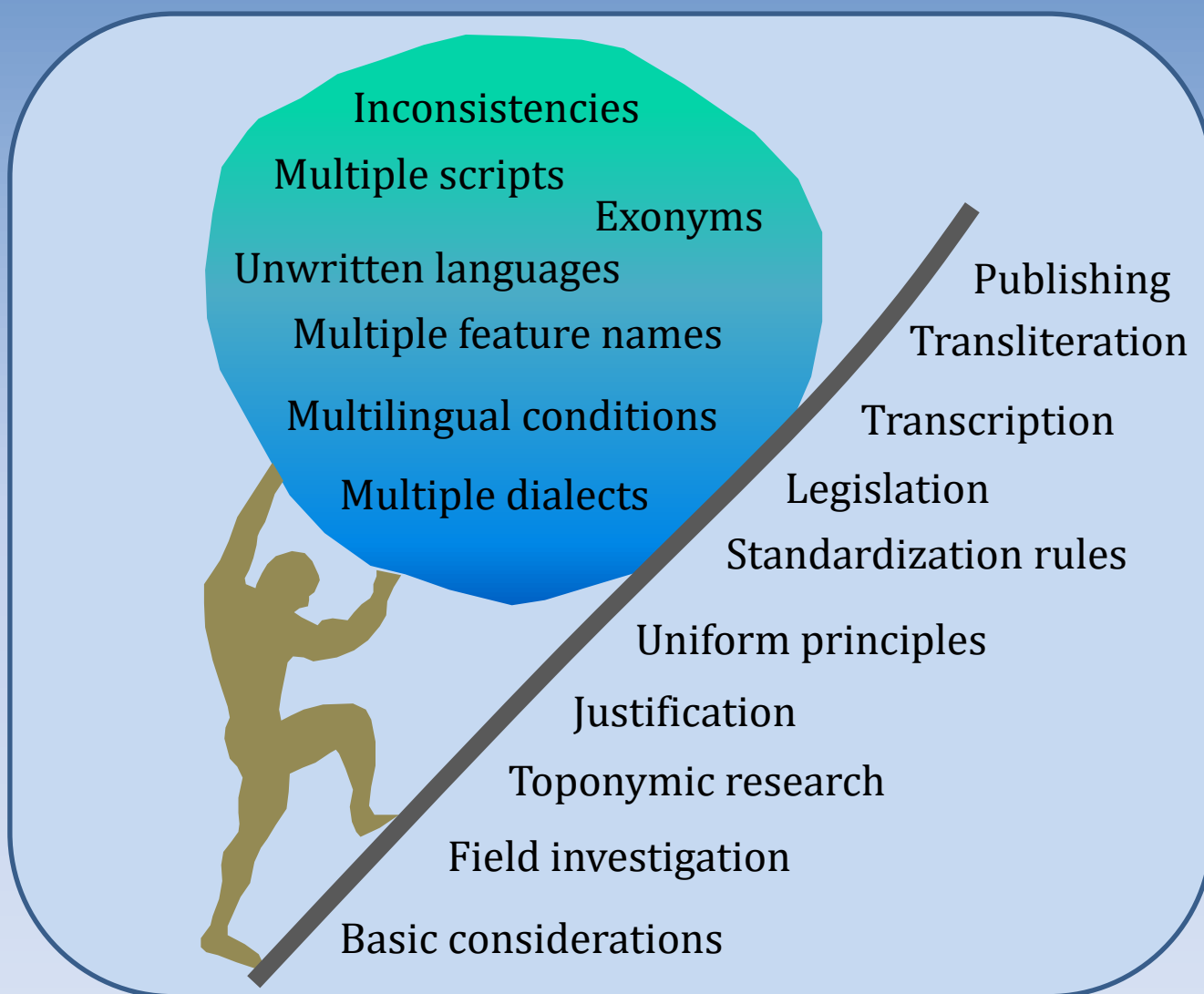




Issues and experiences in the standardization of geographical names





The *Information Bulletin of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names* (formerly UNGEGN Newsletter) is issued twice a year by the Secretariat of the Group of Experts. The Secretariat is served by the Statistics Division (UNSD), Department for Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), Secretariat of the United Nations. Contributions and reports received from the Experts of the Group, its Linguistic/Geographical Divisions and its Working Groups are reviewed and edited jointly by the Secretariat and the UNGEGN Working Group on Publicity and Funding. Contributions for the Information Bulletin can only be considered when they are made available digitally in Microsoft Word or compatible format. They should be sent to the following address:

Secretariat of the Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN)

Room DC2-1508

United Nations

New York, NY 10017

USA

Tel: (212) 963-5823

Fax: (212) 963-0623

E-mail: blake1@un.org; geoinfo_unsd@un.org

United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names Information Bulletin (ISSN 1014-798) is published by United Nations Statistics Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area, or of its authorities or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

Previous issues of the Bulletin (formerly Newsletter) can be found at

<https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/pubs/#bulletin>



Table of Contents

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON	4
Plan stratégique 2021-2029 et développement durable	4
2021-2029 strategic plan and sustainable development	5
MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARIAT	6
IN MEMORIAM	8
Professor Yūsuf al-Khalīfa Abū Bakr and His Work on the Diverse Languages and Toponymy of Sudan	8
Jean Poirier and Michael Smart	8
SPECIAL FEATURE: <i>Issues & Experiences in the Standardization of Geographical Names</i>	9
Issues and experiences in the standardization of geographical names: Australia	9
Issues and experiences in the standardization of geographical names of Cyprus	11
The referendum of Hov vs. Hou, Danish Place Name Orthography on the Ballot	13
Experimental release of webmap: “Japan map in multilingual notation”	15
The New Zealand Geographic Board’s issues and experiences in standardizing Māori place names	17
Name versus place – an unresolved problem with geodata: Norway	19
Issues and Experiences in the Standardization of Geographical Names in Spain	21
FROM THE COUNTRIES	23
The Sultanate of Oman’s activity in the field of geographic Names, 2017-2019	23
FROM THE DIVISIONS	25
The Eighth Arab Conference of the Arab Division of Experts on Geographical Names, Jordan -Amman, 1-3 October 2019	25
FROM THE WORKING GROUPS	27
Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers becomes Working Group on Geographical Names Data Management!	27
SPECIAL PROJECTS AND NEWS ITEMS	29
UNGE GN - Romano-Hellenic Division - International Scientific Symposium Permanence, transformation, substitution and oblivion of geographical names	29
Cultural Heritage and Commercialization of Geographical Names UNGE GN Symposium and Joint Working Group and Division Meetings	30
Symposium “Place Names and Migration” at the occasion of the Austrian Board’s 50th anniversary	31
Geospatial Frameworks being developed by the Committee of Experts on UN-GGIM	34
UPCOMING EVENTS	35

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

Plan stratégique 2021-2029 et développement durable

Chers Collègues,

Vous le savez, notre Groupe d'experts des Nations unies pour les noms géographiques a été créé par une résolution du Conseil économique et social de 2017, qui l'a fait succéder au groupe d'experts homonyme et à la Conférence des Nations unies sur la normalisation des noms géographiques, créés en application d'une résolution de 1959. La résolution de 2017 prévoit que notre Groupe d'experts « s'attachera en priorité à traiter de questions techniques relatives à la normalisation des noms géographiques susceptibles d'étayer, selon que de besoin, certains aspects du Programme de développement durable à l'horizon 2030 » (paragraphe 1), après avoir « souligné qu'il importe de mettre en œuvre ce nouveau programme ambitieux et que la normalisation des noms géographiques présente un grand intérêt ».



C'est ainsi que j'ai eu l'honneur de présenter en votre nom notre Groupe d'experts à la réunion annuelle des organes subsidiaires du Conseil économique et social en janvier dernier, à laquelle il participait pour la première fois, en soulignant la contribution de la normalisation des noms géographiques à la diversité culturelle et par suite à la paix. C'est aussi ainsi que le Bureau a adressé en mars dernier au Forum politique de haut niveau une contribution montrant combien certaines de nos résolutions contribuent à la cible 11.4 des objectifs de développement durable : « renforcer les efforts de protection et de préservation du patrimoine culturel mondial ».

À la suite de la première session de notre Groupe en 2019, le Conseil économique et social avait décidé que le Bureau

devait, en concertation avec les États membres, élaborer un projet de plan stratégique et de programme de travail. Avec les réponses des États membres à une consultation ouverte au second semestre 2019, le Bureau a élaboré un premier projet diffusé aux États membres pour examen. Ce plan stratégique devrait couvrir la période 2021-2029, afin de prendre pour perspective l'échéance de 2030 du Programme de développement durable du Conseil économique et social, tout en suivant le rythme biennal de nos sessions, et même le rythme quadriennal des mandats du Bureau. Parallèlement, un programme de travail à plus courte échéance reste en cours d'élaboration et devrait être joint à la consultation dans les prochains mois.

