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**United Nations Group of Experts on
Geographical Names**

2025 session

New York, 28 April – 2 May 2025

Item 4 (d) of the provisional agenda *

Reports: National and international meetings and conferences

Tenth Arab Forum on Geographical Names **

Submitted by The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

* GEGN.2/2025/1

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Introduction

The Arab Division of Experts on Geographical Names is one of the divisions under the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN), which operates within the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations. The Division's headquarters is located in Amman, Jordan. Its membership includes experts representing the following Arab member states:

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, the Kingdom of Bahrain, the Republic of Djibouti, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Republic of Iraq, the State of Kuwait, the Lebanese Republic, the State of Libya, the Kingdom of Morocco, the Sultanate of Oman, the State of Qatar, the Federal Republic of Somalia, the Republic of Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Republic of Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, Palestine, the Republic of Yemen, the Union of the Comoros, and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania.

The Arab Division holds its meetings once every two years at its headquarters in Jordan. However, meetings may also be held in other member countries upon an official request from the country's representative.

The Arab Division's primary mission is to collect, standardize, and manage geographical names across various Arab countries.

Its objectives include:

- To establish guidelines for the collection, management, standardization, and use of Arab geographical names at the national, regional, and international levels.
- To address linguistic and phonetic challenges that hinder the standardization of geographical names.
- To facilitate the exchange of scientific and technical expertise among member states to support the development of national and regional gazetteers, including a standardized Arab gazetteer.
- To enhance collaboration between Arab organizations and international counterparts in the field of geographical names.
- To highlight the economic, social, cultural, and historical significance of preserving and standardizing geographical names.
- To promote Arab heritage and cultural identity through the standardization and documentation of geographical names.

Executive Summary

With reference to Royal Decree No. (74708), dated 16/10/1445 AH, issued by His Excellency the Chief of the Royal Court, granting gracious approval for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to host the 10th Arab Forum for Geographical Names, represented by the General Authority for Survey and Geospatial Information, in the second half of 2024.

The 10th Arab Forum for Geographical Names was held under the generous patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Khalid bin Salman bin Abdulaziz, Minister of Defence and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the General Authority for Survey and Geospatial Information (GEOSA), under the theme "Strengthening Relations and Ties between Arab Countries in Geographical Names." The forum took place from November 10–12, 2024, in Jeddah Governorate, bringing together more than 450 visitors and participants, including officials, experts, and specialists from 22 Arab countries and 7 international foreign countries.

The forum featured diverse scientific participation, with over 90 scientific papers and 6 specialized discussion panels, involving 70 speakers and experts in the field of geographical names.

Additionally, the forum included an accompanying exhibition featuring 17 entities from the government, private, and non-profit sectors, as well as a scientific exhibition displaying more than 25 scientific posters on geographical names.

As part of the forum's activities, a meeting of the Arab Division of Experts on Geographical Names was held, attended by 17 representatives from member states, the Chair of the Economic Unit of the League of Arab States, the Chair of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN), and the Secretariat of UNGEGN. During the meeting, the progress of the Arab Division's work was reviewed, with discussions based on the agenda topics, culminating in several key decisions and recommendations.

Accordingly, this brief report presents an overview of the most significant aspects of the 10th Arab Division Forum on Geographical Names.

Objectives of the Forum

- To facilitate the sharing of experiences in geography, cartography, geospatial information, linguistics, and history across Arab countries.
- To strengthen joint Arab efforts within the Arab Division and advance the implementation of the 2017 Standardized Arab System, as adopted by the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN).
- To highlight the role of national institutions in integrating geographical names into sustainable development plans.
- To emphasize the interrelations between geographical names and Arabic linguistics, history, archaeology, and geospatial technologies.

Forum Themes

1. **National Activities:** Showcasing Arab countries' initiatives in geographical naming.
2. **Best Practices & Standards:** Discussing the latest developments in managing and standardizing geographical names.
3. **Geographical Name Meanings:** Exploring the interpretations and narratives behind geographical names.
4. **Cultural Identity:** Highlighting the impact of geographical names on cultural identity.
5. **Heritage and Tradition:** Addressing the influence of geographical names on cultural heritage.
6. **Romanization of Arabic Names:** Standardizing the romanization of geographical names in the Arab world using classical Arabic.
7. **Geospatial & AI Integration:** Examining the integration of geographical names with geospatial technologies and artificial intelligence.
8. **Marine and Underwater Features:** Focusing on the naming of maritime and submerged geographical features.
9. **Digital Gazetteer:** Developing digital gazetteer for Arab countries.
10. **Harmonizing Terminology:** Compiling a standardized glossary of geographical name-related terms across Arab nations.

The Proceedings of the 10th Arab Forum for Geographical Names

The General Authority for Survey and Geospatial Information aimed to make this forum a distinguished scientific event, extending beyond the official meeting of the Arab Division of Experts on Geographical Names. To achieve this, a high-level scientific committee was formed, comprising members from the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the Kingdom of Morocco, and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

This committee dedicated approximately two months to reviewing, editing, and selecting the best scientific papers from over 123 submissions to be presented at the forum.

