



MAP COLLECTION  
UNITED NATIONS LIBRARY

**UNITED NATIONS**  
**DEPARTMENT OF TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT**

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

*Newsletter*

CONTENTS

Foreword.....	i
Preambulo.....	ii
Note Liminaire.....	iii
I. News from Headquarters	
A. Fifteenth Session of the United Nations Group.....	1
of Experts on Geographical Names: Letter to Members	
B.1. Letter of invitation from the United Nations	2
Secretary-General to UNGEGN members.....	
B.2. Lettre d'invitation aux membres u GENUNG.....	3
C. Pattern of Conferences.....	4
D.1. Letter from the Chairman of the Committee	5
on Conferences.....	6
D.2. Carta del Presidente del Comité de Conferencias.....	8
E. Twelfth United Nations Regional Cartographic	10
Conference for Asia and the Pacific.....	
II. News from the Divisions	
A. East Asia Division.....	12
B. South-West Asia Division.....	15
C. Dutch - Dutch and German-Speaking Division.....	18
D. East Central and South-East Europe Division	20
E. Division Romano-Hellenique.....	21
F. United States of America/Canada Division.....	23

## FOREWORD

This is the 7th issue of the Group of Experts on Geographical Names Newsletter. This issue, along with the previous ones, confirms the observation made during the 14th meeting of the Group of Experts in Geneva, in May 1988, that a lot of work is being done in the matter of standardization of geographical names, that a lot of work remains to be done and that the active participation in the work of the Group of Experts and of the Conferences is not spread out evenly according to regions, for reasons which are, of course, very understandable.

The last four issues contained, on the average, contributions from five divisions out of 19, which represents 25 percent. In addition, two-thirds of the divisions have supplied news only once during the last two years. These numbers would tend to indicate that the major objective towards which we must direct our work is to further implicate the absentee regions. In order to reach that goal, every effort must be made in the countries which need technical and financial support, as well as in those which can furnish this support, to activate participation of member countries of all regional divisions at the next meeting of the Group of Experts in Geneva in September 1991 and at the next Conference in Cyprus in 1992.

It is not superfluous here to recall resolution no. 6 adopted at the 5th Conference of the United Nations on the Standardization of Geographical Names: The Conference, Recognizing the importance of geographical names as significant elements of the cultural heritage of nations, and the economic advantage of standardizing national geographical names, recommends that State authorities be encouraged to provide appropriate support to standardization activities and that the standardization of geographical names be recognized as an important part of their programmes of international cooperation and technical assistance.

It is hoped that the concerned State authorities can effectively bring their support in this direction in order to establish contacts, on the occasion of plenary meetings such as regional meetings, which will help to create and develop by diverse means: training sessions, exchanges of documentation, contributions to the Newsletter, and regional and interregional technical seminars.

In the name of the Group of Experts, I thank all those who will give their support towards this, as well as those who have contributed to this Newsletter.

See you in Geneva.

Henri Dorion, Chairman  
Group of Experts

## PREAMBULO

He aquí la séptima entrega del Boletín del Grupo de Expertos sobre los nombres geográficos. Junto con los números anteriores, este refleja las observaciones del décimocuarto encuentro del Grupo de Expertos que tuvo lugar en Ginebra en mayo de 1988, y que hace constar que mucho trabajo se está realizando en cuanto a la normalización de los nombres geográficos, que mucho trabajo quede todavía por hacer y que la participación en las tareas del Grupo de Expertos y en las Conferencias varía según las regiones, por motivos desde luego muy comprensibles.

Los últimos cuatro números contenían, en promedio, las contribuciones de cinco divisiones de diecinueve, o sea la cuarta parte. Por otro lado, las dos tercias partes de las divisiones mandaron noticias por lo menos una vez en el curso de los dos últimos años. Esas dos cifras apuntan el objetivo mayor hacia el cual debemos orientar nuestro trabajo: involucrar más a las regiones ausentes. Para lograrlo, tendremos que hacer varios esfuerzos, tanto en los países que necesitan un apoyo técnico como en los que pueden brindarlo, para promover la participación de los países miembros de todas las divisiones regionales en el próximo encuentro del Grupo de Expertos en Ginebra en septiembre de 1991, y en la próxima Conferencia en Chipre en 1992.

Con respecto a eso, es útil recordar aquí la resolución no. 6 adoptada por la quinta Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre la normalización de los nombres geográficos: La Conferencia, Considerando la importancia de los nombres geográficos como elementos significativos del patrimonio cultural de las naciones, y teniendo en cuenta las ventajas que representa la normalización de los nombres geográficos nacionales, Recomienda comprometer los poderes públicos para que apoyen de forma adecuada las actividades de normalización, y reconocer que la normalización de los nombres geográficos ocupa un lugar importante en los programas de cooperación y de asesoramiento técnico internacionales.

Esperemos que los poderes públicos de los países referidos puedan brindar un apoyo efectivo en ese sentido para establecer luego, tanto en los encuentros plenarios como en los regionales, los contactos que podremos mantener y desarrollar en adelante con varios recursos: sesión de capacitación, intercambio de documentación, contribución al Boletín de información, talleres técnicos regionales o internacionales.

En nombre del Grupo de Expertos, agradezco a todos los que nos darán su apoyo en ese sentido, y agradezco a la vez por su contribución a todos los que quisieron colaborar a este Boletín.

Nos citamos en Ginebra.

Henri Dorion, presidente del Grupo de Expertos.

## NOTE LIMINAIRE

Voici la septième livraison du Bulletin du Groupe d'Experts pour les noms géographiques. L'on peut dire qu'avec les numéros précédents, celui-ci reflète les constats en mai 1988, à savoir que beaucoup de travail se fait en matière de normalisation des noms géographiques, que beaucoup reste à faire et que la participation active aux travaux du Groupe d'Experts et des Conférences est inégale selon les régions, pour des raisons fort compréhensibles d'ailleurs.