Ces deux documents devraient être adoptés lors de notre session de 2021. Le moment venu, le Groupe d'experts « se prononcera par consensus », conformément au premier principe de notre règlement intérieur de 2018. Seules « les questions de procédure » peuvent être décidées à la majorité des votants si le Groupe n'est pas parvenu à un consensus malgré ses meilleurs efforts à cette fin (article 25). Ce mode de décision nécessite que l'année qui reste permette de poursuivre le processus d'étroite concertation au sujet de ces documents entre le Bureau et les États membres.

Aussi comptons-nous sur la coopération de chacun d'entre vous. Nous avons bien conscience des circonstances provoquées par l'actuelle pandémie de covid-19, et nous espérons vivement que chacun d'entre vous a conservé ou recouvré une parfaite santé. Même dans ce cas, nous savons bien, pour l'expérimenter nous-mêmes, que les conditions de travail peuvent en être fortement dégradées. Merci d'autant plus!

Pierre Jaillard (France)

Président du GENUNG

Mél : pierre@jaillard.net



2021-2029 strategic plan and sustainable development

Dear Colleagues,

As you know, our United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names was created by a resolution of the Economic and Social Council of 2017, according to which it succeeded the group of experts with the same name and the United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, created in application of a resolution of 1959. The new resolution of 2017 provides that our Group of Experts “will focus on technical issues associated with the standardization of geographical names that may, where appropriate, support relevant aspects of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” (paragraph 1), after having “stressed the importance of the implementation of this new ambitious Agenda, including the relevance of the standardization of geographical names”.



Thus, I was honored to present on your behalf our Group of Experts to the annual meeting of the subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council last January, in which it participated for the first time, highlighting the contribution of the normalization of geographical names to cultural diversity and ultimately to peace. Thus, also, the Bureau sent a contribution to the High-Level Political Forum last March, showing how some of our resolutions contribute to target 11.4 of the Sustainable Development Goals: “strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world’s cultural heritage”.

Following the first session of our Group in 2019, the Economic and Social Council had decided that the Bureau should, in close consultation with Member States, develop a draft strategic plan and program of work. With the answers of Member States to an open consultation in the

second half of 2019, the Bureau has prepared a first draft circulated to Member States for review. This strategic plan should cover the period 2021-2029, in order to match with the 2030 deadline of the Sustainable Development Program of the Economic and Social Council, while following the two-year rhythm of our sessions, and even the four-year rhythm of the mandates of the Bureau. At the same time, a shorter-term work program is still being drawn up and should be added to the consultation in the coming months.

The strategic plan and the work program should be adopted at our 2021 session. It is expected that the Group of Experts “shall reach an agreement by consensus”, in accordance with the first principle of our 2018 rules of procedure. Only “procedural matters” can be decided by a majority of voters if the Group has not reached a consensus despite its best endeavors to ensure it (article 25). This decision-making process requires that the close consultation on these documents go on between the Bureau and the Member States during the remaining year. So we rely on the cooperation of each of you. We are well aware of the circumstances brought on by the current covid-19 pandemic, and we sincerely hope that each of you has kept or regained perfect health. Even in this case, we all know, since experiencing it ourselves, that working conditions can be greatly downgraded. Thanks so much more!

Pierre Jaillard (France)

Chair, UNGEKN

E-mail: pierre@jaillard.net



MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARIAT



COVID-19
RESPONSE

Dear UNGEKN Experts,

First, I must express my empathy, best wishes and hope to our readers in these tumultuous times. I am sitting at my desk at home as I write this message; have been telecommuting since mid-March this year. This has become the “new normal”, a measure that many governments have taken to reduce the spread of the corona virus. As you may be aware the headquarters of the United Nations is in New York state, and with a population of 19,453,561 (2019 US Census Bureau) the state has suffered severely during the pandemic. As at 19, May 2020 the state has registered 349,214 COVID-19 cases and 28,302 deaths, the highest numbers across the world. Notwithstanding the situation, the United Nations remains open for business, enabled by committed staff and technology. I am sharing with you an extract from a message by the United Nations Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, to staff on the 23 April; it inspired me, and I hope it will also inspire you. *“The United Nations is at the heart of the global response. I feel there is a growing recognition of the relevance of our work, and I believe the world is seeing the value of international cooperation in this, the 75th anniversary year of our Organization. We must continue helping to save lives and easing the economic and social devastation. We must also think about recovery, and addressing the inequalities and fragilities the virus has so painfully exposed. Our blueprint remains the Sustainable Development Goals. Our compass is the United Nations Charter. And our fuel is the human spirit. In days darkened by disease, we can see beacons of hope for today and the seeds of future unity of purpose.”* I do hope that this statement may embolden the “new” UNGEKN to continue aligning its work in support of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Standardization of Geographical Names

This the 58th issue of the Bulletin focuses on “*Issues and experiences in the standardization of geographical names*”. The word **standardization**, as applied to geographical names is defined by the Group of Experts ([Glossary, 311](#)) as the establishment, by an appropriate authority, of a specific set of standards or norms, for example, for the uniform rendering of toponyms. A **standardized name** is defined ([Glossary, 228](#)) as a name sanctioned by a names authority as the preferred name from among a number of allonyms [variant names] for a given feature. **Geographical names standardization** as defined ([Glossary 312](#)) is the prescription by a names authority of one or more particular names, together with their precise written form, for application to a specific geographical feature, as well as the conditions for their use.¹ The importance of geographical names standardization has been well documented in UNGEKN reports, brochures, media kit and manuals. Further, the Group of Experts has a publication solely dedicated to geographical names standardization, it is the [Manual for the National Standardization of Geographical Names](#), (2006) ST/ESA/STAT/SER.M/88 which is available in Korean and all six languages used by the UN, and can be download from the UNGEKN website.

Why is standardization important, the process creates consistent and accurate geographical names. In communication standardized geographic names can prevent ambiguity while providing clarity and cost savings particularly in the areas of development planning, emergency preparedness and response, censuses, land administration and management, marketing and transportation logistics. Past Chair of UNGEKN, Helen Kerfoot summarized quite well the importance of

¹ The UNGEKN Glossary of Terms for the Standardization of Geographical Names, (2002) ST/ESA/STAT/SER.M/85 ,

https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungekn/pubs/documents/Glossary_of_terms_rev.pdf Accessed 18 May 2020



standardization “...the cornerstone of all the work of the Group of Experts is the goal of establishing a geographical names authority in each country and promoting the use of the nationally standardized names internationally on maps and in documents.” (2006).

“...the cornerstone of all the work of the Group of Experts is the goal of establishing a geographical names authority in each country and promoting the use of the nationally standardized names internationally on maps and in documents.” (Helen Kerfoot)

Notwithstanding its relevance, standardization practices across Member States are not uniform and understandably so, because each country is unique in its operations, history and administration. Each country therefore will experience their own challenges and thus the relevance of this issue of the Bulletin; the objective being to share experiences and the measures taken to address names standardization issues. We received seven very interesting and diverse contributions from Australia, Cyprus, Denmark, Japan, New Zealand, Norway and Spain. Each sharing their unique challenges and solutions. I found Denmark’s article to be very exemplary and precedence setting as the decision on the standardization of the name of the village “Hov versus Hou” was included in a national referendum. I believe that many national names authorities could benefit from further discussion and engagement with the authors of these articles and I do encourage you to do so.

Also included in this issue of the Bulletin are the usual divisional and working group reports, a few articles from Member States and meeting announcements. In support of strengthening collaboration and sharing of information between UNGEKN and the Committee of Experts on UNGGIM, an article is included on the Geospatial Frameworks being developed by the Committee of Experts to support countries to be able to implement geospatial capabilities.

Many thanks to all our contributors to this issue and to Andreas Hadjiraftis of Cyprus for once again designing the front page.

Preparation of UNGEKN’s Draft Strategic Plan and Programme of Work

By way of an update, the second round of consultations on UNGEKN’s Draft Strategic Plan should be circulated by the end of May 2020, and Member States are invited to review and provide feedback by the end of August 2020. The Bureau looks forward to having your input and support throughout all phases for the development of the draft strategic plan and programme of work which is to be submitted to the Group of Experts at its second session in May 2021.

General Remarks

Member States and national institutions responsible for geographical names are reminded to submit their information for the UNGEKN World Geographical Names Database. We also wish to inform our global experts and persons wishing to learn more about toponymy that they can pursue the online BSc level, web course at: <https://bit.ly/31FrL66> and access the recently released [Toponymy Training Manual](https://bit.ly/2ZxYatc) at <https://bit.ly/2ZxYatc>.

Your comments on this issue and contribution to Bulletin number 59, to be circulated in November 2020 under the theme “*Geographical names and sustainable tourism*”, are welcomed. Please remember to repost and circulate the bulletin among your colleagues. Please stay safe and health and I do hope you will enjoy reading this issue.