Additionally, the Authority ensured that the forum adhered to international scientific standards, similar to global academic conferences. To enhance its scientific value, the Authority invited keynote speakers, including:

- Experts in geographical names from the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN)
- Experts from the League of Arab States
- Representatives from the International Cartographic Association (ICA)

- Academics and specialists from Arab and international universities, research centers, and institutions

Furthermore, Saudi ministries, authorities, universities, and government agencies, represented by the National Committee for Geographical Names, actively participated in the forum.

The scientific contributions were diverse, with participants from 22 Arab countries, in addition to international participants from the United States, France, Slovenia, Estonia, and Chad. The event featured 74 speakers throughout its sessions.

The forum's scientific activities reached their peak with the presentation of:

- Over 90 scientific papers
- Six specialized discussion panels, where more than 70 speakers shared research insights, experiences, and expertise
- An accompanying exhibition, featuring 17 entities from the government, private, and non-profit sectors
- A scientific exhibition, displaying over 25 research posters in the field of geographical names

Key Results and Recommendations of the 10th Arab Forum for Geographical Names:

1- Integration of Geographical Names with Geospatial Technologies and Artificial Intelligence

Given the rapid technological advancements and the importance of geospatial technologies and artificial intelligence in monitoring and documenting geographical names, and benefiting from AI systems in standardizing geographical names in accordance with the Unified Arab System, and their positive impact on private and public life in societies. The forum recommends focusing on geospatial information applications, conducting research studies on AI systems, and leveraging them due to their strong connection with geographical names and their standardization.

2- Geographical Names and Other Sciences

After reviewing scientific studies, research, and country experiences presented at the forum, it became clear that the use of geographical names is inherent in all sciences, as hardly any discipline, including Arabic linguistics, history, archaeology, and geospatial sciences, is devoid of geographical names.

The forum recommends incorporating other sciences related to geographical names within the themes of the Arab Division's conferences and ensuring the division's participation in other scientific conferences.

3- Naming of Marine and Submerged Features

International interest in naming marine features has become crucial for standardizing geographical names in the International Dictionary of Marine Names.

The forum recommends benefiting from the experiences of countries and institutions specializing in the naming of marine features, by submitting naming proposals through a specialized committee and incorporating them into the classification of marine features. It also recommends enriching this topic through scientific seminars and workshops to exchange expertise and information through research papers and studies that carry geographical names with Arab identity and significance.

4- Geographical Names and Their Role in Strengthening Identity and Cultural Heritage

Geographical names originally carried clear and well-known meanings, and most still retain their significance. A look at Arabic place names confirms this fact. The forum recommends increasing awareness of the meanings of some geographical names, which have evolved due to linguistic changes, contact with other civilizations, and historical transformations. It also recommends studying the language in which the name was originally given, as it may have disappeared, making the meaning unclear. Additionally, it recommends focusing on the documentation and standardization of geographical names to enhance national identity and geographical recognition, allowing regions to gain visibility and development opportunities, while highlighting the historical and cultural significance of place names in Arab heritage.

5- The Role of Geographical Names in Geographic Information Integration

Given the critical role of geographical names in various aspects of life, sciences, and disciplines, and their importance in the integration of geographic information and sustainable development, they enable decision-makers to standardize place names through cooperation between ministries and institutions.

The forum recommends focusing on geographical names and their role in sustainable development, emphasizing the preservation of both modern and original names, particularly those subject to demographic changes or influenced by government policies, to safeguard historical geographical names (toponyms) and align them with their original and historical designations.

6- Awareness and Training in the Field of Geographical Names

Recognizing the importance of awareness and training in the field of geographical names, the forum recommends integrating the study of geographical names into the educational curricula of Arab countries, and holding training and awareness courses in the field of geographical name standardization at the Arab level. These courses should be conducted in Arab countries in coordination with the presidency of the Arab Division, to train experts who keep pace with advancements in geographical names.

Meeting of the Arab Division of Experts on Geographical Names

The Arab Division of Experts on Geographical Names held its meeting from November 11–12, 2024, as part of the 10th Arab Forum for Geographical Names.

The meeting was attended by 17 representatives from Arab countries, including: Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Jordan, Bahrain, Sudan, Syria, Iraq, Oman, Palestine, Somalia, Comoros, Mauritania, Tunisia, Egypt, Morocco, Yemen, and Djibouti, in addition to the Chair of the Economic Unit of the League of Arab States, the Chair of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN), the UNGEGN Secretariat, and the Vice President of the Arab Division of Experts on Geographical Names.

Recommendations:

The members of the Arab Division of Experts on Geographical Names and the participants agreed on the following recommendations and outcomes:

1- Establishing a Secretariat for the Arab Division of Experts on Geographical Names, Hosted by Saudi Arabia, Represented by the General Authority for Survey and Geospatial Information

The Arab Division, after reviewing its internal regulations and the proposal submitted by its members, and recognizing the importance of advancing the implementation of its recommendations, along with aligning its objectives with the international strategy for geographical names developed by UNGEGN, and within the framework of strengthening governance structures for the division, decided the following:

In its closing session of the 10th Meeting in Jeddah on November 12, 2024, the Arab Division of Experts on Geographical Names agreed to establish a permanent secretariat hosted by Saudi Arabia, represented by the General Authority for Survey and Geospatial Information, while keeping the presidency of the division in Jordan. The bylaws will be discussed at the next (11th) meeting to align with the division's development, and the Secretariat will assume the following responsibilities:

- Developing the main objectives and strategic directions of the Arab Division in alignment with UNGEGN's strategic plan and submitting a report to the division's members.
- Proposing a work plan for the division within three months, covering workgroups and technical teams for the period 2025–2029.
- Implementing a governance framework for the division's operations, ensuring transparency, efficiency, and compliance with UNGEGN's guidelines, while empowering and supporting workgroups and technical teams.
- Holding a virtual meeting within three months of the 10th meeting to present a development plan for the division.
- Executing the decision to transfer the division's hosting and officially integrating it under the Economic and Social Council of the League of Arab States.
- Engaging with countries that do not have an official representative to encourage their formal participation.