En moyenne, les quatre derniers numéros contenaient des contributions de cinq divisions sur 19, soit le quart. Par ailleurs, les deux tiers des divisions ont donné des nouvelles au moins une fois depuis deux ans. Ces deux chiffres nous indiquent l'objectif majeur vers lequel orienter notre travail: impliquer davantage les régions absentes. Pour y arriver, des efforts devront être faits, tant dans les pays qui ont besoin d'appui technique et financier que dans ceux qui peuvent le fournir, pour activer la participation des pays membres de toutes les divisions régionales à la prochaine réunion du Groupe d'Experts à Genève en septembre 1991 et à la prochaine Conférence à Chypre en 1992.

Il n'est pas inutile de rappeler à cet égard la résolution no. 6 adoptée par la cinquième Conférence des Nations Unies sur la normalisation des noms géographiques: la Conférence, Considérant l'importance des noms géographiques en tant qu'éléments significatifs du patrimoine culturel des nations et des avantages économiques que présente la normalisation des noms géographiques nationaux, Recommande d'engager les pouvoirs publics à soutenir comme il convient les activités de normalisation et de reconnaître que la normalisation des noms géographiques occupe une place importante dans les programmes de coopération et d'assistance technique internationaux.

Expérons que les pouvoirs publics des pays concernés pourront effectivement apporter leur appui en ce sens afin d'établir, à l'occasion des rencontres plénières comme des rencontres régionales, des contacts qu'il sera par la suite possible d'entretenir et de développer par divers moyens: sessions de formation, échange de documentation, contribution au Bulletin d'information, ateliers techniques régionaux ou interrégionaux.

Au nom de l'ensemble du Groupe d'Experts, je remercie tous ceux qui apporteront leur appui en ce sens, comme je remercie de leur contribution ceux qui ont bien voulu collaborer à ce Bulletin.

Rendez-vous à Genève.

Henri Dorion,  
Président du Groupe d'Experts

I. NEWS FROM HEADQUARTERS

A. Fifteenth Session of the United Nations Group  
of Experts on Geographical Names: Letter to Members

I take pleasure in sending you herewith a copy of the Secretary-General's invitation dated 8 February 1991 addressed to the Permanent Representative of your country to the United Nations regarding the Fifteenth Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names to be held at the United Nations Office in Geneva, Switzerland, 16-20 September 1991.

Please note that because of limited space in this Newsletter we are unable to attach an annex to the Secretary-General's invitation.

I would also like to stress the necessity to provide us by 15 June 1991 with two copies of any documents you may wish to submit to support the agenda of the session. Because of financial constraints, no document will be reproduced at the United Nations Office in Geneva. The reproduction of all documents will therefore be the sole responsibility of the participants.

Sincerely yours,

Kadri El-Araby  
Secretary  
United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

B. 1. Letter of invitation from the United Nations Secretary-General  
to UNGEGN Members, 8 February 1991

The Secretary-General of the United Nations presents his compliments to the Permanent Representative of.....to the United Nations and has the honour to invite his/her Government to send an expert to the fifteenth session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names. This session will take place at the United Nations Office at Geneva, Switzerland, from 16 to 20 September 1991.

Under its resolution 1314 (XLIV) adopted at its 1529th plenary meeting, the Economic and Social Council recognized the need for a body such as the Group of Experts on Geographical Names and invited it to provide the necessary coordination. In addition to approving the terms of reference for the Group of Experts, the Council also noted that such experts should be made available at their Governments' expense.

The official languages of the session are Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. English, French and Spanish shall be the working languages of the session. Since the facilities for reproduction of documents at the site of the Conference will be limited, His/Her Excellency's Government is asked to forward to the United Nations Secretariat at its earliest convenience, but not later than 15 June 1991, two copies of any documents in one of the working languages that they may have prepared in support of items on the provisional agenda for the session. It is essential that the documents be kept to a reasonable length: in no case should they exceed 10 pages.

Enclosed for His/Her Excellency's convenience and information is the Report of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names on the work of its fourteenth session containing the provisional agenda for the forthcoming session.

## B. 2. Lettre d'invitation aux membres du GENUNG

Le Secrétaire général de l'Organisation des Nations Unies présente ses compliments au Représentant permanent de....auprès de l'Organisation et a l'honneur d'inviter son Gouvernement à envoyer un expert à la quinzième session du Groupe d'experts des Nations Unies pour les noms géographiques. Cette session aura lieu du 16 au 20 septembre 1991 à l'Office des Nations Unies à Genève.

Par la résolution 1314 (XLIV), qu'il a adoptée à sa 1529e séance plénière, le Conseil économique et social a reconnu qu'un organisme tel que le Groupe d'experts pour les noms géographiques était nécessaire et l'a invité à assurer la coordination nécessaire. Il a en outre approuvé le mandat du Groupe d'experts, notant que les experts devraient être rétribués par leur gouvernement.

Les langues officielles de la session sont l'anglais, l'arabe, le chinois, l'espagnol, le français et le russe, les langues de travail étant l'anglais, l'espagnol et le français. Comme les services de reproduction des documents au lieu où se tiendra la session seront limités, le Gouvernement de Son Excellence est prié de faire parvenir au Secrétariat de l'Organisation des Nations Unies, dès que possible, mais le 15 juin 1991 au plus tard, dans l'une des langues de travail, deux exemplaires de tout document qu'il aurait établi au titre de tel ou tel point de l'ordre du jour provisoire de la session. Ces documents devraient être d'une longueur raisonnable et ne jamais dépasser 10 pages.

La rapport du Groupe d'experts des Nations Unies pour les noms géographiques sur les travaux de sa quatorzième session, contenant l'ordre du jour provisoire de la prochaine session, est joint à la présente note pour information.

### C. Pattern of Conferences

Letter to the Secretary, United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names  
(Aleksandr A. Kokorev, Director, Interpretation and Meeting Division, United Nations)

On 21 December 1990, the General Assembly adopted resolution 45/238, on the pattern of conferences. Many aspects of the work of all Secretariat staff are affected by General Assembly resolutions on the pattern of conferences. I would, therefore, like to take this opportunity to highlight certain sections, and to provide some insight on implementing the requests of the General Assembly.