Cecille Blake

UNGEKN Secretariat

E-mail: blake1@un.org

IN MEMORIAM

Professor Yūsuf al-Khalīfa Abū Bakr and His Work on the Diverse Languages and Toponymy of Sudan

The late Professor Yūsuf al-Khalīfa Abū Bakr played a key role in developing the Sudanese contribution to UNGEGN. He served the Republic of Sudan as Minister of Religious Affairs and as Chairman of the National Board for Geographical Names.

Professor Yūsuf was committed to the importance of the Arabic script for the large number of non-Arabic languages spoken in the Sudan, and at the same time he was sensitive to the significance of the toponymy and languages of their speakers. He worked closely with scholars and students from neighbouring countries across Africa. In his honour, the International University of Africa in Khartoum established the Yūsuf al-Khalīfa Centre for Writing Languages in Arabic Letters. He often found time to work with colleagues at home in Khartoum on the toponymy and endangered languages of the Sudan. Professor Yūsuf occasionally mentioned his grandfather who spoke the Nubian language Andāndi (Dungulāwī). The Nubian background influenced his grandfather's colloquial Arabic. He would say 'Intī, ya walid!' ('You! Boy!'), intī being the feminine word for 'you' in Arabic. There was no masculine/feminine distinction for 'you' in Nubian. Why should his grandfather have acknowledged one in colloquial Arabic?

In 1977 Professor Yūsuf collaborated with Professor Sayyid Ḥāmid Ḥurreiz on the Sudan memorandum to the Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names. They referred to some of my work as well ([E/Conf.69/L.95](#), 18 August 1977).² In 2000 Professor Yūsuf arranged for me to join Mr. Naṣr Ibrāhīm on the Sudan delegation to UNGEGN. It was a great privilege for me to have had the support and encouragement of Professor Yūsuf through the years in dealing with issues of linguistic and toponymic complexity in the Sudan.

After a long and productive career devoted to the importance of Arabic and to the integrity of the many local languages of the Sudan, Professor Yūsuf passed away in Khartoum on the 13th of September 2019. Allāh yarḥamhu!

Herman Bell

Oxford, United Kingdom: Member of the Sudan Delegation to UNGEGN from 2000 to 2006, Participant in UNGEGN Working Groups since 2007, particularly in the Working Group on Exonyms; Honorary Research Fellow, University of Exeter.

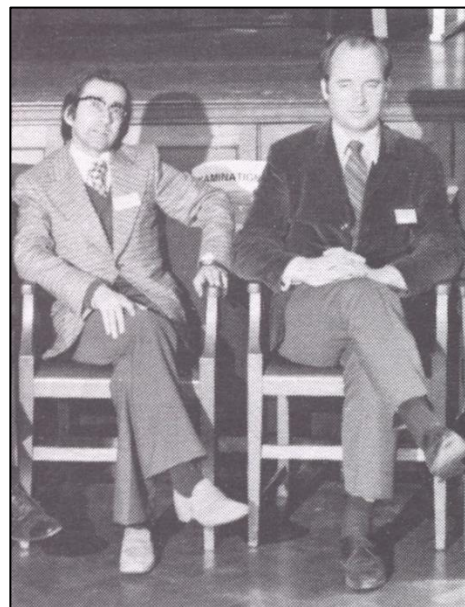
E-mail: herman.nobiin@gmail.com

Jean Poirier and Michael Smart

We would like to recognize and remember two Canadians, who for years were dedicated toponymists and enthusiasts about geographical naming. They participated and presented documents at UN Conferences and UNGEGN Sessions between 1967 and 1989.

Jean Poirier (1931-2019): For many years Jean was Secrétaire de la Commission de toponymie du Québec. He took part in the First UN Conference in 1967, was Rapporteur for Committee I at the Second and Fifth Conferences and on the Editorial team for Committee II at the Third Conference.

Michael Smart (1931-2020): Michael was a long-time Executive Secretary of the Ontario Geographic Names Board. At the Second UN Conference he was Rapporteur for Committee IV and at the Third Conference was on the Editorial team for Committee I. Michael also participated in the 13th UNGEGN Session in 1989.



Jean Poirier (left) and Michael Smart (right) at the Second UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, London, 1972.

Helen Kerfoot

Honorary Chair, UNGEGN
Ottawa

E-mail: hkerfoot@rogers.com

² https://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNEGN/docs/3rd-uncsgn-docs/3uncsgn_econf69_L95.pdf

SPECIAL FEATURE: *Issues & Experiences in the Standardization of Geographical Names*

Issues and experiences in the standardization of geographical names: Australia

Geographical names are labels and descriptions of the places we inhabit: the streets we live on, features we pass, parks and reserves we spend time in, the leisure centres and recreation facilities where we exercise.

Place names help us to identify important historic and cultural significant locations and features. They commemorate and acknowledge our past. They help us define ourselves and our place within society. They provide our community with a reference point for what makes us unique.

With anything that is so ubiquitous, so connected to our community, the way we view our world and our place in it, the personal connections we have, there will inevitably be differences of opinion on how we standardize place names.

However, the importance of standardizing geographical names is well known. Without standardization, emergency services wouldn't be able to operate efficiently, we would not get our mail and we might end up with seven towns commemorating the same person.

As place name professionals it is our job to ensure standardization takes place and, where legislation exists, ensure compliance, to preserve culture and protect communities. Communicating the importance of standardization can be difficult, especially when communities have passionate views and opinions about a name, person or place. Some common issues experienced include:

- Resistance to change
- Fear of difference
- Sense of place and pride in community
- Different ideas of value.

Place naming and connection to place and how we describe the places we live and work resonates emotionally with community. The examples below demonstrate some of the issues experienced in standardization of geographical names, drawn from my role in Victoria, Australia, where I am the Project Manager for Geographic Names.



Brataualung Forest Park³

A new forest park was to be created by Government for public use with the release of land in stages: five disjointed blocks of more than 2,300 hectares comprising the first release.

You'd imagine a park would have one name, but not in this case, because all blocks in the first release were not adjacent to each other. Unique names were needed to identify individual sites.

The name *Brataualung* recognizes that the reserve area is part of Brataualung Country of the Gunaikurnai people, Traditional Owners of the area. To identify the individual sites for the benefit of emergency services and the public, locally used 'block names' were added. This approach ensured compliance and standardization, acknowledged the strong connection the Gunaikurnai people have to the land, and also tied in the locally-used names.



Brataualung Unveiling of the forest park

The five names which were gazetted and registered on 31 May 2018 were:

- Brataualung Forest Park – Agnes River Block
- Brataualung Forest Park – College Creek Block
- Brataualung Forest Park – Gemma Hill Block
- Brataualung Forest Park – Mount Fatigue Block
- Brataualung Forest Park – Mount Mabel Block

³ <https://www.forestsandreserves.vic.gov.au/initiatives/brataualung-forest-park>



With the assignment of these names, the community was brought together through effective consultation which increased pride in community and enhanced the sense of place for Traditional Owners and the community.

Budj Bim National Park⁴

The Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners advocated for the reintroduction of their traditional names for the previous Mount Eccles National Park and the extinct volcano, formerly named Mount Eccles, which is situated within the park.

Traditional Owners and the wider community wanted names that reflected the traditional languages of the area, including *Budj Bim* meaning *High Head* in the Gunditjmara language. Noting that no Australian English feature type was provided, Mount Eccles was replaced with the name Budj Bim and the park renamed Budj Bim National Park.

After extensive community consultation the new names were gazetted and registered in 2017, formally recognizing these sites by their traditional names.

While there was some resistance to change from the community, overall most supported the change. When the strong connection and the importance of the site was explained, this assisted the community's understanding by removing fear of difference and different ideas of value.

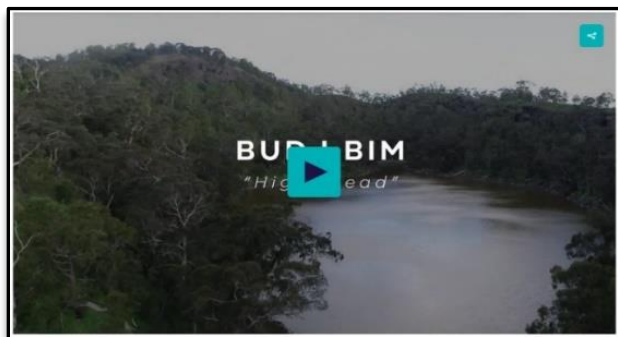
The Budj Bim Cultural Landscape⁵ was awarded United Nations World Heritage Status in 2019 for its cultural significance as one of the world's finest examples of ancient aquaculture and hydraulic engineering in the world, dating back at least 6,600 years.

The United Nations' International Year of Indigenous Languages saw further opportunity to promote and strengthen Indigenous languages across the world. Below is one such initiative which cements the importance of Indigenous languages and the site for the Gunditjmara people.

