



UNITED NATIONS  
DEPARTMENT OF TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT

**UNITED NATIONS  
GROUP OF EXPERTS ON  
GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES**

*Newsletter*

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## FOREWORD

Approximately twenty countries contributed to the first issue of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names bulletin. This contribution was an incentive for us to continue with the task undertaken. In fact, from Conference to Conference, that is every five years, questions which are at the base of the process of national and international standardization are reviewed, and recommendations are formulated over again in ways which might appear repetitive. And one could think that the work is progressing rather slowly, that international meetings are held only to go over certain principles or fundamental objectives. This fear is not unknown to Resolution 4 adopted during the 5th Conference held in Montréal in August 1987, the objective of which was to take stock on the reach and practical effect of approximately one hundred resolutions adopted by the five conferences of the United Nations on the Standardization of Geographical Names.

The 14th meeting of the Group of Experts will be held in Geneva in May 1989 and will be dedicated essentially to this evaluation. Questionnaires will be sent shortly to all the national geographical names authorities and their answers will be fundamentally precious. In advance, I thank everyone who will have helped, in some way, our group of experts shed light on this matter.

I would also like to thank the persons who have contributed to this second bulletin as the information they have supplied allows us to have faith in the usefulness of the numerous works, reports, meetings, training sessions which have been devoted over the last twenty years to the standardization of geographical names on an international scale. This information is very encouraging as it allows us to see how far we have progressed as well as identifying the questions and problems that we have to settle quickly and accurately.

Henri Dorion  
President  
United Nations Group of Experts  
on Geographical Names

## AVANT-PROPOS

Une vingtaine de pays ont contribué au premier bulletin d'information du groupe d'experts des Nations-Unies pour les noms géographiques. Leurs rapports ont constitué un encouragement à poursuivre la tâche entreprise. En effet, de Conférence en Conférence, c'est-à-dire à chaque lustre, des questions qui se situent à la base même du processus de la normalisation nationale et internationale sont reprises, et des recommandations sont reformulées de façons qui peuvent paraître répétitives. Et on pourrait en déduire que le travail avance lentement, que des réunions internationales servent surtout de rappel de certains principes ou objectifs fondamentaux. Cette crainte n'est pas étrangère à la Résolution 4 adoptée lors de la 5e Conférence tenue à Montréal en août 1987, dont l'objectif est de faire le point sur la portée et l'effet pratique de la centaine de résolutions adoptées par les cinq conférences des Nations Unies sur la normalisation des noms géographiques.

La 14e réunion du groupe d'experts qui se tiendra à Genève en mai 1989 sera essentiellement consacrée à cette évaluation. Des questionnaires parviendront sous peu à toutes les autorités nationales de toponymie et leurs réponses seront fondamentalement précieuses à cet égard. D'avance je remercie toutes les personnes qui auront contribué à éclairer le groupe d'experts dans cette entreprise.

Je veux aussi remercier les personnes qui ont contribué à ce deuxième bulletin car l'information qu'ils ont fourni permet justement d'avoir confiance en l'utilité des nombreux travaux, rapports, réunions, sessions de formation qui ont été consacrés, durant les vingt dernières années à la normalisation des noms géographiques à l'échelle internationale. Cette information est encourageante parce qu'elle permet de mesurer le chemin parcouru en même temps que d'identifier les questions et problèmes qu'il nous faut aborder avec le plus d'urgence et d'acuité.

Henri Dorion  
Président  
Groupe d'experts des Nations-Unies  
pour les noms géographiques

NEWS FROM THE ARABIC DIVISION

From: Abdelhadi Tazi (Morocco)

Activités de la Commission Nationale de Normalisation des Noms Géographiques du Maroc

1. Au terme des travaux de la 5ème Conférence des Nations Unies pour la Normalisation des Noms Géographiques tenue à Montréal en Août 1987 et à laquelle notre pays a pris part, notre Commission Nationale s'est attelée à la mise sur pied d'un programme d'action dans le domaine de la toponymie.
2. Nous avons, en effet, au titre de la coopération avec les institutions spécialisées du Gouvernement du Canada, jeté les bases d'un Répertoire National de Toponymie qui s'inspire de celui de Québec.
3. Notre Commission s'est également penchée sur un projet de deux glossaires nationaux. Le premier portera sur le découpage administratif du Maroc et dont les travaux sont à l'heure actuelle menés en collaboration avec l'Académie du Royaume; quant au second, il aura trait aux grands traits des configurations hydrographique et orographique de notre pays.
4. Vous remarquerez que notre expérience est à ses débuts. Cependant nous avons la ferme résolution d'aller de l'avant dans le sens de l'oeuvre que votre organisation est en train d'accomplir.