The first three operative paragraphs deal exclusively with the calendar of conferences and meetings for 1991, including its approval and procedures for adjusting the calendar during the course of the year. The approved calendar will shortly be issued as document A/AC.172/144.

The utilization of conference servicing resources was again given high priority by delegations during the general debate in the Fifth Committee. The relevant paragraphs of resolution 45/238 A (operative paragraphs 5-12) reflect the intent and goal of Member States and of the Secretariat in this area which is to improve the overall efficiency and effectiveness of the use of conference-servicing resources without adversely affecting the work of the intergovernmental/expert bodies concerned.

In operative paragraph 6 for example, the Assembly invites United Nations bodies to ensure that the conference services requested are sufficient to enable them to carry out their tasks fully and match, to the extent possible, their actual requirements. In practical terms, the advance notice of cancellations would increase the likelihood of reassigning unused services to other bodies wishing to meet.

Similarly, if informal meetings are to be held outside the scheduled meeting time, i.e., before the start or after the adjournment of a meeting, I would ask that the Conference Officer be so informed so that this could be reflected in the statistics and not included as time lost due to late starting or early ending of meetings.

In response to the request to the Chairman of the Committee on Conferences to maintain contacts with all United Nations organs in order to ensure the most efficient and effective use of conference services to them, enclosed for your information and attention is a letter addressed by the Chairman of the Committee on Conferences which, inter alia, draws attention to this question and requests that the concerns about the utilization of conference-servicing resources be brought to the attention of the organ concerned.

The Planning and Meetings Servicing Section of this Division will continue to work closely with committee secretaries in order to implement the meetings programme as efficiently as possible.

Part B of the resolution relates to the control and limitation of documentation, including the Assembly's decision that no subsidiary organ of the Assembly shall be entitled to summary records, with the exception of the following: Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean; Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People; International Law Commission; Legal Sub-Committee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space; Special Committee against Apartheid; and the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law.



I would also call your attention to operative paragraphs 6 and 7 of the resolution whereby the Assembly requests the Secretary-General to take all appropriate measures to ensure that pre-session documents for meetings are distributed not less than six weeks before the meetings; to circulate eight weeks before the opening of a meeting a report on the state of preparedness of all the documents for the session at that time; and requests the secretariats of subsidiary organs to bring the recommendations of the General Assembly on the desirable 32-page limit to the attention of the subsidiary organs at the start of substantive sessions.

The timely availability of quality documentation is a primary concern of Member States and objective of the Secretariat. The Committee on Conferences will next report on this item to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session.

D. 1. Letter from the Chairman of the Committee on Conferences

31 December 1990

Mr. Chairman,

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 43/222 B, the Committee on Conferences is entrusted with the responsibility of determining the ways and means that might ensure the optimum utilization of conference facilities, including documentation, and to monitor the implementation of all General Assembly resolutions on the organization and servicing of, and documentation for, conferences and meetings. Many recommendations from the Committee have been adopted as General Assembly resolutions aimed at improving the efficient and effective use of the conference resources available. The most recent resolution of the Assembly on this subject, resolution 45/238 A reads, in part, as follows:

Notes the efforts made by a number of United Nations organs to improve the utilization of conference-servicing resources;

Invites United Nations bodies, in making requests for conference services in accordance with their respective mandates to ensure that the conference services requested are sufficient to enable them to carry out their tasks fully and match, to the extent possible, their actual requirements;

Urges all United Nations organs and bodies to intensify their efforts to improve their utilization of requested conference servicing resources.

As I am sure you will appreciate, the intent of this resolution, and those that preceded it, is to assist United Nations organs in making the best use possible of the conference-servicing resources provided to them without adversely affecting the successful work of the organs in question. This can be accomplished through a variety of means, such as eliminating as far as possible avoidable cancellations of meetings, and the scheduling of informal consultations with interpretation services.

One way of reducing the number of avoidable cancellations would be to establish a timetable for the session based on past practices and patterns of the Committee as well on the anticipated need for time for informal consultations or for processing of in-session documentation. It is also important to note that if the Secretariat is informed well in advance of cancellations, this increases the possibility of reassignment of conference-servicing resources to other bodies wishing to meet.

In view of the high importance accorded to the question of the improved utilization of conference servicing resources, the General Assembly, in operative paragraphs 9 and 10 of resolution 45/238 A requested the Chairman of

the Committee on Conferences and the Secretary-General to maintain their contacts with all United Nations organs in order to ensure the most efficient and effective use of conference services allocated to them, and requested the Chairmen of United Nations organs to bring the concerns about the utilization of conference-servicing resources to the attention of the organs concerned.

Accordingly, I would like to request you to note the suggestions made and to inform the Group of Experts of the contents of this letter as well as the relevant portions of resolution 45/238 A of 21 December 1990.

Please accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Jaime Bazán  
Chairman  
Committee on Conferences

D. 2. Carta del Presidente del Comité de Conferencias

31 de diciembre de 1990

Señor Presidente,

De conformidad con la resolución 43/222 B de la Asamblea General, al Comité de Conferencias se le asigna la responsabilidad de determinar los medios para asegurar la utilización óptima de los servicios de conferencias, incluyendo la documentación, y de vigilar la aplicación de todas las resoluciones de la Asamblea General sobre la organización, prestación de servicios y documentación relativas a reuniones y conferencias. Muchas de las recomendaciones formuladas por el Comité han sido aprobadas como resoluciones de la Asamblea General encaminadas a mejorar la utilización eficiente y eficaz de los recursos disponibles de servicios de conferencias. La resolución 44/196 A, que es la más reciente de esas resoluciones, dice lo siguiente:

Insta a todos los órganos de las Naciones Unidas a que intensifiquen sus esfuerzos por mejorar su utilización de los recursos de servicios de conferencias, teniendo en cuenta la necesidad de reducir los gastos sin que ello afecte adversamente su eficiencia;

Pide al Presidente del Comité de Conferencias y al Secretario General mantenerse en contacto con los órganos de las Naciones Unidas que no hayan hecho un uso adecuado de los recursos de servicios de conferencias puestos a su disposición con objeto de ayudarles a aprovechar mejor dichos recursos;

Recomienda que los presidentes de dichos órganos señalen la preocupación por la utilización de los recursos de servicios de conferencias a la atención de los órganos interesados

Como usted sin duda advertirá, la intención de esta resolución, y de las que la precedieron, es prestar asistencia a los órganos de las Naciones Unidas en sus esfuerzos por utilizar de la mejor manera posible los recursos de servicios de conferencias puestos a su disposición sin que ello afecte adversamente a la eficacia de la labor que realizan. Esto se puede lograr utilizando medios diversos, por ejemplo, tratando de eliminar en la mayor medida posible la cancelación de reuniones y la programación de consultas oficiosas en que se utilicen servicios de interpretación.