Video 1: Budj Bim National Park⁶

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dTpPVITpetE>

Local authority



In another example, a local naming authority consulted on several names for a new geographical feature. The name which caused the most disquiet was a local name from a Traditional Owner language. Through consultation with the community, it became apparent that a small but vocal section of the community was resistant to change. The final name chosen was reflective of early pioneers rather than the Traditional Owners of the land. It could be argued that the community, albeit a small section, had a fear of difference. Not all place naming processes produce the outcome a place naming professional would deem appropriate. The community's involvement is key to the result.

While the examples chosen above have all been related to Traditional Owner names, the common issues can apply to any naming proposal or name.

In reviewing the impacts of the recent coronavirus pandemic, some communities might consider renaming places with related names. For example, in Australia there are places named Corona Well, Corona Creek, Corona Bore and Corona (a survey mark). One overarching principle is that names need to be enduring and should only be changed for reasons that relate to public safety: names should not be changed just to comply with popular views.

Ensuring communities understand the importance and meaning of a place name will ensure communities can have a strong link to place. When standardizing geographic place names, collaboration and engagement with communities is critical, together with setting expectations and being flexible. My work would not be possible without the comprehensive guidelines from national and local jurisdictions who set the rules and standards of best practice.

In all cases the community is at the heart of the work we do to ensure we preserve culture and protect what is important to communities through standardized geographical names.

Rafe Benli

Project Manager

Geographic Names Victoria

E-mail: rafe.benli@delwp.vic.gov.au

⁴ <https://www.parks.vic.gov.au/places-to-see/parks/budj-bim-national-park>

⁵ <https://www.environment.gov.au/system/files/pages/b42e9c8e-370d-4094-8cef-37ce503e81a3/files/budj-bim-nomination-dossier.pdf>

⁶ <https://www2.delwp.vic.gov.au/media-centre/media-releases/preserving-budj-bims-rich-cultural-heritage-and-languages>

Issues and experiences in the standardization of geographical names of Cyprus

Introduction

The traditional place names of a country are the silent, but realistic, honest and credible witnesses of its history. By studying the names only, the whole past is validly and thoroughly represented. The founding of cities and settlements, the ethnic origins of the settlers, the topography and geomorphology of a place, the political and warlike events that took place, the social structure, the economic and productive structure of the system, cultural development and everything else related to a place, can be extracted from its geographical names, toponyms, and micro-toponyms.

Toponyms are not just designations. They include people's national and ethnic status, their material production and artistic creation, their survival struggles, the history of their sensitivities, reflections and ideas. They keep in them the sweat of their labors and the blood of their sacrifices, their anxieties and their tears. Every place name is a testimony of human life on earth.

Evolution of geographical names within the long history of Cyprus



Map of Cyprus - Abraham Ortelius (1527-1598)

The island of Cyprus was given many names by ancient and modern writers, some of which are the following:

Kypros, Akamantis, Aspelia, Kiton, Makaria, Kryptos, Kyforos, Alasia, Kerastis, Amathousia, Kolinia, Tharsis, Aeria, etc.

Moreover, many adjectives were closely associated with Cyprus, like chalkoessa (due to the existence of significant copper deposits), asselia (for its fishing activity), iera nisos (meaning holy island, due to significant existence of Christianity), evinos (for the variety of wines), eveleos (for its olive oil and many olive trees), dasoessa (for its forest), nisos eroron (island of love), perikallis (beautiful), Afrodisia (island of Aphrodite), and many more.

The current name of the island (Kypros) was portrayed variously by many specialists, either ancient writers or present-day historians, philologists, linguists, etymologists, and various researchers.

The main concern is, however, given to the interpretation of the origin of KYPROS, and there are many explanations to the name:

- From a plant, called kypros (henna).

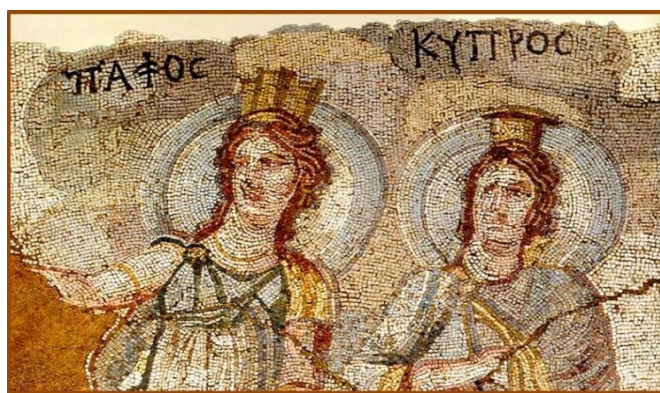
- From a town of the island named Kypros.
- From Kypṛís, a name which many of the ancient writers, including Homer gave to Aphrodite.
- From Kypros, the son or daughter of Kinyras.
- From copper that was discovered in Cyprus during the Bronze period (2500 B.C -1050 B.C).

Several ancient names also seem to be associated with the name Kypros, such as Aristokypros, Aristokypra, Themistokypra, Kypragoras, Kyprothemis, Kyprokranis, Onasikypros, Pasikypros, Stasikypros, Timokypros, Philokypros, etc.



Coin of the Roman era, by Emperor Claudius (41-54 AD). The coin bears the inscription «KOINO KYΠPION» in laurel wreath and refers to an institution dating from the 2nd century BC.

Although the name Kypros appeared in Homeric times in 8th century B.C., there is even an earlier evidence of the name, according to Knossos and Pylos tablets from the 13th century B.C. In spite of the fact that Cyprus was among the oldest copper producing countries in the Near East, and this production was launched by the pre-Greek population, it is highly probable, as K. Hadjioannou claims, that the word "kypros" meaning "copper" was a pre-Greek word, and most likely an Eteocypriot one. Eteocypriots were the aboriginal Cypriots. If this is true, he concludes, the name of the island is justly derived from copper.



Mosaic with the personification of Pafos and Kypros, 3rd – 4th century AD

Sources in the long history of Cyprus include, among others, toponyms, behind which there is a story, a myth, or a legend. Some place names relate to important persons, because they may have been given land having a certain name. Still, some feuds may carry the names of known feudal lords, where people must have lived and worked for them. In some of these estates, later on villages or settlements were created, and hence named based on feudal lords («*Toponyms of Cyprus in*

sources of Latin rule », by Nasa Patapiou, Politis Newspaper, March 9, 2020).

Cypriot land, an ancient civilization, lost in the inaccessible depths of prehistoric times, has experienced many times the bitterness and pain of changing its toponyms from enemies who eliminated its people along with their unprotected names. Maybe small in size, but rich in history and tradition, Cyprus has met, throughout changing eras, tremendous changes, wars, rebellions and invasions, mostly due to its strategic position, as it is situated in the crossroad of three continents (Europe, Asia and Africa).

The arbitrary renaming of geographical names by the various abusers, invaders, conquerors, colonizers, etc., is not an act of minor importance, but an unjust act, which deletes their participation in the history of humanity, annuls their lives, and vanish their existence. (*«O Ektourkismos ton toponymion tis Kyprou», Book written by Andreas Makridis, 2010).*

Inhabitants have been reborn many times, restored to their ruins, and resurrected again with their cracked names. The Cypriot toponyms are the oldest, not only compared to Greece, but also compared to the whole of Europe. The conquerors through the history of the island invaded Cyprus and ruthlessly renamed thousands of town and village names, toponyms, micro-toponyms and street names.

Renaming, based on the history of Cyprus, was a selected method for the conquerors, who were trying through the years to “cleanse” the historical and ethnic mutation of the place they occupied, in order to enforce their sovereignty, completely ignoring the fact that the legal name change presupposes the will of the owners.

Standardization of Geographical Names in Cyprus

The Republic of Cyprus has shown active interest from the beginning, and in 1967 created the first ad-hoc standardization committee. In 1977, after ten years of work, the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cyprus appointed the first Committee on Standardization of Geographical Names, which has been continuously working on all relevant subjects and participating in international conferences and UN meetings since then. The Committee consists of the president and nine members, and it is appointed by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sport and Youth every five years.

(<http://www.geonoma.gov.cy/index.php/epitropi/synthesi-epitropis>)



*Cyprus Permanent Committee for the Standardization of Geographical Names 2019-2024
(Photography by Andreas Hadjiraftis)*

In 1987 the UN adopted the Cypriot ELOT743 Transcription System as a joint system between Greece and Cyprus. In the same year, the Republic of Cyprus submitted to the UN its Complete Gazetteer, which includes more than 70000 toponyms and micro-toponyms.