NEWS FROM ASIA SOUTH-EAST AND PACIFIC SOUTH - WEST DIVISION

From: Jacub Rais (Indonesia)

Indonesia: Programme for a new national gazetteer

The National Coordination Agency for Surveys and Mapping (BAKOSURTANAL) is now undertaking base mapping at scale of 1:50,000 of Sulawesi and part of Kalimantan, covering a total of 600 sheets, to be completed at the end of

1990. It includes name collection. It is contemplated that office treatment of those names will include a computerized gazetteer. This gazetteer would be more detailed than any yet produced for Indonesia. BAKOSURTANAL will consider not only its own uses, but will also see the gazetteer as a model likely to be accepted as the national standard, so superseding after a number of years all gazetteers and name lists so far published.

The gazetteer will be the source of names for maps produced by or on behalf of BAKOSURTANAL. With the computerization of the gazetteer, several benefits will arise:

- automatic selection of names according to location, scale and type of map;
- if the gazetteer is interfaced with the CRTtronic electric phototype-setter (or any other), automatic setting of the names is possible, thus saving time and eliminating errors caused by manual input;
- easy publication of updated, regional and special purpose gazetteers.

Within Indonesia, the BAKOSURTANAL gazetteer would become the national names gazetteer. Specialized extracts from it could be produced to suit different organizations and all organizations should agree to notify BAKOSURTANAL of errors and ammendments.

Internationally, the publication of a gazetter would meet Indonesia's responsibility to the United Nations in this respect (U.N. Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, Resolution I/4.E.)

From: Methee Smutharak (Thailand)

News from Thailand on Geographical Names

Thailand as the host country held the Fourth Meeting of the United Nations Divisional Group of Experts on Geographical Names for Asia, South-East and Pacific, South-West Division at the Asia Hotel, Bangkok during 12 - 14 September 1988. There were five member countries and one non-member country sending their delegates and observers to attend this Meeting, i.e. Australia, Brunei Darussalem, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia and Thailand. The Meeting had successful conclusion in the good cooperation and mutual understanding atmosphere.

This Meeting was the first time to witness two observers from the Lao People's Democratic Republic who attended the Meeting in the view of good cooperation. And also another observer from Australia, the country outside the Division who showed the keen interest in initiating a new phase of activity and regional cooperation in the field of geographical names. We do hope to receive more future cooperation and contribution from this country.

NEWS FROM ASIA SOUTH WEST DIVISION

From: Muhammad Ashraf (Pakistan)

Activities related to geographical names, March 1 - 30 August 1988

The Delegation of Pakistan had submitted a detailed report on the activities of the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names to the Department of Survey of Pakistan which is responsible for the standardization of geographical names appearing on geographical and topographical maps of the country. The Delegation had

recommended the establishment of a Pakistan Board on Geographical Names, the compilation of Gazetteers, the standardization of the Pakistan system of romanization, the preparation of toponymic guidelines and the introduction of short training courses in toponymy at the Survey of Pakistan Training Institute.

During the period under review, action started on some of the above recommendations. The compilation of a Gazetteer of Names appearing on the 1:1,000,000 map has been undertaken and is to be completed in 1989. The Atlas of Pakistan, which was recently published by the Survey of Pakistan, contains 3,500 names of Pakistani maps and 1,750 names of world maps.

The romanization system of Pakistan is at present based on a modified Hunterian system which was inherited from British India in 1947. It is being further modified to meet national needs as well as international standards. A paper on the modified Pakistani system of romanization is likely to be presented by the Delegation of Pakistan at the next meeting of the United Nations Group of Experts at Geneva.

There was no regional meeting of the South West Asia Division during the period under review. The last regional meeting in which Pakistan, Iran and Afghanistan participated was held in 1977. Since then, there has been no progress at the regional level. Chairman of the Division, Iran was required to call the 1988 meeting.

