

Toponymic Education

Panel Discussion

WG-FTCT

Expected Outcomes for WG-FTCT

1. Practical framework for sustainable toponymic training delivery
2. Strategies for maximizing limited resources through digital innovation
3. Regional approach to address varying needs across member states
4. Recommendations for establishing sustainable funding mechanisms
5. Roadmap for creating certification standards in toponymic education

Background and Context

- **Educational Gap:** Survey shows majority of professionals in geographical names management lack formal training
- **Global Challenge:** Training deficit spans across all continents
- **Funding Constraints:** Limited capacity to support experts from developing countries
- **Critical Need:** Toponymic expertise crucial for
 - Sustainable geographical names management
 - Ensure continued consequent national geographical names standardization
 - Sustainable development and cultural heritage preservation

Panelists

Ms. Marie Thériault

- Ass. Professor, University of Montreal Faculty of Education
- Expertise in adult learning and linguistics (Ph.D., 2007)
- Research focus on microtoponymy and oral language transfer
- Member of indigenous research networks (DIALOG)
- Bridges ethnolinguistics, pedagogy, and toponymic research
- Valuable perspectives on linguistic diversity and cultural preservation

Mr. Peter Jordan

- Background as Professor in geography, cartography and ethnology (University of Vienna) and Austrian Academy of Sciences
- Former Convenor, UNGEGN Working Group on Exonyms and Co-chair, ICA/IGU Commission on Toponymy
- Vice-president, International Council of Onomastic Sciences (ICOS)
- Extensive teaching experience across multiple universities

Ms. Nor Zetty Akhtar Abdul Hamid

- Dep. Surveyor General, Survey Department, Min. of Development
- M.Sc. in Geographical Information Science (University College London)
- Chair, National Committee of Geographical Names in Brunei Darussalam
- Chair, UNGEGN Asia South East Division (2022-2026)

Mr. Chanda Penda

- Zambian name expert
- Former lecturer in Intangible Cultural Heritage (University of Zambia)
- Doctoral research at Stellenbosch University (South Africa)
- Focus on historical changes in naming practices in Zambia
- Expertise in colonial and post-independence toponymic transitions

How the panel discussion works

- Moderator questions to panelists on key discussion questions
- Panelists provide their views
- Discussion between panelists
- Floor given opportunity to pose questions to the panelist

Key Discussion Questions

1. *On Training Needs Assessment:*

"What specific skills gaps are most critical in your region, and how do priorities differ between developing and developed nations?"

2. *On Resource Development Approaches:*

"What balance between digital learning and in-person training would be most effective, and what innovative funding models might overcome current resource constraints?"

3. *On Implementation Strategy:*

"How can we develop a sustainable certification framework that is accessible to professionals in developing countries while maintaining technical rigor?"