ΠΙΝΑΚΑΣ ΜΕΤΑΓΡΑΦΗΣ ΤΟΥ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟΥ ΑΛΦΑΒΗΤΟΥ ΣΤΟ ΡΩΜΑΝΙΚΟ ΑΛΦΑΒΗΤΟ ΚΑΤΑ ΕΛ.Ο.Τ																									
Α	Β	Γ	Δ	Ε	Ζ	Η	Θ	Ι	Κ	Λ	Μ	Ν	Ξ	Ο	Π	Ρ	Σ	Τ	Υ	Φ	Χ	Ψ	Ω		
a	b	c	d	e	z	i	th	k	l	m	n	x	o	p	r	s	t	y	f	ch	ps	o			
αι	ει	οι	ου	ευ	αυ	ηυ	γγ	γκ	γξ	γχ	ντ	μπ													
ai	ei	oi	ou	ev ⁽¹⁾	av ⁽¹⁾	iv ⁽¹⁾	ng	gk	nx	nch	nt	b ⁽³⁾													
				ef ⁽²⁾	af ⁽²⁾	if ⁽²⁾						mp ⁽⁴⁾⁽⁵⁾													

Transcription table from Greek to roman alphabet – based on ELOT743

The Gazetteer is internationally recognized, it preserves the geographical names of Cyprus, and serves as an authoritative reference for those who use the names such as: cartographers, surveyors, topographers, geographers, historians, linguists and many more.

ELOT743 was developed based on UN key principles such as:

- Restoration of the historical spelling of place names.
- Preservation of historical types of place names.
- Elimination of duplication.
- Prohibition of standardization of dialects.

Conclusion

A country's cultural heritage is probably the most important living treasure of its people. It is through this that its identity can be expressed and an awareness of its historical continuity through time can be created. The island of Cyprus is an open-air museum, where one can visit prehistoric settlements, classical Greek temples, Roman theatres and villas, Early Christian basilicas, Byzantine churches and monasteries, Crusader castles, Gothic cathedrals, Venetian fortifications, Moslem mosques and British colonial-style buildings.

The Cyprus Permanent Committee for the Standardization of Geographical Names, recognizes the great importance of geographical names, which are an inseparable part of cultural heritage, and strongly supports the efforts undertaken by the UN for the standardization of authoritative geographical names.

Andreas Hadjiraftis

President of Permanent Committee for the Standardization of Geographical Names of Cyprus

Ag. Chief Lands Officer,
Cartography/Geodesy/Hydrography/Photogrammetry,
Department of Lands and Surveys, Ministry of Interior
Cyprus

E-mail: ahadjiraftis@dls.moi.gov.cy

The referendum of Hov vs. Hou, Danish Place Name Orthography on the Ballot

When people in the village community of Hov in Jutland, Denmark, like all other Danes were called to cast their votes for the European Parliament on 26 May 2019, they were given an additional issue to decide upon: *Should the spelling form of the village name continue to be **Hov** or should it be changed to **Hou**?*

It is not common practice in Denmark to add local issues to the ballot at national elections and referendums, but it does occasionally occur. And in this case, the local referendum in Hov was received with significant interest from the Danish media – both before and after the voting. Danish place-name orthography is usually not decided by public voting, and neither was it this time, as the authorisation of geographical names on settlements of this type (“major place-names”) has been a matter for the Danish Place-Name Committee (*Stednavneudvalget*) since its formation in 1910. The inspiration to put the question of *Hov* vs. *Hou* on the ballot may, however, have come from a former chairman of the committee, Peder Gammeltoft, in

connection to another, somewhat similar case. When the Place-Name Committee in May 2017 decided to reject a petition from people in Kramnitse on Lolland for an orthographic change to *Kramnitze*, it also gained enough public attention to become an issue for the national media. Dr. Gammeltoft was therefore interviewed by Danish television, where he explained that for such a request to be granted by the committee, it either has to be solidly founded on historical evidence in its support OR it has to be proven that there is a profound public opinion in favour of the change. “This could be done with a signature petition, or perhaps even better with a local referendum.” (Interview with TV2 Øst, 8 May 2017). In Kramnitse, the local community decided to make a signature petition, which evidenced an overwhelming majority for the form *Kramnitze*, after which the

community (through the local municipality) asked the committee for a change once again – and this time the committee complied with the wish, partly due to its now proven public support (Olesen & Jakobsen 2019).

The town council of Odder Municipality – where the village of Hov is situated – in 2019 decided to take the public inquiry a step further than what had been done in Kramnitse/Kramnitze, by following Dr. Gammeltoft’s recommendation for the even better solution: a public referendum. The incentive to go that extra mile may to some extent have derived from the fact that some

form of a special public referendum had, in fact, already been tried in Hov on the same issue back in 1974. In spite of a clear vote in favour of *Hou* already then, the Place-Name Committee, who in those days were less inclined to follow public requests, rejected the petition on the grounds that only the form *Hov* was in line with Danish orthography, and that a change furthermore would be too expensive (e.g. for new road signs) and risked causing confusions with other existing localities by the name *Hou*. For the internal committee



When the citizens of the Danish village Hov were called to cast their vote for the European Parliament on 26 May 2019, they were also asked to vote on the future name of the village. Photo: Reuters Scanpix.

records, one unnamed professor confidently stated that “the aversion to the spelling with v will wear off in the course of time”. This prediction proved wrong. The Municipality of Odder formally complained about the decision in 1976, but was rejected once again by the committee. The committee this time added that the municipality had not objected to the standardized form in a hearing before an official county list of geographical names that was authorised in 1958. Thus, the municipality council in Odder, as well as the local community in Hov, knew that they had to present the strongest possible case in order to turn the Place-Name Committee.



The people of Hov are by no way alone in their preference for the letter *-u-* in their village name instead of *-v-*. One of the most continuous public objections to the place-name orthography implemented by the Danish Place-Name Committee since 1922 regards the norm of preferring *-av-* and *-ov-* to *-au-* and *-ou-*. The letter combinations represent the exact same pronunciation [aw] and [åw] respectively, and their usages have differed randomly in Danish historical orthography – both for place-

The original etymology of the name Hov is unclear, and the word in present Danish only means 'hoof' (foot of a horse), which apparently holds but little appeal as a name element for the modern-day inhabitants of the village. As it was to be expected, the outcome of the referendum in Hov was a significant majority in favour of a change to Hou; 844 voted for a change, 49 against.

names and in general. The decision by the Place-Name Committee around 1920 to standardize all existing forms of vowels followed by *-u-*, *-v-* or *-w-* with *-v-* only henceforth happened in accordance with a contemporary and similar standardization for Danish orthography in general, beginning with the first Danish dictionary of spelling from 1872 and the first legislation on the matter from 1889. While this particular issue has hardly ever caused any grievance for the Danish language in general, it immediately launched a stream of objections and public disobediences in regard to place-names. The public feeling seems to be that forms with *-au-* and *-ou-* are more original and true, whereas *-av-* and *-ov-* are artificial forms enforced by the bureaucrats in Copenhagen. Apparently, the same feeling does not comply to names with *-ev-*, *-iv-* or *-øv-*, and only rarely to names with *-av-* or *-ov-*, where the included name element is a word easily recognised from present Danish vocabulary (such as *Havnsø*, from *havn* 'port, harbour' and *sø* 'sea, lake').

The original etymology of the name *Hov* is unclear, and the word in present Danish only means 'hoof' (foot of a horse), which apparently holds but little appeal as a name element for the modern-day inhabitants of the village. As it was to be expected, the outcome of the referendum in Hov was a significant majority in favour of a change to *Hou*; 844 voted for a change, 49 against. The advisory referendum was acknowledged by the municipality, who sent a new petition to the Place-Name Committee, and on the committee meeting of 18 September 2019 it was decided to finally comply with the request. *Hov* has now officially become *Hou*. Time will show if the success of this electoral means will lead to more Danish place-name referendums in the future.

Johnny Grandjean Gøgsig Jakobsen

Associate Professor, University of Copenhagen,
Member of the Danish Place-Name Committee
E-mail: jggi@hum.ku.dk

Rikke Steenholt Olesen

Associate Professor, University of Copenhagen,
Chairman of the Danish Place-Name Committee
E-mail: rikke.steenholt.olesen@hum.ku.dk

References:

Olesen & Jakobsen 2019 = Rikke Steenholt Olesen & Johnny Grandjean Gøgsig Jakobsen, 'Kramnitse or Kramnitze - it's not so easy...', working paper in: 2019 1st Session UNGE GN (United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, 2019), [GEGN.2/2019/CRP.112](#).

TV2 Øst, 2017 = Dorthe Olsgaard: 'Udvalg forklarer: Derfor fik Kramnitse afslag på "z"', TV2 Øst, 8 May 2017, website: <https://www.tv2east.dk/lolland/udvalg-forklarer-derfor-fik-kramnitse-afslag-pa-z>

Experimental release of webmap: “Japan map in multilingual notation”

Overview

The Geospatial Information Authority of Japan (GSI) is the national geospatial information authority of Japan. GSI has been developing various data related to the nation of Japan, and providing it in an easy-to-use manner.