#### NEWS FROM THE CHINA DIVISION

From: Zhao Dianguo (China)

Work on geographical names in China; March - September 1988

1. Changes in the leadership of the geographical name work structure  
As decided by the State Council, the existing leadership of the working body of the China Committee on Geographical Names was transferred to the

Ministry of Civil Affairs; Cui Naifu, the Minister of Civil Affairs was appointed as Chairman of the Committee. The Committee is responsible for the work related to the United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, meetings of groups of experts on the standardization of geographical names and the international standardization of geographical names.

Address: China Committee on Geographical Names c/o Ministry of Civil Affairs, Beijing, China.

2. Launching the general survey of place names in Tibet

The China Committee on Geographical Names trained groups of place-name workers from Liaoning Province and Jilin Province in Tibet to make a general survey of place names in Tibet. This project started in June and thanks to the close co-operation of the People's Government of the Tibet Autonomous Region, it is estimated that the field survey will be completed in 1989.

3. Establishing the China Toponymy Research Society

The first convention of the China Toponymy Research Society, which was approved by the appropriate national department, was held in Beijing in July. It is a popular academic organization with members from all over the country, which engages in the scientific research of geographical names. The Minister of Civil Affairs and Chairman of the China Committee on Geographical Names, Cui Naifu, attended the convention and delivered a congratulatory speech. The convention elected the members of the first council, the permanent members of the council and academic advisers; Zeng Shiyong (expert on maps and place names) was elected as Honorary President; Zou Entong (Vice-Minister of Civil Affairs and permanent Vice-Chairman of the China Committee on Geographical Names) as Council President; Wang Jitong (Secretary-General of the China Committee on Geographical Names), Chu Yaping (Professor of the Department of Geography, Beijing Normal College) and Chen Zhanqai (Vice-Director of the Research Institute of Oral and Written Language Applications and member of the Chinese Academy of Social Science) as Vice-Presidents.



NEWS FROM THE DUTCH AND GERMAN-SPEAKING DIVISION

From: Josef Breu (Austria)

Period covered: 1 April - 1 October 1988

1. After completion of the standardization of the names of uninhabited places covered by the 213-sheet Austrian Map Series at 1:50,000 (Osterreichische Karte), the Federal Survey (Landesaufnahme des Bundesamtes für Eich-und Vermessungswesen) is revising the toponymy of each new edition of a given map sheet in co-operation with the provincial authorities concerned.
  
2. Official publications:
  - (a) of the Federal Survey:

Austrian Map 1:50,000, editions with revised toponymy.  
Sheets No. 4, 38, 71, 87, 88, 89, 99, 117, 120, 145, 162, 167, 177, 193, 202, 205, 209.
  
  - (b) of the Austrian Statistical Central Office (Osterreichisches Statistisches Zentralamt):
    - (i) Einteilung Osterreichs in Politische Bezirke und Gerichtsbezirke 1.1. 1988. Wien 1988.
  
    - (ii) Gemeindeübersicht 1.1.1988. Wien 1988.
  
    - (iii) Karten der Gemeindegrenzen der Republik Osterreich. Wien 1988.

NEWS FROM EAST CENTRAL AND SOUTH-EAST EUROPE DIVISION

From: A. Kotsonis (Cyprus)

Following the approval of the international romanization system of the Greek alphabet by the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names which took place at Montreal, Canada, the Cyprus Permanent Committee for the Standardization of Geographical Names (CPCSGN) proceeded with the planning of its activities, covering national and international levels. As a result, a common code has been adopted thus fulfilling the fundamental purpose and basic pursuit of mutual understanding, communication and co-operation with all the peoples of the world.

Nationally, the main task of the Committee is to promote effectively the introduction of the relevant transcription by all government departments and services. In this respect the Committee among other things enlightens the appropriate authorities on the matter at hand and co-operates with the Municipality, Improvement Boards and Village Authorities for street naming, and works hand in hand with the Ministry of Education and the Department of Lands and Surveys to prepare and publish school atlases and geographies.

Internationally, the Committee prepares editions of gazetteers, dictionaries and maps. In Cyprus, the official cartographic service is the Department of Lands and Surveys, which has compiled and published many maps at various scales. For the revised and new edition of maps the Department implemented the new romanization system. It is envisaged to record, transliterate and computerize the existing nomenclature of the cadastral plans covering the whole island.