2- Establishing National Committees/Bodies for Geographical Names in Arab Countries

After reviewing Arab countries' activities in the field of geographical names, and considering decisions and recommendations from previous international and Arab conferences, the division emphasizes the need to establish independent national bodies or committees to standardize geographical names at the national, regional, and international levels.

The 10th Meeting recommends that Arab countries that have not yet established national geographical names committees expedite their formation. Additionally, Arab countries should cooperate with those that already have experience in this field and coordinate with UNGEGN to enhance national standardization programs.

3- Developing Digital Gazetteer in Arab Countries

After reviewing the experiences of Arab countries in producing and issuing gazetteers, and after considering recommendations from previous international and Arab conferences, the 10th Meeting recommends:

- Issuing a national gazetteer for each Arab country, in accordance with the approved geographical names standardization system.
- Ensuring that these gazetteers incorporate modern technological advancements and are accessible online.
- Preparing for the development of a unified Arab geographical names dictionary to standardize place names and geographical terms across Arab countries.

4- Standardizing the Romanization of Geographical Names in the Arab World

After reviewing the progress made during previous Arab meetings, and the position of Arab countries on the implementation of a Unified Arab Romanization System, and following the 2017 approval of the system by UNGEGN at its 11th Conference, which recommended adherence to the Romanization system adopted by the Arab Division, the 10th Meeting recommends:

- All Arab countries must ensure the proper and continuous implementation of this system.
- Strict adherence to the correct letter formation in Romanization must be maintained.
- Arab countries that have not yet implemented the system should apply it in maps, road signs, dictionaries, and official documents.
- Collaboration with experts and software developers is encouraged to improve computerized Romanization systems for geographical names.

5- Coordination and Cooperation with the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN)

The 10th Meeting recognizes the importance of international cooperation in the standardization of geographical names and in coordinating efforts with UNGEGN.

Recommendation:

- Arab experts on geographical names should participate, following official procedures, in the 2025 UNGEGN meeting, which will be held in New York, USA, from April 28 to May 2, 2025.
- Countries must submit reports and research papers on their geographical names activities in accordance with the session agenda, available on UNGEGN's official website.
- Deadlines:
 - Abstracts must be submitted by January 17, 2025.
 - Final reports must be submitted by March 10, 2025.

6- Hosting the 11th Arab Meeting of Geographical Names Experts

The 10th Meeting acknowledges the progress made in standardizing geographical names across member countries and highlights the importance of continuing joint Arab efforts to achieve common goals with the support of Arab governments and the League of Arab States.

Recommendation:

- The 11th Arab Meeting of Geographical Names Experts should be held in 2026, in coordination with the presidency of the Arab Division.

- The results and recommendations should be submitted to the League of Arab States by the President or Vice President of the Arab Division after completing official procedures

Conclusion

The General Authority for Survey and Geospatial Information has worked to strengthen its relations with international and regional organizations, committees, and technical teams. Within this framework, the Authority has sought to enhance Saudi Arabia's international presence and active participation in the field of geospatial information, particularly within the Arab Division of Experts on Geographical Names, to ensure the achievement of shared strategic goals, which in turn contribute to the realization of sustainable development objectives. Geographical names are considered one of the key components of geospatial information, supporting and enabling various sectors.

In this context, Saudi Arabia played a leading role in establishing a permanent secretariat for the Arab Division of Experts on Geographical Names, hosted by the General Authority for Survey and Geospatial Information. The Kingdom also proposed a roadmap for the development of the division's activities, along with a comprehensive governance framework to enhance the division's operational mechanisms, empower workgroups and technical teams, and align with the strategic plan of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN). These efforts underscore Saudi Arabia's commitment to its pioneering role in international forums. The discussions of the Arab Division meeting focused on the division's internal regulations and proposals for developing its operations.

On this occasion, the General Authority for Survey and Geospatial Information extends its deepest gratitude and appreciation to:

- The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and His Royal Highness the Crown Prince, Prime Minister (may God protect them), for their unwavering support of the Authority and the geospatial sector.
- His Royal Highness the Minister of Defense and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Authority, for his continuous support, guidance, and follow-up, and for his blessed and fruitful patronage of this inspiring Arab forum, which reinforces Arab identity, strengthens scientific partnerships between research institutions, and fosters a sense of belonging among Arab researchers.