Una forma de reducir el número de cancelaciones consistiría en preparar un calendario para el período de sesiones en base a la práctica anterior del Comité y así preveer anticipadamente las necesidades de consultas oficiosas a elevarse a cabo, al igual que para los requerimientos en preparar la documentación del período de sesiones. También es importante señalar que se comunican las cancelaciones a la Secretaria con la suficiente anticipación, logrando mayores posibilidades de reasignar los recursos de servicios de conferencias a otros órganos que tengan proyectado reunirse.

Teniendo en cuenta la gran importancia que reviste la cuestión del mejoramiento de la utilización de los recursos de servicios de conferencias, la Asamblea General, en los párrafos 9 y 10 de la parte dispositiva de la resolución 45/238 A pidió al Presidente del Comité de Conferencias y al Secretario General que mantengues sus contacto con todos los órganos de las Naciones Unidas a fin de lograr el uso más eficiente y eficaz posible de los servicios de conferencias que se les asignasen, y a los Presidentes de los órganos de las Naciones Unidas que señalen a éstos las preocupaciones acerca de la utilización de los recursos de servicios de conferencias.

En consecuencia, le pido que tome nota de las observaciones formuladas e informe el Grupo de Expertos sobre el contenido de la presente carta y sobre los párrafos pertinentes de la resolución 45/238 A, del 21 de diciembre de 1990.

Aprovecho la oportunidad para saludarle con mi consideración más distinguida.

Jaime Bazán  
Presidente  
Comité de Conferencias

E. Twelfth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for  
Asia and the Pacific  
20-28 February 1991, Bangkok, Thailand

The twelfth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific took place from 20 to 28 February 1991. A total of 174 delegates from 40 countries, 8 intergovernmental organizations and 4 international scientific societies focused their discussions on about 90 reports submitted by countries, international organizations and the United Nations Department of Technical Cooperation for Development.

Under agenda item 8(d), Geographical Names, three reports were discussed. A paper submitted by France (E/CONF.83/L.49) on this topic indicated that, in accordance with the recommendations of UNGEGN, a guide book on map toponyms had been prepared in French for Europe, and that phonetic conventions had been established for local names in New Caledonia in response to the challenge that local names were being lost. Additionally, France was continuing with its Toponym Data Bank which would be completed in 1993 and contain 1.6 million toponyms.

In 1986, the French Institut Géographique National Toponymy Commission published a book on world countries and capitals. Copies were distributed to delegates and they were asked to update the relevant entries for their countries.

In its submitted paper entitled "Standardization of Undersea Feature Names" (E/CONF.83/L.8), IHO advised of the publication of BP-0006 on the standardization of names and of BP-0008 "Gazetteer of Geographical Names of Undersea Features". Delegates were reminded that, in naming features outside of national waters, approval should be sought from IHO.

As a result of resolution 20 of the eleventh Regional Conference, a training cum workshop on geographical names was held in Indonesia in 1989. In commenting on its submitted report on the Workshop (E/CONF.83/INF.32), Indonesia noted the involvement of journalists and the positive publicity received from this move.

As Chairman of UNGEGN for the Asia/Pacific Region, the Malaysian delegate delivered a report (E/CONF.83/INF.36) on the proceedings of the Division over the past four years. He recorded that Australia and New Zealand had been incorporated in the Group, and the publication of further editions of the physical and political maps of the region at a scale of 1:7,000,000. Two gazetteers were produced (one concise and one regional), but they do not contain information from all member nations as yet.

Resolution No. 24 was adopted in the plenary session:

#### GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

The Conference,

Recalling Resolution 18 of the eleventh United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific,

Recognizing the importance of national programmes of geographical names standardization,

Recognizing further the progress achieved in the standardization of geographical names by member countries of the Division of Asia South-East and Pacific South-West,

Endorses the decision of the member countries of the Division of Asia South-East and Pacific South-West, of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names that New Zealand is elected as the Divisional Representative. This decision was taken during the ad hoc meeting of member countries on 25 February 1991 at the venue of the twelfth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok,

Records with appreciation the invaluable contributions of Malaysia as the outgoing divisional representative.

A total of 33 resolutions were adopted by the Conference. Most request appropriate implementation by the United Nations.

The provisional agenda for the next conference was discussed and following substantial deliberations stressing that future conferences should be forward-looking rather than reports on past accomplishments, and in view of the impact of technology and its relationship to policy, economy and development in the surveying, charting and mapping fields, the Plenary recommended that the provisional agenda for the thirteenth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference should be grouped under the following headings:

- 1) Current state and issues of surveying, charting and mapping on the national level; needs and requirements vs. reality in the region;
- 2) New trends in technology and applications;
- 3) Human resources development;
- 4) Regional cooperation and technology transfer.

## II. NEWS FROM THE DIVISIONS

### A. East Asia Division \*

Won-Hwa Park (KOREA, REPUBLIC OF)

#### Work on Geographical Names in the Republic of Korea

##### Introduction

The first body dealing with geographical names in the Republic of Korea was the Central Consultative Committee on Geography Studies which was established under the Ministry of Defense (MOD) on 12 December 1957. One year later, MOD established the Geography Research Institute with the mandate of implementing names. At the same time the Central Names Making Committee was formed under MOD.