In the short term the CPCSGN intends to overcome certain difficulties by trying hard to stress the need to implement fully the new romanization system on all maps, plans and the like issued by the Cyprus Government. In addition,

several projects are in progress or under preparation, the most significant being:

a) Local generic Terms in Cyprus geographical names

This glossary which was announced in the previous issue of the Newsletter is in its final stage and contains all the generic terms recorded in the field books during the General Survey, Registration and Valuation that took place in the first three decades of this century and appear in the cadastral plans.

b) Volume II of the Complete Gazetteer of Cyprus

This project too was announced in the previous issue, of the Newsletter and is being compiled to contain the street names of the inhabited areas of Cyprus. They are transliterated to the Roman script and will be identified by Postal Code. This is being processed with the co-operation of the Post Office Service of Cyprus.

c) Gazetteer of Geographical Names

With this work the Committee aims to standardize in the Greek language all the names appearing in the world atlases. In the long term the Committee plans to carry out projects as follows:

- i) The Historic Dictionary of the Greek Language in Cyprus. This will be compiled in co-operation with the linguistic section of the Cyprus Research Centre.
- ii) Historic Toponymic Gazetteer. This Gazetteer will include all historical toponyms from ancient to present times.
- iii) Dictionary of Cyprus Names. This aims to collect and standardize all the names of Cypriots and will use various sources, including the present electoral catalogues.

- iv) Dictionary of Greek Geographical Names. This project aims to collect and compile the Greek names given to places all over the world throughout history, excluding Greece and Cyprus. This will be a joint venture with the Academy of Athens.

NEWS FROM THE NORDEN DIVISION

From: Eeva Maria Närhi (Finland)

1. The Finnish Research Centre for Domestic Languages has moved to new premises. The current postal address is:  
Sörnäisten rantatie 25  
SF-00500 Helsinki  
Finland  
Phone: +358-0-7315233  
Telefax: +358-0-7019583
2. Publications: Maiden nimet suomeksi, ruotsiksi, englanniksi ja ranskaksi (= Names of countries in Finnish, Swedish, English, and French), 102 p.

The language newsletters of the Research Centre reported on the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (Kieliposti 1/1988 p. 4-12), and especially on the transliteration systems of the Russian cyrillic and the Greek alphabet adopted as the international systems (Kielikello 4/1987 p. 24 - 27, 1/1988 p. 24 - 26). The bulletin Kielikello has published several articles intended for municipal planners advising in the naming of new urban areas, roads, streets, public houses, etc. and giving guiding principles about orthographical and morphological problems.

3. The systematic collection of place names continued during the summer in 28 villages.

4. Two training courses in toponymic field research for students have been arranged. Moreover, a few compact courses in planning names for roads, streets, districts of new urban areas have been arranged for municipal civil servants.
  
5. Future actions: The 17th Congress of the International Committee of Onomastic Sciences will be held in Finland from 13 - 18 August 1990, in accordance with the decision taken by the Committee in Québec in 1987. Its main theme will be name systems. Its subthemes will be as follows:
  1. Description and analysis of toponymic systems; typology of toponyms; toponymic theory.
  
  2. Place name systems from geographical and cultural points of view; minor names (microtoponyms), particularly field names.
  
  3. The documentary value of place names in linguistic history and in the social sciences.
  
  4. Description and analysis of anthroponymic systems: typological and terminological systems; criteria and categories; variation with respect to time, social groups, location, and sex.
  
  5. Description and analysis of other onomastic systems: names in literature as systems, names of firms and companies, product names, names of animals, names in outer space, etc.
  
  6. Treatment and maintenance of name: names on maps, official names in bi-or multilingual areas, official naming procedures (geographical and personal names), compatibility and structure of onomastic data files (e.g. classification of entities), names and the lexicon, name atlases.

The first circular was sent in October 1988. For more information, please write to:

ICOS - 1990  
University of Helsinki, Castrenianum  
Fabianinkatu 33  
SF-00170  
Helsinki, Finland

From: Botolv Helleland (Norway)

1. I am happy to inform you that the Department of Name Research, the University of Oslo, is organizing a national conference on the standardization of Norwegian place names on 20 November 1988. The conference will also deal with the question of dialectal versus standardized pronunciation of such-names.
2. As has been announced in previous papers, the Ministry of Cultural and Scientific Affairs is preparing a new law on this issue for debate in Parliament.
3. I would also like to draw your attention to the fact that the State Office of Cartography this year has published the first volume of the computerized place-name register based upon the M711 map series (scale 1:50,000). This volume, which covers the county of Ostfold, contains about 8,000 names.

NEWS FROM THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC DIVISION

From: Dmitrocenkov V.N.