Recently, with the rapid increase in the number of foreign visitors a corresponding need has arisen for a multilingualization of Japan map. GSI has been working on making easy-to-understand maps for visitors by settling "Notation Rules of Geographical Names, etc. in English" and new map symbols, to provide visitors with a trouble-free trip, and ensure a safe and comfortable stay in Japan.

For this purpose, GSI has developed Japan's multilingual webmap, the “Japan map in multilingual notation”. For this exercise GSI set English, French, Korean, Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese, and Romanized Japanese as the targeted languages for multilingualization. These targeted languages cover about 85% of foreign visitors in the point of their understandable languages as of 2019, according to the figure of Japan National Tourism Organization (JNTO).

At the 11th UNCSGN conference, China reported on developing the guideline for the translation rules from Japanese into Chinese. GSI obtained the draft of the guideline from the Toponymy Research Institute of China and used it as a reference. The webmap employs vector tile(s), which is a machine readable tile-format for describing geographic information, therefore an automatic translation function can be implemented in the webmap. Consequently, GSI has developed the multilingual webmap efficiently. A display example of the webmap is shown in Figure 1.



Figure 1: Display example (in English)

GSI experimentally released the “Japan map in multilingual notation” on February 14th, 2020 at the following URL <https://www.gsi.go.jp/kokusaikoryu/kokusaikoryu-e31032.html>. This release was done in order to find the issues for improvement of the map for foreign visitors.

Notation rules in each language

Notations in languages other than English and partly Romanized Japanese are automatically generated by a program that employs simple conversion rules:

- English:** Translated individually according to the “Notation Rules of Geographical Names, etc. in English”.
- French:** Automatically generated based on simple conversion rules from English.
- Korean:** Automatically generated based on simple conversion rules from Japanese.
- Simplified Chinese:** Automatically generated based on simple conversion rules from Japanese Kanji (which is Japanese character form, originally from Chinese characters).
- Traditional Chinese:** Automatically generated based on simple conversion rules from Japanese Kanji.
- Romanized Japanese:** Transportation facilities' names are generated based on simple conversion rules from English. Geographical names of natural features and residential areas are individually transliterated from Japanese.

Map Symbols

Map symbols adopted in the webmap are shown in Figure 2. New map symbols specially developed for foreign visitors mentioned above are used.

Legend

Symbol	Type
	Post Office
	Koban (Police Box)
	Shrine
	Museum
	Hospital
	Onsen (Hot Spring etc.)
	Station
	Airport
	Temple (The symbol derived from Buddhism)
	Prefectural Office
	Subprefectural Bureau Office
	City Hall
	Municipality Office
	National Highway Number
	Urban Expressway Number
	Expressway Number
	Michi-no-Eki (Roadside Rest Area)

Fig. 2: Map symbols adopted in the webmap

Functions of the webmap

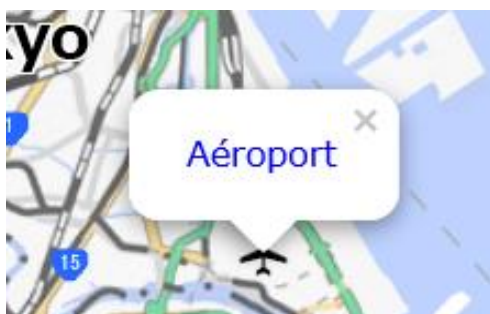
1) Displaying information / reading aloud (speech synthesis)

By clicking a map symbol or an annotation on the map, the type and the name, if GSI has acquired, are displayed in a pop-up (Figure 3). In addition, users can hear Japanese pronunciation of the name through the browser's speech synthesis function (Figure 4). Please note this function may not be available on some browsers. (Microsoft Edge, Google Chrome, Safari are confirmed to operate.)

Figure 3: Examples of pop-up (in French)



Type of map symbol and name



Type of map symbol



Type of annotation and name



Figure 4: Switching languages / displaying legends

2) Switching languages / displaying legends

A language on the map can be switched by clicking "Language" button and choosing a language. The link for the legend of each language can be displayed by clicking "i" button next to the respective languages.

Terms of use / Notice

To use the webmap and related materials such as the vector tiles, users are required to comply with the "GSI Website Terms of Use⁽⁷⁾", which says it can be freely used with the source citation. GSI hopes that many people will use the webmap.

Notations other than English and parts of Romanized Japanese are automatically generated based on the simple conversion rules as mentioned above. Therefore, please note they may not be accurate.

SUGA Masaki (*)

Chief of Technical Management Section,
Geographical Name Information Division, National Mapping
Department,
Geospatial Information Authority of Japan
E-mail: suga-m96rd@mlit.go.jp

(*)Current affiliation

Chief of International Standard Section,
Technical Management Division, Planning Department,
Geospatial Information Authority of Japan

⁷ See the GSI Website

https://www.gsi.go.jp/ENGLISH/page_e30286.html

The New Zealand Geographic Board's issues and experiences in standardizing Māori place names

Introduction

The desire to acknowledge, promote and encourage the use of Māori place names has been important since early European exploration and settlement, and is etched in New Zealand's place naming legislation⁸. One of the statutory functions of the New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa (NZGB) is to make sure that standardized orthography is applied to Māori place names.

Te reo Māori (the Māori language)

Since the 1970s there has been a steady move towards greater recognition of the significance of te reo Māori. The 1987 Māori Language Act⁹ made te reo Māori an official language of New Zealand and established Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori (the Māori Language Commission) to preserve and develop the language. While the written form of Māori generally follows that established by early European missionaries, the Māori Language Commission has standardized it¹⁰. One obvious difference from English is the use of macrons on vowels to indicate a long sound and provide meaning.

More recently there has been a groundswell in the use of te reo Māori from both the public¹¹ and government¹², including a desire for Māori place names to have correct orthography.



It may be some time before the road sign for Whangārei is standardized to match the official name (Photo credit: Christopher Stephens)

Māori place names

There is close relationship between the survival and revitalisation of the Māori language and greater acceptance of standardized Māori place names. While spoken Māori suffered a decline following colonisation, many Māori place names have endured. More than half of territorial New Zealand's place names contain Māori, and in Gisborne Region the figure is over 95%. However, most of these names pre-date the establishment of the NZGB and remain unofficial. They also pre-date the orthographic conventions set by the Māori Language Commission so many are not orthographically correct.



A road sign for the town of Kaikōura. The macron officially added to the [o] in 2018 looks to be scratched off (Photo credit: Christopher Stephens)

Legislative tools and standardization

The standard process for the NZGB to decide on a New Zealand place name involves a proposal, deliberation and public consultation. However, the NZGB's legislation also has a 'fast track' process to approve unofficial place names as official without public consultation, as long as there is no alternative name and public objection is considered unlikely¹³. Since 2013 the NZGB has used this provision to review and standardize many of the most commonly used or significant Māori place names.

Between 2013 and 2018 the NZGB approved hundreds of Māori place names as official, but if macrons were required to standardize a name it was left as unofficial. In 2018 the NZGB received legal advice that the

⁸ New Zealand Geographic Board (Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa) Act 2008

⁹ Māori Language Act 1987

¹⁰ Guidelines for Māori Language Orthography accessed 23 April 2020

¹¹ Teachers say demand to learn Te Reo outstripping supply, Newshub, 10 September 2019

¹² Section 12, Te Ture Mō Te Reo Māori 2016

¹³ Section 24 of the NZGB Act 2008



addition of macrons doesn't create an alternative or different name – it is just the same word with standardized spelling. Therefore, unofficial names could now be standardized with macrons where necessary and approved as official.

Following an initiative between Vodafone™ and Google™ to encourage the correct pronunciation of Māori place names, the NZGB was provided with data on the most commonly searched Māori place names. This list was matched to the New Zealand Gazetteer¹⁴ and in April 2019 the NZGB approved those names that met the two fast track tests. This action retrospectively approved and standardized the Māori names of many of New Zealand's largest geographic features and populated places. For example, Tauranga, New Zealand's 5th largest city¹⁵ was approved as official, as were Whangārei, Taupō, and Whakatāne, which were standardized with macrons.

Since 2013 approximately 2000 Māori place names have been approved as official under this fast track process, with 600 of those being standardized by the addition of macrons.

Traps, assumptions and challenges

When using its legislative tools, the NZGB must proceed with caution as not all iterations or duplications of a place name have the same meaning. Mapua can mean a tidal inundation or a kind of crying or sobbing, whereas Māpua means a place of abundance¹⁶. Therefore, consulting with Māori to find out the origin of a place name is important for its standardization. The meanings or origin of a name can also determine other orthographic conventions such as capitalisation for personal names and possessives.

Sometimes there is only one possible form of a name, no matter what the story. Te Whanganui / Port Underwood is dual named for the [Te] harbour [whanga] great [nui], whereas at Whanganui River the exploring ancestor Te Ati Hau-nui-a-Paparangi waited [whanga] for a great [nui] length of time for the tides to change so he could cross.