Appendix (1): Cooperation Agreements

As part of the opening ceremony of the forum, the General Authority for Survey and Geospatial Information signed ten memorandums of cooperation, aimed at enhancing the role of geospatial information in serving and improving the experience of Hajj and Umrah pilgrims. These agreements include:

- A memorandum of cooperation with the Ministry of Hajj and Umrah
- A memorandum of cooperation with the General Authority for the Care of the Two Holy Mosques

Additionally, several agreements were signed to support urban planning and development projects using geospatial data for informed decision-making:

- A memorandum of cooperation with Jeddah Municipality
- A memorandum of cooperation with the Development Authority of Makkah Region
- A memorandum of cooperation with the Royal Commission for Makkah City and Holy Sites
- A memorandum of cooperation with Taif Municipality

In the field of academic and research collaboration, the Authority signed agreements with:

- Jeddah University
- Umm Al-Qura University
- King Abdulaziz University



Appendix (2): Minutes of the Arab Division Meeting

5- ولأهمية المضي قدماً في متابعة توصيات اجتماعات الشعبة العربية للأسماء الجغرافية، ولضرورة موازنة الأهداف والتوصيات مع الاستراتيجية الدولية للأسماء الجغرافية المبنية من فريق خبراء الأسماء الجغرافية بالأمم المتحدة، وفي إطار المضي بأهمية بناء وتطوير إطار الحوكمة الشامل للشعبة العربية.

تقر الشعبة العربية لخبراء الأسماء الجغرافية في جلستها الختامية باجتماعها (العاشر) بمحافظة جدة بتاريخ 2024/11/12م، الآتي:

1- الاتفاق على انشاء امانة للشعبة العربية لخبراء الأسماء الجغرافية وتضمينها المملكة العربية السعودية ممثلة (بالهيئة العامة للمساحة والمعلومات الجيومكانية)، على أن تبقى المملكة الأردنية مقراً للشعبة العربية وفي المؤتمر القادم 11 يتم فيه مناقشة مراجعة النظام الاساسي للشعبة بما يتوافق وتطوير الشعبة، وأن تتولى الأمانة المهام التالية.

2- تطوير الأهداف والتوجهات الرئيسية للشعبة العربية للأسماء الجغرافية بما يتواءم مع الخطة الاستراتيجية لفريق الأسماء الجغرافية بالأمم المتحدة (UNGEGN)، وتقديم تقرير بذلك لأعضاء الشعبة العربية.

3- تقديم مقترح خطة عمل الشعبة العربية لخبراء الأسماء الجغرافية بعد 3 أشهر من تاريخه (البند5) بما فيها مجموعات العمل والفرق الفنية من عام 2025 إلى 2029م.

4- العمل على حوكمة شاملة لآلية عمل الشعبة العربية ومجموعات العمل والفرق الفنية المنبثقة وتمكينها وتحفيزها، بما يتوافق مع النظام الأساسي للشعبة. بحيث تحدد هذه الحوكمة المبادئ التوجيهية والمسؤوليات والإطار التشغيلي، مما يضمن الشفافية والفعالية والمواءمة مع الأهداف العامة لفريق خبراء الأسماء الجغرافية بالأمم المتحدة (UNGEGN).



بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

محضر اجتماع الشعبة العربية لخبراء الأسماء الجغرافية على هامش الملتقى العاشر للأسماء الجغرافية

اجتمعت الشعبة العربية لخبراء الأسماء الجغرافية بتاريخ 2024/11/12-11/12م ، على هامش الملتقى العاشر للأسماء الجغرافية ، والذي عُقد في المملكة العربية السعودية (جدة) ، في الفترة ما بين 10-12 (نوفمبر) 2024، برئاسة العقيد يوسف النبهاني (سلطنة عُمان)، النائب الأول لرئيس الشعبة العربية وبحضور 17 مندوباً من الدول الأعضاء في الشعبة العربية لخبراء الأسماء الجغرافية ، وحسب المرفق(1) لائحة الحضور ومرفق (2) جدول الأعمال.

وتم في الاجتماع الأعمال التالية:

1- إقرار جدول الأعمال :

تم مناقشة وإقرار جدول الأعمال من السادة الحضور
2- التوصية بإصدار معجم للأسماء الجغرافية خاص لكل دولة من دول الأعضاء وفق النظام المعتمد لتوحيد الأسماء الجغرافية.

3- ضرورة حث الدول العربية التي ليس لها لجان لإنشاء لجان أو هيئات وطنية مختصة بالأسماء الجغرافية.

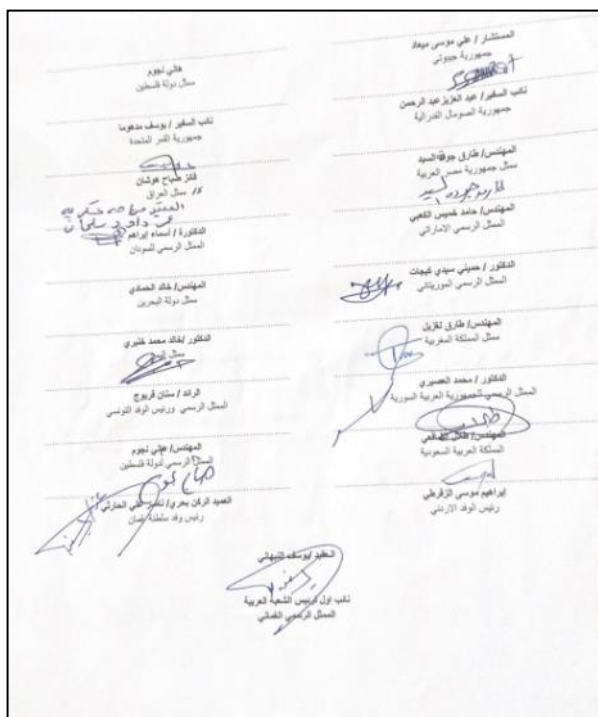
4- المؤتمر الحادي عشر للأسماء الجغرافية.