Activities related to geographical names in the U.S.S.R during the period from 1 September 1987 - March 1988

I would like to communicate that in the period from 1 September 1987 to

1 March 1988 the following guiding materials on geographical names have been prepared:

1. "Dictionary of geographical names of Australia" (published)
2. "Dictionary of geographical names of Romania" (in press)  
"Dictionary of geographical names of Afghanistan (in press)  
"Dictionary of geographical names of Laos" (in press)
3. "Instruction on rendering geographical names in cartographic products edited in foreign languages" and "Practical guidelines for maintaining the card files of geographical names for foreign territories" (both published in a limited number of copies for the workers of the geographical names service and the editors of cartographic agencies).
4. "Instruction for rendering of geographical names of Hungary" and "Reference book for names of states and territories of the world" with name forms in English, French, Spanish, and German. (prepared for publication)

A Seminar on exchange of experience in compilation of small scale maps was held in Kiev and the problems of geographical names rendering on maps edited both in Russian and in foreign languages have been also discussed.

NEWS FROM THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA/CANADA DIVISION

From: Richard R. Randall

1. Activities of the US Board on Geographic Names

During the period March 1 to August 31, 1988, the US Board on Geographic Names was active in several areas. In addition to two quarterly meetings of the Board (which has 23 members and deputy members from 9 Federal departments and agencies), its standing and advisory committees held

regular sessions. These committees met regularly to discuss various topics as indicated below.

- Executive Committee (met twice to plan Board programs)
- Domestic Names Committee (met monthly on names of the United States and its territories)
  
- Foreign Names Committee (met twice on names of non-US areas)
- Publications Committee (met twice to set policy and schedules for regular BGN publications)
- Boundary Names Committee (met once with Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names to resolve differences in names of features crossing boudary of the countries)
- Centennial Committee (met once to plan celebration of BGN 100th anniversary in 1990)
- Advisory Committee on Antarctic Names (met twice to name features in Antarctica)
- Advisory Committee on Undersea Features (met twice to name newly identified undersea features).

All BGN bodies report to the Board and, except for the Executive Committee, respond to its guidance and direction.

## 2. Work of Major Committees

### - The Domestic Names Committee

During the period, the DNC processed about 250 names in the United States, answered questions from some 1500 individuals and organizations, and, with the support of the US Geological Survey, completed work on gazetteers of the states of Alabama and Florida. The committee also continued to work on native American place names.



- The Foreign Names Committee

The Foreign Names Committee processed about 300 names in various countries. This work is based on official documents issued by appropriate foreign departments and reflects changes in or additions to first-order administrative divisions, features common to two or more countries, and names of major political entities. Gazetteers published during the reporting period include Egypt, Mongolia, Namibia, Poland, Conventional Names, and a supplement to the Gazetteer of the People's Republic of China. The staff of the committee, supplied by the Defense Mapping Agency, also processed about 400 queries from the news media, map and atlas publishers, other Federal agencies, and individuals. An important source of queries are persons wanting to locate birthplaces of immigrant ancestors.

Other Board committees

In addition to committees listed above, other bodies took action on special topics. For example, a Board committee developed guidelines for sorting names in alphabetic sequence. In addition, a subcommittee of the Foreign Names Committee prepared a list of abbreviations of country names to identify sovereignty of islands or other entities separated from the governing country. This list will be useful to cartographers.

3. Publications of the Board

The work of the Board is promulgated by gazetteers and other publications. Persons interested in receiving available materials should communicate with the Executive Secretary, Defense Mapping Agency, US Naval Observatory Building 56, Washington, D.C. 20305, USA.

4. Meeting with Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names

In May, members of the Board's Committee on Boundary Names met in Washington, D.C. with their counterparts from Canada to develop principles, policies, and procedures to identify and resolve different

names of features that are common to both countries. Participants agreed that these kinds of names possess significant cultural attributes which must be considered if changes are anticipated. Both countries are continuing to develop programs to forward stated objectives.

5. Training Programs

Three individuals from the Indonesian agency BAKOSURTANAL came to Washington during May and June to participate in a 4-week BGN course on names standardization. Professor Jacob Rais, chairman of BAKOSURTANAL, sent Ms. Titik Suparwati, Mr. Widodo Eddy Santoso, and Mr. Rochyadi for the training, which included lectures on theories of national names programs, practical exercises on names problems, and attendance at BGN committee meetings. In addition to being able to apply new skills to names programs in Indonesia, it is hoped the students and their agency will maintain a useful avenue for communicating with their BGN associates.