Once the history, origin or meaning of a Māori place name is established the NZGB asks for advice on its orthography from a translator licenced by the Māori Language Commission.

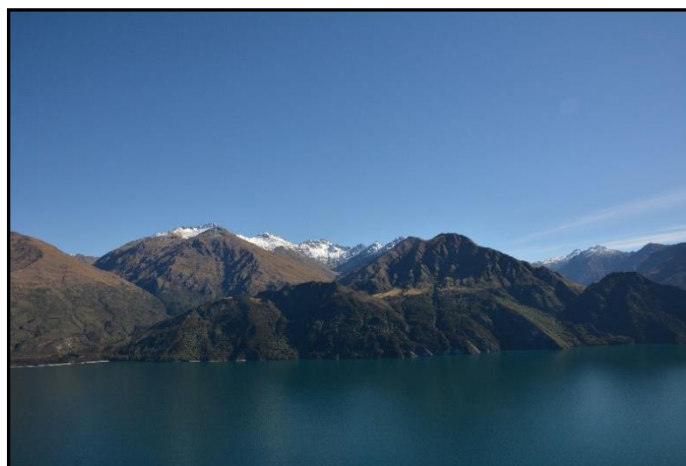
While many Māori place names have endured in written form, the oral traditions behind the names have often been lost. The secondary knowledge recorded by early European explorers, ethnologists, and historians is invaluable, but they may have introduced their own speculation and conclusions on the meanings. One of the greatest challenges in standardizing Māori place names is the loss of traditional knowledge.

Ohakune and other issues

The groundswell of support for te reo Māori is not necessarily support for standardization of the language and place names. It is important to

remember that 'Māori' are many groups or tribes with their own identities, traditions and a number of distinct dialects and not everyone accepts macrons as a standard orthographic convention.

In June 2019 the name of the town Ohakune was standardized and made official as Ōhakune based on a traditional story. There was no consultation with local Māori as the NZGB considered it was a minor correction based on the orthography having been reviewed. The decision proved to be controversial with different meanings and translations subsequently provided by several Māori groups in the area, so in July 2019 Ohakune reverted back to an unofficial name. While there are risks in following a fast track process, the benefits of wholesale standardization outweigh the issues such as for Ohakune, which was immediately resolved.



Lake Wānaka, one of New Zealand's largest lakes, was standardized with a macron in 2019 (Photo credit: Christopher Stephens)

Conclusion

Standardizing Māori place names has been a positive undertaking for the NZGB. The initiative has been well received with positive media coverage¹⁷ and enquiries from other government agencies wanting to use correct Māori place names. The public's response has also been encouraging, an example being a successful change in policy for New Zealand Wikipedia articles to use the correct orthography for Māori place names¹⁸. The NZGB's hope is that New Zealanders will continue to know and use standardized Māori place names in every day life and come to know their meanings.

Christopher Stephens and Jill Remnant

Advisors to the New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa

E-mails: cstephens@linz.govt.nz; jremnant@linz.govt.nz

¹⁴ <https://gazetteer.linz.govt.nz/> accessed 24 April 2020

¹⁵ Subnational population estimates at 30 June 2019, Statistics NZ, accessed 23 April 2020

¹⁶ Māpua along with other places gain macron to its official name, accessed 22 April 2020.

¹⁷ Tāhunanui gains its meaning in te reo; Māpua welcomes new addition to its name for Maori Language Week, accessed 22 April 2020

¹⁸ Battle of the macrons: Debate about Māori words on Wikipedia ends, accessed 23 April 2020



Name versus place – an unresolved problem with geodata: Norway

While spatial databases have improved and grown in complexity, there is an issue that is still to be resolved – and that is, how to make sure that the same geographical names expression used for different geographic localities are treated as one and the same expression. When looking at different National Mapping Agencies' geographical names databases, it is clear that there is a general awareness that one locality may have different written expressions, but it has seemingly escaped notice that the same name expression can be used for different localities and widely different feature types. The evidence of this is seen in the fact that spatial geographical names always databases have unique identifiers for the locality itself and the feature type, there are no identifier for the named expression – and certainly not one that transcends the individual geographical locality.

The issue

The issue relates to what onomasts often term the 'nature' or 'being' of geographical names – which, among many things, include the ability of one geographical name expression to refer to several different kinds of localities – or feature types, as is the usual geo-data term. The mechanisms behind this is related to the notion of *metonymy* (association by proximity), and more specifically *polyonymy* (a single name with multiple distinct, but related, geographical referents).

To illustrate this problem, let us venture to the small island of Frøya just off the coast of western Norway. On this tiny island we find several examples of the same name occurring for different localities/feature types:

LocalityID	Expression	Feature_type
10001	Frøya	island
10002	Frøya	settlement
10003	Stranda	small-holding
10004	Stranda	beach
10005	Ånnevik	farm
10006	Ånnevik	bay

Table 1. Examples of toponyms from Frøya, Norway, with similar name concepts across different feature types.

Three of the above six examples are settlements that have all gained their name from a nearby natural feature by means of metonymy, be it an island (Frøya), a beach (Stranda 'the Beach') or a bay (Ånnevik). Thus, all six examples are distinct localities of different feature types, but there are only three distinct name expressions. Given the size of the island, barely 5.5km x 7km in size, it should be relatively simple to retain similar spellings for different features. However, when operating datasets of +1

million named localities/feature types from different data sources, which are used, created and maintained by different government and local government agencies, the issue quickly becomes evident – it is impossible to keep control of spellings. To take the Norwegian Mapping Authority geographical names datasets as an example, there are thousands of examples of differing written representations of one and the same name expression, not just of different feature types but also one and the same locality.

This is not just a trivial onomastic conundrum performed in a strictly academic setting. This issue relates to how we standardize geographical names and how we secure and implement a uniform means of geographical names standardization. If we do not have an overview of the same name expression occurring as the name of a different feature type – or possibly even in another dataset, how can we be certain that standardization takes place systematically and correctly? And the main question is: how can we resolve this problem?

The resolve

The answer to this issue is relatively straight-forward – by adding another unique identifier (UID) to one's geodata. All that is needed is a UID for the *geographical name expression as concept*. If this is done, then it is possible to monitor the name inventory and through this control the standardization effort. The NameID functions across time, space and expression and only acts as a placeholder for monitoring purposes:

LocalityID	NameID	Expression	Feature_type
10001	AAA	Frøya	island
10002	AAA	Frøya	settlement
10003	BBB	Stranda	small-holding
10004	BBB	Stranda	beach
10005	CCC	Ånnevik	farm
10006	CCC	Ånnevik	bay

Table 2. Concept table featuring localityID and NameID.

It must be stressed that the NameID should act as an UID for the geographical name form as a conceptual unit, not as an ID for the named expression of the actual geographical locality. If there is a need to distinguish the written expression of a feature type from another with the same NameID, this is simply done by combining the UIDs of the locality with the UID of the name concept. In this way 10005_CCC is distinct from 10006_CCC. With a need to distinguish across time or datasets, this can be accomplished by combining LocalityID + NameID + SourceID + Year (of the source expression). This application will be of great

use also in database systems aimed at traditional onomastic research into the origin of geographical names.

Granted, the inclusion of a NameID does require insight into onomastics as a discipline and to understand the 'nature' of toponyms, and consequence of this inclusion is that onomastics moves into realm geodata management for good – *Name* has finally found its *Place* in geodata, so to speak.

Benefits

However, the benefits of adding an ID for the name as concept does not stop with the ability to monitor and control the spelling of the same name concept across localities/feature types. It can be extended to include toponyms whose names derive, fully or in part, from other name concepts. In the Island of Frøya, there is an abundance of examples where name concepts form part of other name concepts. To take two of the previous name concept examples, *Frøya* occurs as the specific of *Frøya kyrkje*, *Frøyadalen*, *Frøynes*, *Frøyaskjera*, *Frøyagrunnene*, *Frøya-Skorpeflua* and *Frøysjøen*, whereas *Ånnevik* features in *Ånnevikholmen*. By adding information of the composition of a toponym – here conceptually shown in the column NameID_Interpretation – It is possible to state the relationship of compounded toponyms element, see table 3.

Localit yID	Name ID	Expression	Feature_t yp e	NameID_Interpretat ion
10001	AAA	Frøya	island	
10002	AAA	Frøya	settlement	
10007	DDD	Frøya kyrkje	church	specific = AAA
10007	AAA	Frøya	church	
10008	EEE	Frøyadalen	valley	specific = AAA
10009	FFF	Frøynes	promontory	specific/stem = AAA
10010	GGG	Frøyaskjera	sea-rock	specific = AAA
10011	HHH	Frøyagrunne ne	shallows	specific = AAA
10012	III	Frøya- Skorpeflua	shallows	specific = AAA; generic = ØØØ
10013	JJJ	Frøysjøen	fjord	specific = AAA/stem
10005	CCC	Ånnevik	farm	
10006	CCC	Ånnevik	bay	
10014	LLL	Ånnevikholm en	islet	specific = CCC/stem

Table 3. Concept table showing how NameID can be managed with toponyms compounded with name concepts of other toponyms.