التوصية بأن يتم خلال العام 2026م، عقد المؤتمر الحادي عشر للأسماء الجغرافية، في الجمهورية العربية السورية أو جمهورية السودان وإذا تعذر ذلك يكون عقد المؤتمر في المملكة العربية السعودية .

5- تعقد أمانة الشعبة العربية لخبراء الأسماء الجغرافية اجتماعاً مرئياً خلال 3 أشهر من تاريخ انعقاد الاجتماع (العاشر) للشعبة العربية لخبراء الأسماء الجغرافية يعرض من خلاله الخطة التطويرية لأعمال الشعبة.

6- تقوم الأمانة بتفعيل قرار نقل استضافة الشعبة العربية وتفعيل تبعية الشعبة العربية للخبراء في الأسماء الجغرافية للمجلس الاقتصادي الاجتماعي في جامعة الدول العربية.

7- تقوم الأمانة بالتواصل مع الدول التي لا يوجد لها ممثل رسمي وذلك عبر القنوات الرسمية.



الشعب العربية لخبراء الأسماء الجغرافية جدول حضور الاجتماع للملتقى العاشر

جدة/المملكة العربية السعودية

من 2024/12-10

الدولة	الممثل الرسمي	رقم الهاتف	الإيميل	التوقيع
المملكة العربية السعودية	طارق البستاني	050444761	t.alshafaei@gov.sa	
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البحرين	ابراهيم بن فهد	050444761	Zouqanti@yahoo.com	
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المملكة المغربية	طارق لغزير	+212661811325	t.laghzil@anccf.gov.ma	
الجمهورية اليمنية	د/ خالد خنبري	+967777234777	KKhanbari@hotmail.com	
دولة الكويت	د/ طارق خنبري	+971506679976	h.alkaabi@gic.gov.kw	
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الشعب العربية لخبراء الأسماء الجغرافية جدول حضور الاجتماع للملتقى العاشر

جدة/المملكة العربية السعودية

من 2024/12-10

الدولة	الممثل الرسمي	رقم الهاتف	الإيميل	التوقيع
مملكة البحرين	ناهد الحارثي	96896099096	nsageo@nsa.gov.bh	
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Appendix (3): Photos from the Forum and the Arab Division Meeting













Appendix No. (4): Forum Agenda

Day 1

Time	Topic
9:00 am - 10:30 am	Registration
10:30 am	Opening
10:30 am - 10:35 am	Recitation of verses from the Holy Quran
10:35 am - 10:40 am	Speech by Dr. Eng Mohammed bin Yahya Al-Sayel President of the General Authority for Survey and Geospatial Information (GEOSA)
10:40 am - 10:45 am	Video: Geographical Names: A Solid Identity and a Developmental Pillar
10:45 am - 10:50 am	The Announcement of cooperation agreements and memoranda
10:50 am - 10:55 am	The tour of His Highness the Governor of Jeddah of the geographic names exhibition
10:55 am - 11:00 am	The group photo of the heads of delegations with His Highness the Governor of Jeddah
11:00 am - 11:15 am	Speech by H.E. Ambassador Mohammedi Ahmed Ni Secretary-General of the Arab Economic Unity Council The Importance of Exchanging Arab Expertise in Geographical Information
11:15 am - 11:30 am	Speech by Brig. Muammar Kamel Hanna Haddadin Chairman of the Arab Division of Experts on Geographical Names and Director-General of the Royal Jordanian Geographic Center Report of the Arab Division of Geographical Names Experts
11:30 am - 11:45 am	Speech by Miss. Cecille Blake Secretary of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names Best practices, standards and new developments in Geographical Names management and standardization
11:45 am - 12:00 pm	Presentation by Dr. Khalifa Mohammed Al Rumaithi Chairman of the Board of Directors, Federal Geographic Information Center, United Arab Emirates (UAE) The Cultural Heritage of Geographical Names in the UAE
12:00 pm - 12:15 pm	Break

Day 1

Time	Event	Country
12:15 pm - 1:15 pm	Panel Discussion on Strengthening Relationships and Connections Between Arab Countries in Geographical names Moderator: Fatima bint Fahd	
	Eng. Talal bin Rabee Al Shafaey Assistant President of Survey and Geospatial Activity Sector	Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
	Eng. Hamed Khamis Al Kaabi President of the Federal Geographic Information Center	The United Arab Emirates
	Col. Yousuf Harith Al Nabhani Director General of National Survey Authority	Sultanate of Oman
	Dr. Muhammed Alassiry President of the Syrian Astronomical Association	Syrian Arab Republic
	Eng. Adel Salem Ali Chairman of the Survey Department of Libya	State of Libya
	Dr. HaminI Sidy Kijat Chairman of the National Committee on Geographical. Name	Islamic Republic of Mauritania