6. Work with the Pan American Institute on Geography and History

Extensive plans were made for the Second Course on Geographic Names sponsored by the Pan American Institute of Geography and History and the Inter American Geodetic Survey and scheduled to take place in Panama from October 24 to November 4. A new syllabus reflects suggestions by students who attended the first course in October 1987 and also includes exercises in the use of ADP equipment and programs to create a geographic names data base. Instructors from the United States, Canada, and Costa Rica have agreed to teach and students from Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Honduras, Panama, Peru, and Venezuela expressed their intention to participate.

From : Helen Kerfoot (Canada)

## MARCH-SEPTEMBER 1988 / MARS-SEPTEMBRE 1988

### 1. CANADIAN MEETINGS / RÉUNIONS CANADIENNES

The Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names, comprised of 23 members (12 representing the provinces and territories, 10 representing federal departments and 1 as chairman of an advisory committee) held its annual meeting in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, on September 23. This meeting, in the ninety-first year since the founding of the original Geographic Board of Canada in 1897, was chaired by the new chairman Mr. J. Hugh O'Donnell, who took over in April from Dr. Jean-Paul Drolet, the CPCGN chairman for 24 years. The federal department of Statistics Canada participated as a committee member for the first time.

Two advisory committees (Toponymy Research and Glaciological and Alpine Nomenclature) met at the same time to discuss topics such as native names, "alternate" names, transboundary names, mountain hierarchies and generic terminology. The Advisory Committee on Names of Undersea and Maritime Features met in April, and recommended for approval 48 names of undersea features off Canada's east coast.

Information on the CPCGN and Canada's geographical names may be obtained from the:

CPCGN Secretariat  
650 - 615 Booth Street  
Ottawa, Canada, K1A 0E9

Several provinces and territories of Canada have their own geographical names authorities, and have held meetings during the past six months (Newfoundland, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta and Yukon Territory).

### 2. PUBLICATIONS / PUBLICATIONS

Publications of the CPCGN or its members / Publications du CPCNG ou de ses membres:

- **Gazetteer of Canada: Ontario / Répertoire géographique du Canada: Ontario, CPCGN and Canada Centre for Mapping / CPCNG et Centre canadien de cartographie**
- **Gazetteer of Canada: Yukon Territory / Répertoire géographique du Canada: Territoire du Yukon, CPCGN and Canada Centre for Mapping / CPCGN et Centre canadien de cartographie**
- **Wild Wacky and Wonderful Colouring Book Adventures with Sasha, Spencer and Sheeba, (a child's introduction to geographical names in Alberta), The Friends of Geographical Names of Alberta Society**

Brochures / Dépliants:

- **Primary educational brochure on map reading, The Friends of Geographical Names of Alberta Society**

Le Comité permanent canadien des noms géographiques, composé de 23 membres (dont 12 représentaient les provinces et territoires, 10 représentaient des ministères fédéraux et 1 agissait comme président d'un comité consultatif), a tenu sa réunion annuelle le 23 septembre à Yellowknife aux Territoires du Nord-Ouest. Monsieur J. Hugh O'Donnell, qui a été nommé président au mois d'avril (remplaçant Monsieur Jean-Paul Drolet après 24 ans comme président), a présidé à cette réunion tenue en l'année du 91<sup>e</sup> anniversaire de la fondation de la Commission géographique du Canada, établie en 1897. Le ministère fédéral de Statistique Canada a participé pour la première fois comme membre du Comité.

Deux comités consultatifs (Recherche toponymique et Nomenclature glaciologique et alpine) ont étudié des questions de nomenclature telles que les noms géographiques autochtones, les noms alternatifs, les noms transfrontaliers, les hiérarchies des chaînes de montagnes et la terminologie des génériques. Le Comité consultatif des noms d'entités sous-marines et maritimes a tenu une réunion en avril, et a recommandé l'approbation de 48 noms d'entités sous-marines situées sur la côte est du Canada.

Les renseignements concernant le CPCNG et les noms géographiques du Canada peuvent être obtenus auprès du:

Secrétariat du CPCNG  
650 - 615, rue Booth  
Ottawa, Canada, K1A 0E9

Quelques-unes des provinces et des territoires du Canada ont leur propre commission de toponymie, et ont tenu des réunions entre les mois de mars et septembre 1988 (Terre-Neuve, Québec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta et Territoire du Yukon).