However, it was not until 1980 that the work on geographical names was vitalized with the Law on Measurement, whereby the Central Geographical Names Committee was reorganized under the Vice Minister, Ministry of Construction. The Committee, which dates back to 1958 when it belonged to MOD under a slightly different name, has been composed of the most knowledgeable experts on geographical names. Now there are 15 members. Also, in 1980, local geographical names committees were formed in each metropolitan city or province.

##### Achievements

The first survey of geographical names in Korea (South) was done between 21 January and 31 July 1959. With the result of the survey, the Korean geographical names cards were made, August to November 1959, followed by the completion of manuscripts of the first modern guidebook on geographical names. Based on these works, the Government on 22 April 1961 promulgated its directive on geographical names by Cabinet Decree 245. Out of 137,000 geographical names surveyed, the Decree adopted 124,000, discarding 13,000.

The current Central Geographical Names Committee has met nine times since 1983 to make final decisions on often controversial geographical names which could not have been settled by local committees. About 7,000 such names have thus been changed.

Another important work on geographical names was the 1984 issuance of a dictionary of geographical names after another survey on geographical names was implemented throughout 1982.

---

\* Other than China.



## Romanization of the Korean alphabet

In the past, the McCune-Reischauer system was long applied in writing Korean in the Roman alphabet. The system, which was named after two western missionaries who devised it, was neither endorsed nor rejected by the Korean Government. It was simply a way to make Korean words readable for foreigners. The first system made by Koreans themselves was announced by the Korean Language Society on 25 June 1940. Only in February 1959, the Korean Government intervened by promulgating through the Ministry of Education the method of romanization of the Korean alphabet. The method thus announced was based on transliteration, matching alphabet to alphabet, so that words could be easily reversed to original language words.

The method however came under some criticism for the reason that it does not render real pronunciation. The criticism prevailed at the time when the Korean people were striving to make the Seoul Olympiad 1988 an unprecedented success in all respects. With such a background, the Ministry of Education made new rules to romanize the Korean alphabet by modifying its earlier method. The new method based on transcription giving emphasis to real pronunciations was announced by the Ministry's Directive No. 84-1 on 13 January 1984.

The delegate of the Republic of Korea had in mind the above directive when he submitted a draft resolution on the question of romanization of the Korean alphabet for geographical names during the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names held in Montreal, Canada, 18 to 31 August 1987. Consequently, the Conference adopted a resolution recommending that the guidelines in the directive be referred to the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names for consideration as the single international system for the romanization of Korean geographical names.

On the other hand, the International Standardization Organization (ISO) began to consider the romanization of the Korean language under its mandate to standardize every feasible subject. It was not surprising that both Koreas were asked to consider the question of single romanization of the Korean alphabet. Experts from North and South Korea have met three times since 1987 together with experts of other nationalities belonging to ISO's Working Group 4, sub-committee 2, technical committee 46.

At the 4th meeting of Working Group 4 to be held in Copenhagen, Denmark, in May 1991, experts of both Koreas are expected to make further progress on a single method of romanizing the Korean alphabet.

### Recent developments

On 18 and 25 February 1991 the Ministry of Foreign Affairs called two meetings of all Korean Government authorities concerned with geographical names. Representatives from the Ministries of Education, Culture, Construction (Office of National Geography), and the Office of Industry Promotion attended the meetings. After reviewing all relevant questions pertaining to geographical names, both national and international, the meetings considered better ways to deal with them. It was agreed that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will be the coordinating body on geographical names and the two competing methods to romanize the Korean alphabet within the Government should be merged, taking into account the results of the May 1991 meeting of Korean experts in Copenhagen.

## B. South-West Asia Division\*

Hamid Malmirian (IRAN)

### Fourth Regional Meeting of the South-West Asia Division

#### Introduction

Upon invitation of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Fourth Regional Meeting of the South-West Asia Division was held in Tehran between 7 and 9 January 1991, on the premises of the Geographical Organization of the Armed Forces (formerly known as the National Geographical Organization).

The opening ceremonies took place at 9:00 a.m. on 7 January in the main reception hall of the officers' club at the above-mentioned organization.

Many senior army officers, university professors, representatives of cartographic and geographic institutes and members of the Iranian Names and Geographical Terminology Board were present. The Director of the Geographical Organization welcomed the participants and other invited guests. He then gave an outline of the history and activities of the Geographical Organization, and the part that it played in the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the Islamic Republic of Iran after its eight years of war. The main speaker at the inaugural ceremonies was engineer Ali Akbar Turkan, Minister of Defense, who also welcomed the participants. Mr. Turkan then made brief statements on the various phases of development of human civilization and concluded his statements by emphasizing the role of information in the present world community.

He pointed out that geographical names whether on maps or in newspapers and other mass media were an important means of communication and therefore deserved every attention. He referred to the project implemented some 25 years ago by the United Nations for the standardization of geographical names throughout the world and emphasized the importance of the work of the Fourth Meeting in promoting United Nations aims and objectives. He concluded his statements by wishing the participants success in their deliberations.

#### Participants

The South-West Asia Division of the United Nations Conference for the Standardization of Geographical Names includes all the non-Arabic-speaking countries of the area. It covers Farsi- and Urdu-speaking countries as well as those that use Farsi script in their maps. Normally it includes Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan but at the fourth Regional Meeting delegates from the USSR and particularly its Farsi-speaking Republic of Tajikistan were also invited and participated as observers. The meeting expressed the hope that, in future, they will attend as active members.

---

\*Other than Arabic-speaking countries.

### Language of the meeting

In view of the fact that the majority of participants understood Farsi, it was originally contemplated that all the business of the meeting would be conducted in that language. However, upon request of one delegate who apparently was not a master of Farsi language, it was agreed that English would be the official language. Consequently most of the business was conducted in English, although Farsi had to be used on certain occasions.