Scientific Session (1)

Session Chair: Dr. Ali bin Abdullah Al Dossary

Session Rapporteur: Yasser Abdullah Asiri

Time	Event	Country
1:15 pm - 1:30 pm	Standardizing Geographical Names in the Arab World. Ibrahim Musa Mohammad Al-Zaqrati	Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
1:30 pm - 1:45 pm	New Developments in the Management and Standardization of Geographical Names in Saudi Arabia: Geographical Names Portal. Eng. Majdi Hamed Al Harbi	Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
1:45 pm - 2:00 pm	Developing an Electronic Platform for Managing Geographical Names in Tunisia: Towards Enhancing National and International Communication and Collaboration. Sinan Qarabouj	Republic of Tunisia
2:00 pm - 2:15 pm	Geographical Names in Sudan and Their Cultural Significance: An Analytical Study. Dr. Wijdan Dirar Omar Ahmed	Republic of Sudan

Time	Event	Country
2:15 pm - 3:00 pm	Discussion panel on Discussion panel on Language policies, computing and their applications for geographical names: The experience of the King Salman International Academy of the Arabic Language. Moderator: Fatima bint Fahd	Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
	Planning and linguistic policies and their relationship to geographical names Prof. Dr. Khaled Al-Qawsi	
	The role of the Suwar platform for digital dictionaries in documenting and unifying geographical names and enhancing joint Arab work). Dr. Afrah Al-Tamimi	
	Standardization in the lexicographic industry: The Natural Parks Dictionary as a model Dr. Yahya Al-Latini	
3:00 pm	The end of the first day's program / lunch	

Day 2

Day 2

Time	Event	Country
8:00 am - 9:00 am	Registration	
9:00 am - 10:00 am	Panel Discussion on Modern Trends in Geographical Names	
	Dr. Pierre Jaillard, Chair of the UNGEGN (Moderator) Chair of the UNGEGN	The French Republic
	Dr. Tim Trainor Past President of the International Cartographic Association (ICA)	The United States of America
	Dr. Matjaž Geršič Assistant Director, Research Associate International Cartographic Association (ICA)	Republic of Slovenia
	Dr. Peeter Päll Leading Language Planning Expert, Former Convener of UNGEGN's Working Group on Romanization Systems	Republic of Estonia
	Miss. Cecille Blake Chief Secretary of the UNGEGN	The Republic of Jamaica
	Dr. Fatima Baothman President of the Saudi AI Society Expert in Artificial Intelligence and Languages	Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
10:00 am - 10:15 am	Break	

Scientific Session (2)

Session Chair: Prof. Dr. Mohamed Zaki Al Sedimi

Session Rapporteur: Dr. Wijdan Dirar Omar Ahmed

Time	Event	Country
10:15 am - 10:30 am	The Cultural Significance of Village and City Names in the Northern Upper Egypt Region Prof. Dr. Mohamed Abdel Salam Hussein	Arab Republic of Egypt
10:30 am - 10:45 am	Non-Invasive Geophysical Surveys of Several Rest Stops on Darb Zubayda Prof. Dr. Ammar Jassim Mohammed Al Khafaji	Republic of Iraq
10:45 am - 11:00 am	The Geographical Dimensions of Place Names in Urban Areas in Monufia Governorate Prof. Dr. Mousa Fathi Mousa Atlam	Arab Republic of Egypt
11:00 am - 11:15 am	The Experience of Algeria in Compiling a Gazetteer of Geographical Names Dr. Sherif Kouaish	People's Democratic Republic of Algeria
11:15 am - 11:30 am	The Significance of Religious Urban Place Names in Gharbia Governorate and Their Relation to Egyptian Personality and Culture – A Geographical Perspective Prof. Dr. Abdel Salam Abdel Sattar Ismail	Arab Republic of Egypt
11:30 am - 11:45 am	The Impact of Intangible Cultural Heritage on Preserving and Documenting Geographical Names in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan Dr. Safaa Sobeh Sbabha	Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
11:45 am - 12:00 pm	The Impact of Geographical Names on Cultural Identity in the Kingdom of Bahrain 1- Mr Khaled Abdul Hamid Al Hammadi 2- Mr Fathi Issa Labourshid	Kingdom of Bahrain
12:00 pm - 12:15 pm	Break	



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Day 2

Scientific Session (3)

Session Chair: Dr. Babi El-Kherash

Session Rapporteur: Dr. Safa Sobh Babha

Time	Event	Country
12:15 pm - 12:30 pm	Challenges in Transliterating European Geographical Names into Arabic Matjaž Geršič, Chair of the Joint ICA/IGU Commission on Toponymy	Republic of Slovenia
12:30 pm - 12:45 pm	Standardizing the Romanization of Geographical Names in the Arab World Using Classical Arabic Dr. Sakinah Youssef Al-Rawashdeh	Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
12:45 pm - 1:00 pm	Using Romanization Programs to Label Geographical Names on Maps Dr. Faten Nahaas	Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
1:00 pm - 1:15 pm	Employing Geographical Names in Omani Cultural Heritage: Poetry as a Model Dr. Badr bin Juma bin Suwailam Al-Ghanami	Sultanate of Oman
1:15 pm - 1:30 pm	Socotra's Heritage on the Map: A Study of Geographical Names and Their Integration into Digital Content 1- Dr. Mohammed Al-Mahfali 2- Ahmed Al-Rumaili	Republic of Yemen
1:30 pm - 1:45 pm	Oman Encyclopedia in Arab Heritage Col. Yusuf bin Harith bin Nasser Al Nabhani	Sultanate of Oman
1:45 pm - 2:00 pm	Historical Narrative of Geographical Names and Their Significance Prof. Ibrahim bin Atiyyah Al Salmi	Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
2:00 pm - 2:15 pm	Coastal Cities: Their Names (Past and Present) and Cultural Significance Dr. Abdurahman Akhyar Osman	Federal Republic of Somalia
2:15 pm	The end of the second day's program	