- **Manitoba's Geographical Names**, Manitoba Department of Natural Resources
- **Cumulative supplement to Gazetteer of Canada: Manitoba**, Manitoba Department of Natural Resources

#### Newsletters / Communiqués:

- **CANOMA 14(1) July / juillet 1988** (News and views of Canadian toponymy / Nouvelles et commentaires concernant la toponymie du Canada), CPCGN Secretariat / Secrétariat du CPCNG
- **Le toponyme**, 5(4) mars 1988; 6(1) juin 1988 (Bulletin d'information sur les noms de lieux du Québec), Commission de toponymie du Québec
- **Origine de:** mars 1988: Abitibi, Arthabaska, Ascot et Ascot Corner; juin 1988: Saguenay, Aylmer; Commission de toponymie du Québec

### 3. TRAINING PROGRAMMES AND COURSES / FORMATION EN TOPONYMIE

- Stage de formation en toponymie organisé par la Commission de toponymie du Québec

Du 7 au 19 août dernier se déroulait à Québec, Canada, un stage de formation en gestion toponymique pour les représentants de 13 pays d'Afrique, des Antilles et d'Amérique du Sud où la langue française demeure d'usage dans l'Administration gouvernementale. Un représentant de l'Arabie Saoudite a également participé à ce stage.

Placé sous le patronage des Nations Unies, ce stage a été organisé par la Commission de toponymie du Québec avec la participation du Comité permanent canadien des noms géographiques qui, en l'occurrence, représentait le pays hôte.

#### Objectifs du stage de Québec

L'objectif immédiat du stage de Québec était d'assurer auprès de cadres supérieurs et de techniciens hautement qualifiés venant d'établissements nationaux de cartographie ou de toponymie, la diffusion de l'information la plus à jour sur les méthodes et les techniques utilisées dans la collecte des noms de lieux sur le terrain, sur le traitement et la conservation des données, sur la solution des différents problèmes rencontrés en gestion toponymique et sur la terminologie employée dans le domaine.

#### Programme du stage

Afin de rencontrer les objectifs du stage, un programme intensif de cours théoriques et d'activités pratiques fut établi. Centré sur la préparation, la réalisation et le traitement d'inventaires toponymiques sur le terrain, le programme devait aussi aborder les différents aspects rattachés à l'ensemble du domaine de la normalisation des noms de lieux et des structures nécessaires à l'accomplissement d'une telle tâche.

#### Évaluation

La très grande satisfaction des représentants des divers pays invités à l'égard du stage nous a été confirmée par différentes unités de service avec lesquelles plusieurs des stagiaires ont été en contact après le stage. Au terme du stage, la Commission de toponymie a remis à chacun des stagiaires un certificat de participation énonçant la réalisation du stage sous les auspices des Nations Unies et sous le patronage du Gouvernement du Canada. La Commission de toponymie a déjà entrepris la rédaction des actes du stage et procédera à leur publication dans les prochains mois.

- Projet de coopération entre le Québec et le Cameroun

Un membre de la Commission de toponymie du Québec a participé pendant six mois, via l'Agence canadienne de développement international (ACDI), à un programme d'aide au Cameroun. En tant qu'expert conseil, il a oeuvré auprès de la Communauté urbaine de Donala qui a entrepris un processus de dénomination ononymique planifiée sur son territoire.

- Northwest Territories - trainees

Three native people, two Inuit and one Dene, have been participating in a native training programme in toponymic, archaeological, and oral tradition research. Following four months of intensive training in field methodology, the three trainees are conducting research in their home communities.

- Canadian Hydrographic Service / Service hydrographique du Canada

A seminar was held in the Quebec region to brief hydrographers on field collection and application of names for Canadian charts. A similar workshop is planned for Ontario this winter.

Un séminaire a été tenu dans la région du Québec pour expliquer aux hydrographes les méthodes employées pour la cueillette des noms sur le terrain et l'application de ces noms aux cartes marines du Canada. Un atelier est prévu pour cet hiver en Ontario.