### Conduct of business

The meeting held 10 business sessions under the chairmanship of Dr. Mohammad Hassan Ganji, Professor Emeritus (Geography) of Tehran University and currently geographical adviser to the Director of the Organization. The first three sessions were devoted to the approval of the agenda and submission and discussion of the national reports. Dr. Ganji submitted a fairly long report which dealt partly with a brief history of the divisional activities and partly with what was done in the Islamic Republic of Iran after the war with Iraq. The delegates from Pakistan and Afghanistan respectively submitted brief written and verbal reports. The remaining sessions of the meeting were almost exclusively assigned to the discussion of the transliteration system in use in member countries. Needless to say, the main aim of the meeting was to come up with as simplified a system as possible, both in respect of alphabetical length and common usage, in all countries concerned. No time was lost on the discussion of alphabetical signs that were exclusive to any one country. Therefore most of the heated discussions sometimes centered on the signs that had a common usage. In the course of the discussions, several proposals were submitted to Dr. Mostafa Moqarrabi, Iranian linguist and philologist, but could not be accepted by delegates from Pakistan and Afghanistan before consulting their home authorities. The delegate from Pakistan, in particular, argued that alteration of a well-established system of transliteration with which all map users have become familiar without any difficulty or confusion will not be practicable. He added that introducing new signs would therefore not serve the purpose of the meeting. The delegates were requested to take the proposals back to their respective offices for review and to let Dr. Ganji know in due course if their countries approved of the proposed changes so as to include them in the final report to be submitted to the next session of the United Nations Group of Experts on the Standardization of Geographical Names.

### Hospitality

The director and officers of the Geographical Organization showed warm hospitality during the entire stay of the delegates in Tehran.

Visits were arranged for the participants to places of interest such as the magnificent tomb and mausoleum of the late Imam Khomeini.

## Resolutions

In the course of its deliberations, the fourth Meeting of the South-West Asia Division of the United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names resolved as follows:

1. The Meeting appreciated with much gratitude, the invitation and hospitality of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the holding of the meeting in Tehran.
2. In view of the tremendous importance of geographical names both as a means of communicating information and widening the scope of general knowledge of the society and as a factor in economic developments, all countries of the region should continue to collect, process, register and disseminate geographical names as called for by the guidelines provided by the United Nations Group of Experts on the Standardization of Geographical Names.
3. As the sole link between the countries of the Division and the body in question, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the United Nations Group of Experts on the Standardization of Geographical Names should prepare a comprehensive regional progress report for the coming session of the United Nations Group of Experts on the Standardization of Geographical Names and the coming Sixth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names.
4. To enable the above representative to prepare the said report, all delegates present at the fourth meeting are to send him their national progress reports within the next six months.

## C. Dutch - Dutch and German-Speaking Division

Josef Breu (AUSTRIA)

### 1. National meetings

The Department of Cartographic Toponymy of the Austrian Cartographic Commission, a federal-level coordinating body for the standardization of geographical names, held two meetings, on 3 March and 30 November 1990.

The main subjects were as follows:

- (a) The Federal Chancellery has instructed the Austrian Statistical Central Office to include Slovenian place names in Carinthia which are officially acknowledged by the Federal Government in the 1991 edition of the official Gazetteer of Austria.
- (b) The Working Group on Exonyms in Austrian school atlases has continued its work and decided that in lower-grade school atlases a selection of common exonyms should be retained, accompanied in brackets by the respective endonyms. Only exonyms of historical importance may be added in square brackets to the respective endonyms. This rule only applies to names of inhabited places and rivers. The other feature names are given in their exonymic forms only, where such forms are in common use.
- (c) Preparatory work is being done on the Gazetteer of Austria to be published by the Austrian Statistical Central Office on the basis of the 1991 official census. This Gazetteer will be published in 9 volumes from 1992 onward. (See also item 1(a), above).

### 2. Participation in international meetings

The Chairman of the Department of Cartographic Toponymy, Mr. H. Desoye, has taken part in the following:

- (a) As Austrian member he has attended two sessions of the Permanent Committee for Geographical Names, Frankfurt-on-Main, which acts as a coordination board of the German-speaking countries of Germany, Austria and Switzerland, on 5 and 6 March and 29 and 30 October 1990.
- (b) As Austrian delegate he has attended one session of the Dutch - Dutch and German-speaking held in Zurich on 9-11 August 1990.

### 3. Publications of the Austrian Central Statistical Office, Vienna

- (a) Gemeindeübersicht (Summary of communes) 1.1 1990.
- (b) Karte der Gemeindegrenzen der Osterreich (Map of the boundaries of the communes of the Republic of Austria) 1.1 1990, 1:500,000.
- (c) Einteilung Osterreichs in Politische Bezirke und Gerichtsbezirke (Division of Austria into administrative and juridical districts) 1.1 1990, 1:1,000,000.
- (d) Statistik-Atlas (Statistical Atlas), 1989 edition, 9 volumes, 1990.

4. Publications of the Federal Survey, Vienna

The following sheets of the Austrian 1:50,000-map have been published in revised editions with standardized geographical names: 18,25,42,66,68,72,76,96,98,99,104,128,129,150,155,and 160.

5. Private publications

- (a) Altdeutsches Namenbuch, Osterreich und Sudtirol (Old German gazetteer, Austria and South Tyrol), ed. by the Commission of Dialectology and Toponymy of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, fasc. 1,2 Introductory Supplement 1, Vienna 1989, 1990.
- (b) Schuster, E.: Die Etymologie der niederösterreichischen Ortsnamen (The etymology of Lower Austrian place names), vol. 2, F-M, ed. by the Verein für Landeskunde von Niederösterreich, Vienna, 1990.
- (c) Dotter F. and M.: Der Inn und seine Zuflüsse (The Inn and its tributaries). In Hydronomia Germaniae, vol. A 14, Stuttgart, 1987.
- (d) Breu, J. and Tomasi, E.: Comparative Multilingual Gazetteer of Geographical Names. Eleventh installment of the Atlas of Danubian Countries, Index Volume, ed. by J. Breu, Vienna, 1989.