Day 3

8:00 am - 9:00 am	Registration	
9:00 am - 9:30 am	The Role of Geographical Names in Enhancing Geospatial Data Accuracy and Mapping. Dr. Tim Trainor	United States of America
9:30 am - 10:00 am	Arabic romanizations. Dr. Peeter Päll	Republic of Estonia

Scientific Session (4)

Session Chair: Prof. Dr. Hamed Al Khateeb

Session Rapporteur: Dr. Sakina Yousef Al-Rawashdeh

Time	Event	Country
10:00 am - 10:15 am	The Impact of Geographical Names on Cultural Identity Dr. Mohammed Habash	United Arab Emirates
10:15 am - 10:30 am	The Risks and Negatives of Changing Geographical Names on the Spirit of the Place and the Nature of the Location Dr. Amer Abdullah Al Jumaili	Republic of Iraq
10:30 am - 10:45 am	The Use of Geographic Information Systems in Archaeological Fields Dr. Mohammed Al-Anqari	Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
10:45 am - 11:00 am	Interpretation of the Meanings of Khor Names and the Challenges They Face in North Al-Batinah Governorate Dr. Said Abdullah Al Farsi	Sultanate of Oman
11:00 am - 11:15 am	A Semantic View of Geographical Place Names (Makkah as a Model) Dr. Faisal bin Eid Al-Juaid	Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
11:15 am - 11:30 am	The Historical Significance of Geographical Names: Multiple Interpretations ,and Hypothesis Evaluation – The Case of the City of Fez Dr. Tariq Yachi	Kingdom of Morocco
11:30 am - 11:45 am	Break	

Scientific Session (5)

Session Chair: Dr. Khaled Mohammed Omar Khanbar

Session Rapporteur: Dr. Faten Nahaas

Time	Event	Country
11:45 pm - 12:00 pm	Integration of Geographical Names and GeoAI (Geospatial Artificial Intelligence) Dr. Mutlaq bin Fayhan Al-Buqami	Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
12:00 pm - 12:15 pm	Modern Trends in Geographical Names Using Geospatial Technology (2024-2014) Prof. Dr. Lotfi Kamal	Arab Republic of Egypt
12:15 pm - 12:30 pm	Addressing Amman City Using Artificial Intelligence Sahar Al Lozi	Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
12:30 pm - 12:45 pm	Developing a Digital Gazetteer of Geographical Names in Oman Using Open Source Software Naha bint Hamad Al-Sobhiya	Sultanate of Oman
12:45 pm - 1:00 pm	The Role of Geospatial Metadata in Enhancing Geographical Names Retrieval from the National Archives and Documentation Center 1- Mohammed Nasser Al Hilali 2- Arwa Nasser Al Milb	Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Closing Ceremony

'Session Chair: Dr. Eng. Mohammed bin Yahya Al Sayel

President of the General Authority for Survey and Geospatial Information (GEOSA)

Chairman of the National Committee on Geographical Names

Session Rapporteur: : Prof. Dr. Abdullah bin Nasser Al Wali

Vice Chairman of the National Committee on Geographical Names

1:00 pm - 1:30 pm	<p>Dr. Pierre Jaillard Speech Chairman of UNGEGN</p> <p>Participants Speech: Prof. Dr. Mohammed Zaki Al Sedimi President of the Egyptian Geographic Society</p> <p>Report and Recommendations Dr. Ali bin Abdullah Al-Dossari Chairman of the Scientific Committee of the Forum</p>
1:30 pm - 1:45 pm	Awarding
1:45 pm	Conclusion of the Forum

