the 40th Anniversary of BAKOSURTANAL in 2009, BAKOSURTANAL will host a meeting of the UNGEGN Asia South-East and Pacific South-West Division (ASEPSW Division) together with the 13th South East Asia Survey Congress (SEASC), 2-6 August 2009. Also a Toponymy International Symposium is being prepared.

Widodo Edy Santoso
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