D. East Central and South-East Europe Division

Imzich Hoznansky (CZECHOSLOVAKIA)

Activities in standardization of geographical  
names in Czechoslovakia

In late 1990 the Slovak Office of Geodesy and Cartography, Bratislava, issued the following lists of names of geographical objects based on state maps at the scale of 1:10,000:

- Geographical Names of Liptovsky Mikulás District (2,830 names).
- Geographical Names of Kosice-town and Kosice-country Districts (2,297 names).
- Geographical Names of Roznava District(2,241 names)
- Geographical Names of Vranov and Top'ou Districts (1,624 names).

Each publication comes with a map. The same authority issued Names of Castles and Mansion Houses in the Slovak Republic. This publication lists the standardized names of ruins, castles, places and selected fortresses and monasteries. It includes a map at the scale of 1:10,000.

Names of Watercourses and Water Areas of the Slovak Republic - River Basin of Bodrog Center and Tisa.

This is the first of the lists containing names of watercourses and water areas from comprehensive river basins of major Slovak watercourses. It contains 946 names and a map at the scale of 1:200,000. The Slovak Office of Geodesy and Cartography with the Czech Office of Geodesy and Cartography issued the publication Geographical Names of the Czech and Slovak Federative Republic based on a map at the scale of 1:750,000. This publication lists names of residential and non-residential geographical objects. It contains 1,673 names from the Slovak Republic and 3,320 names from the Czech Republic. It is supplemented by a five-language terminological dictionary and a map at the scale of 1:750,000.



E. Division Romano-Hellenique  
(Paris 3-5 Octobre 1990)

La division romano-hellénique s'est réunie à Paris, dans les locaux de l'Institut géographique national français, les 3, 4, et 5 octobre 1990. Ont participé à cette réunion les représentants du Canada, de Chypre, de l'Espagne, de la France, de la Grèce, du Portugal et de la Turquie. L'ordre du jour était le suivant:

1. Etablissement d'une liste d'exonymes de l'ensemble de l'Europe pour chacune des langues de la division.
2. Projets de nomenclatures nationales concises.
3. Avancement de actions nationales ou bilatérales de formation au recueil et à la normalisation des noms géographiques.
4. Progrès récents dans la constitution ou la diffusion de fichiers informatisés de toponymie.
5. Questions diverses: organismes nationaux de toponymie.

La majeure partie de la réunion a été consacrée à l'étude du point 1; le Canada, l'Espagne, la France et le Portugal ont présenté une liste de leurs principaux exonymes. Des listes précédemment établies ont été réexaminées, en particulier le document présenté pour la Turquie par M. Erinç à la 5ème conférence des Nations Unies (Montréal 1987).

La division a décidé d'établir à partir de ces différentes listes un document commun, qui facilitera les études comparatives et la connaissance des formes locales. Ce document devrait pouvoir être présenté à la 6ème conférence des Nations Unies.

Plusieurs pays ont fait part de projets de publication de nomenclatures nationales concises. La Commission de toponymie du Québec a présenté au Comité permanent canadien pour les noms géographiques (C.P.C.N.G.) un projet de dictionnaire comportant environ 6000 noms, traités à l'aide de l'informatique et accompagnés de renseignements géographiques et linguistiques.

La France a également présenté une nomenclature nationale en cours d'établissement; elle comprendra les noms relevés sur des cartes physiques et administratives, au 1:100 000 et 1:1400 000 et dans différents ouvrages (dictionnaires, atlas) Elle comportera plusieurs milliers de noms.

Deux documents ont été communiqués à la division par M. Mayrand, Président de la Commission de toponymie du Québec: d'une part le répertoire d'odonymie de la municipalité régionale du comté de Matane, premier d'une série qui pourrait couvrir tout le territoire du Québec, et d'autre part la 2me édition, révisée et enrichie, du Guide toponymique du Québec.

Actuellement, deux pays de la division ont entrepris une saisie informatisée de leur toponymie: le Canada et la France.

La base nationale de données toponymiques (B.N.D.T) du Canada compte presque 500 000 toponymes, dont environ 75% sont des noms officiels sanctionnés par le C.P.C.N.G.

La France termine pour sa part l'enregistrement informatisé de la nomenclature de la carte de base 1:25 000, entreprise au début des années 1980; on estime à environ 1 700 000 le nombre de toponymes à enregistrer, 1 200 000 étant saisis.

Enfin, trois pays membres de la division présentent des organismes qui assurent, en droit ou de fait, une autorité nationale pour la toponymie: le Canada, avec le C.P.C.N.G. auquel participe la Commission de toponymie du Québec, la France, avec la Commission nationale de toponymie, récemment créée, et la commission de toponymie de l'I.G.N.F. et le Portugal, qui vient de créer le Conseil national de toponymie, placé sous la tutelle de l'Institut géographique et cadastral portugais.

## NEWS FROM THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA/CANADA DIVISION

SEPTEMBER 1990 - MARCH 1991 / SEPTEMBRE 1990 - MARS 1991

Helen Kerfoot (CANADA)

### 1. CANADIAN MEETINGS / RÉUNIONS CANADIENNES

The Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names, comprises 25 members (representing the provinces and territories, federal departments, and advisory committees).

Le Comité permanent canadien des noms géographiques se compose de 25 membres représentant les provinces et les territoires du Canada ainsi que des ministères fédéraux et des comités consultatifs.

The CPCGN met in Halifax in October. On this occasion the Committee accepted recommendations of the Working Group on the Automation of Geographical Names Records which addressed: the need for a long-term vision of a digital national toponymic service for Canada; exchange of data between CPCGN members; core data fields for approved name records; consistency of data and data structure; documentation; access to the national toponymic data base; and links to other data bases.

Le CPCNG s'est réuni à Halifax en octobre 1990. À cette occasion les membres ont approuvé les recommandations du Groupe de travail sur l'automatisation des fichiers toponymiques concernant les points suivants : le besoin d'une perspective à long terme d'un service numérique national de toponymie pour le Canada; l'échange de données entre les membres du CPCNG; les renseignements essentiels pour l'enregistrement des noms approuvés; l'uniformité des données et de la structure des données; la documentation; l'accès à la base nationale de données toponymiques et les liens avec les autres bases de données.