Appendix No. (5): Agenda of workshops accompanying the forum

رئيس الجلسة: الدكتورة/ صفاء صباينة		
الوقت	الفعالية	الدولة
10:45 ص - 11:00 ص	المكون البجاوي وطبيعة الأرض وتأثيرها على الأسماء الجغرافية: شرق السودان 1- الدكتورة/ نجوى محمد أري 2- الأستاذ/ سعيد مسماري	جمهورية السودان
11:00 ص - 11:15 ص	مزارع المدينة المنورة الاسم والمسقى دراسة وصفية تحليلية الأستاذ الدكتور/ محمد بن راضي الشريف	المملكة العربية السعودية
11:15 ص - 11:30 ص	تعميم الأسماء الجغرافية من الخريطة الطبوغرافية مقياس 1:25000 إلى مقياس 1:1000000 ومعايير هذا العمل الأستاذة/ أريج مريد الربيعان	المملكة العربية السعودية
11:30 ص - 11:45 ص	أثر الهجرة والنزوح على الأسماء الجغرافية لمدينة أم درمان: دراسة حالة الأسماء الجغرافية للأحياء السكنية (1900-2020م) الأستاذ/ أحمد محمد قنجرى	جمهورية السودان
11:45 ص - 12:00 م	نحو مدن ذكية: دور التكامل بين تطبيقات الذكاء الاصطناعي والتقنيات الجيومكانية في تعزيز إستدامة القطاع البلدي 1- المهندس/ يعقوب بن راشد الهنداسي 2- المهندس/ علي الجابري 3- المهندس/ عائشة المقبالية	سلطنة عُمان
12:00 م - 12:15 م	أثر الخصائص الجغرافية الطبيعية لبعض المواقع على ساحل البحر الأحمر في مصر على اختيار مسمياتها الأستاذ المهندس الدكتور/ ضياء صبري إسماعيل	جمهورية مصر العربية
12:15 م - 12:30 م	تطور الأسماء الجغرافية للمدن السياحية الكبرى في تونس الدكتور/ نعيم حسين الغالي	الجمهورية التونسية
12:30 م - 12:45 م	دليل حصر الأسماء الجغرافية لجبال وأودية الفجيرة المهندسة/ نجود الشحي	الإمارات العربية المتحدة
12:45 م - 1:00 م	تفسير دلالات الأسماء الجغرافية وموارءها من قصص وروايات الأستاذة/ شيرين السنور	المملكة الأردنية الهاشمية
1:00 م - 1:15 م	معاني وأصول أسماء الأماكن في الوسط الحضري بمدينة أبشة- تشاد الأستاذ/ أمين إسماعيل بركة	جمهورية تشاد
1:15 م - 1:30 م	تطبيق معالم الأستاذ/ محمد أبو شال	المملكة العربية السعودية

رئيس الجلسة: 1- الأستاذ الدكتور/ محمد بن راضي الشريف 2- الدكتور/ حامد الخطيب

الوقت	المضامية	الدولة
10:45 ص - 11:00 ص	الأسماء الجغرافية للمناطق المحمية: نافذة على التراث الثقافي والتنوع الأحيائي للجزيرة العربية الأستاذة/ أسماء سالم الحارثي	المملكة العربية السعودية
11:00 ص - 11:15 ص	التسميات الجغرافية والأماكن وتمثلاتها في الثقافة الحسانية بالمغرب وموريتانيا 1- الدكتور/ مصطفى البيض 2- الدكتور/ الحاج محمود	المملكة المغربية
11:15 ص - 11:30 ص	الأسماء الجغرافية للجبال في الوطن العربي، إسهام في التوثيق وتطوير طرق تدريسيها في الجغرافية المدرسية الدكتور/ اكرمي عبد الكريم	المملكة المغربية
11:30 ص - 11:45 ص	اسم مدينة جدارا واسم مدينة اريابلا في الاردن انموذج ثقافي وارث حضاري الأستاذ الدكتور/ احسان عرسان الرباعي	المملكة الأردنية الهاشمية
11:45 ص - 12:00 م	أصول ودلالات الأسماء الجغرافية في شبه جزيرة سيناء وأثرها في تدعيم الهوية الوطنية والثقافية الأستاذ الدكتور/ عبد الفتي عبدالعزيز زبادة	جمهورية مصر العربية
12:00 م - 12:15 م	التطور التاريخي لمواقع الأسماء المواقع الجغرافية في الأردن الأستاذ الدكتور/ محمد محمود السرياني	المملكة الأردنية الهاشمية
12:15 م - 12:30 م	نموذج مقترح لترميز الأسماء الجغرافية المكتوبة على الخرائط الطبوغرافية السعودية بمقياس رسم 1:50,000 الدكتور/ حمود بن هادي العنزي	المملكة العربية السعودية
12:30 م - 12:45 م	نظم المعلومات الجيومكانية في سجل التراث العمراني الأستاذ/ عبدالله بن حسين ملوش	المملكة العربية السعودية
12:45 م - 1:00 م	التحليلات المكانية-الزمانية لملاقة التسميات الجغرافية بعناصر المكان الطبيعية والبشرية (أمثلة من سورية) 1- المهندس/ بهجات محمد الويش 2- الدكتورة/ يارا سهيل	الجمهورية العربية السورية
1:00 م - 1:15 م	دور التقنيات الجيومكانية والدكاء الاصطناعي في تحليل الأسماء الجغرافية الأستاذة/ نهلة عباس حامد	جمهورية السودان

Appendix No. (6): Exhibition of the (Tenth) Forum for Geographical Names

The General Authority for Survey and Geospatial Information organized an accompanying exhibition that included 17 entities from the government, private and non-profit sectors, where the exhibition was attended by (Ministry of Energy, Jeddah Municipality, General Authority for Roads, Geological Survey Authority, Saudi Authority for Data and Artificial Intelligence, Heritage Commission, King Abdulaziz Foundation, National Center for Documents and Archives, King Salman International Complex for the Arabic Language, Umm Al-Qura University, Saudi Geographical Society, Meter Application, ESRI Company, Qatar Company, Tech Solutions Foundation, First Systems Foundation, and the General Authority for Survey and Geospatial Information), in addition to a scientific exhibition of more than 25 scientific posters in the field of geographical names.