#### 4. DECISIONS ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES / DÉCISIONS SUR LES NOMS GÉOGRAPHIQUES

- The Advisory Committee on Names of Undersea and Maritime Features recommended that a sea-bed feature southeast of the Grand Banks of Newfoundland be named **Titanic Spur** to commemorate the ocean liner "Titanic".
- **Nunavik**, the regional name used by the Inuit communities of northern Quebec for a large socio-cultural region covering the land areas of the northern part of the province and adjoining parts of Labrador (Newfoundland) and Hudson Bay (Northwest Territories) was approved for the part of the region within Quebec.
- Le Comité consultatif sur les noms d'entités sous-marines et maritimes a recommandé d'approuver **Titanic Spur** pour un éperon, situé au sud-est des Grands Bancs de Terre-Neuve, pour commémorer le paquebot "Titanic".
- **Nunavik** est un régionyme utilisé par les Inuit du nord du Québec pour désigner une grande région socio-culturelle comprenant le nord du Québec, des parties voisines du Labrador (Terre-Neuve) et de la baie d'Hudson (Territoires du Nord-Ouest); ce régionyme a été officialisé pour la partie située au Québec.

#### 5. OTHER ACTIVITIES

- Newfoundland Geographical Names Board and Canadian Parks Service

A toponymy study was conducted during the summer in Gros Morne National Park (a World Heritage Site). The project, financed by the Canadian Parks Service, was directed in conjunction with the Newfoundland Geographical Names Board and the Geography Department, Memorial University. Data collected will be used to resolve outstanding questions of official toponymy in the park. This experience, if the results prove helpful, will be a model for future Canadian Parks Service initiatives in toponymy.

- Toponymy Data Bases / Bases de données toponymiques

- Upgrading of the National Toponymic Data Base is underway, using ORACLE software on UNIX-based SUN hardware. Nearly 400 000 Canadian name records are involved.
- Un travail pour perfectionner la Base nationale de données toponymiques est en cours, utilisant le logiciel ORACLE sur un ordinateur SUN commandé par un système d'exploitation UNIX. Environ 400 000 données sur les noms géographiques du Canada sont impliquées dans le processus.
- In Ontario, a feasibility and general design study was completed for an automated geographical names information system consisting of two integrated components - textual and graphic. Implementation is planned to start in the fall of 1988.
- In Alberta, the geographical name records inventory is in the process of automation on 2 Macintosh SE computers, using FOURTH DIMENSION, an inter-relational data base management system.
- Statistics Canada maintains a data base of place names used in reporting census and survey data. Census subdivisions (i.e. municipalities legally incorporated) and unincorporated places constitute some 17 000 place names. The Geography Division of STC is currently attempting to link this data base to the National Toponymic Data Base (NTDB) using the 7 digit identifier called the Standard Geographical Classification (SGC) code which systematically identifies every STC data base record. Preliminary results of an initial match show that 70% of STC toponyms are on the NTDB, but 40% of NTDB cultural toponyms could not be accounted for on the STC data base. Work continues to develop consistency between the two data bases.

- Ontario Geographical Names Programme

- The Franco-Ontarian toponymic survey of Eastern Ontario was completed - a field study documented contemporary, locally-used French language toponymy. The results will be used as a basis for future policy development in the treatment of Franco-Ontarian toponymy.

authorized to publish the Gazetteer, with the following amendments or additions decided during the session:

- addition of the newly approved names;
- amendments of the section "Terms and Definitions";
- addition of a French alphabetical index of the French terms shown in the section "Terms and Definitions", cross-referenced to the English terms;
- addition of a list of addresses of local authorities to which completed "proposal forms" should be sent. All IHO Member States were asked by IHB Circular Letter 21/1988 of 1 June 1988 to supply this information as soon as possible to the IHB.

It is anticipated that the first edition of the Gazetteer will be issued by the IHB in November 1988, as an IHO/IOC publication "MP-0008"; "proposal forms" are available in 6 different languages: Arabic, English, French, Greek, Portuguese and Spanish.

(b) IHO Special Publication SP 23 "Limits of oceans and seas"

The IHB has resumed work on this publication, which describes the limits of oceans, seas, and main gulfs and straits, and which is intended solely for hydrographic purposes. For the time being, SP 23 exists only in the form of a "draft fourth edition" which must be amended as a result of comments received from the IHO Member States in reply to the IHB Circular Letter 6/1986. A new IHB Circular Letter, containing new proposals for the areas under discussion, is being sent to IHO Member States in order to try to resolve some outstanding differences of views. It is hoped agreement will be reached and a new fourth edition published in late 1989.

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