At the same meeting, the CPCGN discussed the results of a pilot project on the recording of aboriginal toponyms and the written forms suitable for use on maps. The survey indicated considerable divergence of opinion, and showed that as yet we have no clear answer how, on the one hand, to respect the standard aboriginal orthography, and yet on the other, to make aboriginal toponymic data recognizable and accessible to non-natives.

À la même réunion, les membres du CPCNG ont discuté les résultats d'un projet pilote sur l'écriture des toponymes autochtones et les formes orthographiques appropriées pour les utilisateurs des cartes. Le projet a montré une grande diversité d'opinions, et a indiqué qu'à ce moment nous n'avons pas une bonne solution pour respecter l'orthographe autochtone normalisée, et en même temps rendre les données toponymiques autochtones reconnaissables et accessibles aux non-autochtones.

The following basic guidelines were accepted by the CPCGN:

Les lignes directrices fondamentales suivantes ont été approuvées par le CPCNG :

- (1) that the standard orthography of aboriginal toponyms be respected;
- (2) that those aboriginal groups who do not have a standardized orthography be urged to develop and approve such standard writing systems;
- (3) that the principle of dual and/or alternate naming be acceptable in the aboriginal context, except in the case of populated places;

- (1) que l'orthographe normalisée des toponymes autochtones soit respectée;
- (2) que les groupes autochtones qui n'ont pas d'orthographe normalisée soient vivement encouragés à mettre au point et à approuver un système d'écriture;
- (3) que le principe d'attribution d'un nom sous une double forme ou d'un nom sous une autre forme soit acceptable dans le contexte autochtone sauf dans le cas de lieux habités;

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>(4) that, in keeping with UN Resolution I/4D(b), the status of each name in a dual and/or alternate context be clearly specified;</p> <p>(5) that maps using standard aboriginal orthography be accompanied by appropriate pronunciation guidelines for non-standard (i.e. English/ French) letters and/or diacritics.</p> <p>(6) that the issue of dual and/or alternate names be given further consideration, especially in the context of:</p> <p>(a) use of English/French generics either as an addition or as a replacement for the aboriginal generic;</p> <p>(b) possible orthographic adaptations of the name.</p> <p>(7) that gazetteers incorporating aboriginal names always cross-reference dual and/or alternate forms.</p> | <p>(4) que, en restant conforme à la Résolution I/4D(b) des Nations Unies, la position de chaque nom dans un contexte où l'on utilise la double forme ou une autre forme soit clairement spécifiée;</p> <p>(5) que des cartes utilisant l'orthographe autochtone normalisée soient accompagnées de directives adéquates sur la prononciation pour les lettres et les signes diacritiques qui ne sont pas conformes aux normes (par exemple, de l'anglais ou du français);</p> <p>(6) que la question des noms sous une double forme ou sous une autre forme fasse l'objet d'un examen plus approfondi spécialement dans les contextes suivants :</p> <p>(a) utilisation des génériques anglais ou français, qu'il s'agisse d'une addition ou d'un remplacement pour le générique autochtone;</p> <p>(b) adaptations orthographiques possibles du nom.</p> <p>(7) que l'on utilise des index géographiques, lesquels, s'ils contiennent des noms autochtones, doivent toujours renvoyer aux formes doubles ou aux formes de remplacement.</p> |
|--|--|

## 2. PUBLICATIONS / PUBLICATIONS

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

- **Principles and procedures for geographical naming 1990 / Principes et directives pour la dénomination des lieux 1990, CPCGN / CPCNG Ottawa, 48 pages.**

### Brochures / Dépliants

- **Gazetteer of Canada: Manitoba - Cumulative Supplement to December 31, 1990, Manitoba Department of Natural Resources.**
- **Gazetteer of Canada / Répertoire géographique du Canada - information pamphlet on prices of gazetteer volumes for different provinces and territories / dépliant renseignant sur les prix des volumes des répertoires géographiques différents pour chaque province et territoire du Canada.**
- **Toponymy - let's read about it! / La toponymie - ça se lit! - information on toponymic publications of the CPCGN and its members / renseignements sur les publications d'ordre toponymique des membres du CPCNG, 24 pages.**

## Newsletters / Communiqués

- **CANOMA 16(2)** December / décembre 1990 (News and views on Canadian toponymy / Nouvelles et commentaires concernant la toponymie du Canada), CPCGN Secretariat / Secrétariat du CPCNG.

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

Translation Bureau of Secretary of State has included in its 1991-92 training programme one-day workshops for francophones on the "Translation of geographical names".

These workshops are intended to sensitize editors and translators to the problems of geographical names and to familiarize participants with the rules and principles adopted by the Translation Bureau in connection with the translation and writing of geographical names.

Le Bureau de la traduction du Secrétariat d'État a inscrit à son programme de formation de 1991-1992 des ateliers d'une journée sur la «Traduction des noms géographiques».

Ces ateliers ont pour but de sensibiliser les rédacteurs et traducteurs à la problématique des noms géographiques et de «permettre aux participants de se familiariser avec les règles et les principes adoptés par le Bureau (de la traduction) en ce qui concerne la traduction et l'écriture des noms géographiques.»

### 4. OTHER ACTIVITIES / AUTRES ACTIVITÉS

- Statistics Canada continue to match municipal names in their data base with toponyms approved by the Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names, and included in the Canadian Geographical Names Data Base (CGNDB). This will link municipal names by which Statistics Canada reports census and survey data with equivalent CPCGN approved toponyms on the CGNDB and included in gazetteers, atlases, topographic and thematic maps.
- Le Québec, comme représentant du Canada, a participé à la réunion de la Division romano-hellénique qui s'est tenue à Paris, du 3 au 5 octobre 1990. Les principaux points à l'ordre du jour furent les bases de données toponymiques, l'élaboration d'une nomenclature nationale concise et la création des organismes nationaux de toponymie. Au sujet des exonymes, la Division romano-hellénique a formé le projet de préparer un travail commun à partir des listes de chaque pays et reclassées selon une présentation unique.