First, it is important to state what the relationship is between different name concepts and which role a name concept has as part of another name concept. The majority of name concepts in this example occur as the specific element, and are given a 'Specific =' tag. In one instance, *Frøya-Skorpeflua*, the toponym is the result of the combination of two name concepts (*Frøya* (NameID: AAA) + *Skorpeflua*, to single the toponym out from nearby *Skorpeflua* (NameID: ØØØ) and *Botne-Skorpeflua*) and will have two tags describing the internal relationship between the name concepts, i.e. 'Specific =' and 'Generic ='. Geographical names elements and their internal relationships and roles can be expressed in the same way as name concepts, albeit not explored further in this article.

Depending on the language in use and its internal system of compounding, it will be necessary in many cases to include information about *how* a name concept forms part of another – e.g., if it is compounded in a stem-form, a genitive, singular or plural form, etc. In the examples *Frøynes*, *Frøysjøen* and *Ånnevikholmen*, the name concepts *Frøya* (NameID: AAA) and *Ånnevik* (NameID: CCC) are given an additional modification tag of 'stem'.

Note also that this model allows for several name forms for the same feature time and to describe their internal relationship. In table 3, LocalityID 10007 has two NameIDs and thus occurs twice. The primary name concept of LocalityID 10007 is *Frøya kyrkje* (NameID: DDD). It is what is usually termed full name form of the locality (see beginning). Being an institution, the church is also known under a short form, *Frøya*, which is actually NameID AAA. NameID DDD is compounded with NameID AAA and this relationship is thus described in its NameID_Interpretation field.

It is my hope that this conceptual model of the *name concept* (NameID) shows that the benefits of including onomastic information in toponymically oriented geodata are considerable and instrumental in ensuring solid and consequent management and standardization of geographical names. With this model, it is necessary to move away from a strictly geo-oriented view of toponymic geodata and to introduce onomastic principles to the data model. The data model concept devised here can be used in both a traditional relational or hierarchical database environment, but would most likely be even better suited to web-semantic geo-data.

Peder Gammeltoft

Working Group Convenor and Norden Division Vice-Chair

E-mail: peder.gammeltoft@uib.no

Issues and Experiences in the Standardization of Geographical Names in Spain

The competences in geographical names in Spain belong, not only to the Administration of the State, but also to the Autonomous Communities, most of them having published laws on this subject. Thus, the coordination between Public Organizations with responsibilities in geographical names is essential in order to avoid the duplication of efforts, and also in order to promote the use of normalized toponymy.

This article shows the experience of the *Instituto Geográfico Nacional* (National Geographic Institute of Spain) in producing the *Nomenclátor Geográfico Básico de España* (National Geographic Basic Gazetteer of Spain) or NGBE, in collaboration with the other National and Regional organizations and also with the Specialized Committee in Geographical Names.

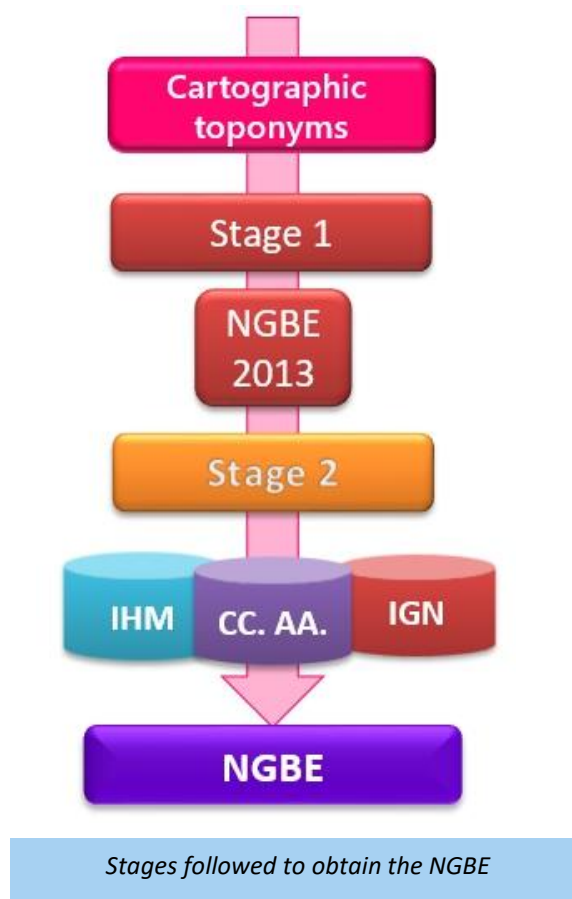
The Royal Decree 1545/2007, of 23th November, which regulates the National Cartographic System, entrusts the IGN to produce the NGBE departing from georeferenced place names represented in official cartography at 1:25.000 and smaller scales, in Spanish and in other co-official languages.

The IGN began working on the NGBE in 2012. The NGBE project, which is divided in two different stages, has yielded a toponymic corpus of some 1,200,000 place names for the whole Spain.

The **first stage** was started and finished in 2013 and consisted of the depuration of toponyms extracted from IGN 1:25.000 National Topographic Map, along with other official geographical names provided by organizations responsible for airports, national parks or national ports. The methodology for the first stage was divided into 8 phases, in which place names were treated from a geographic-linguistic approach, focusing on the names themselves more than on the geographic objects to which they were attached:

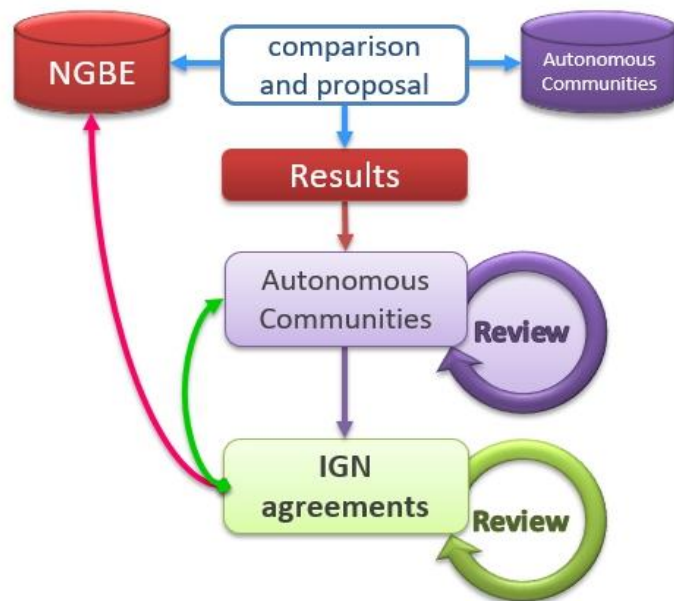
- Phase 0: Deletion of descriptive names and abbreviations.
- Phase 1: Deletion of toponyms of foreign territories partially represented in maps.
- Phase 2: Deletion of repeated names.
- Phase 3: Revision and reclassification of geographical names.
- Phase 4: Checking of geographical names accuracy.
- Phase 5: Integration of the already normalized toponyms.
- Phase 6: Treating of bilingual names.
- Phase 7: Assignment of statistical code (National Statistical Institute code) to every place name.
- Phase 8: Detection of errors and quality assessment of the results.

The result of this work was a corpus of 1,132,734 toponyms, published in a downloadable format as well as in WMS and WFS services according to the EU INSPIRE Directive.



The **second stage** managed to harmonize the NGBE with other official or normalized gazetteers, produced by the corresponding geographical names authorities. Thus, the project was presented to these organizations at State and regional level, asking them to send their available toponymic information and requesting their collaboration for further revision of results in every region. The methodology consisted of comparing toponyms from different sources in the same geographical areas, in order to propose the candidate name to be included in the NGBE, with its attributes (status, source, location and language). Once the search, treatment and proposal of the selected toponyms was completed, the results were sent to the corresponding organizations responsible for geographical names in order to be approved or corrected. Due to the amount of information to analyse, the revision system was conceived as

an iterative process for exchanging the database between the IGN and the other authorities, in subsequent revisions and comparisons. This iterative method will allow reaching the maximum harmonization of the information contained in the NGBE.



Iterative method of reviewing the NGBE

Conclusions

The IGN has had to overcome several methodological and human challenges in order to produce the National Geographic Basic Gazetteer of Spain. It has been necessary to transform geographical names, extracted from cartographic sources, into a geographic-linguistic model; to develop a methodology for comparing toponymy from different sources, at several scales, in different data models and with a heterogeneous normalization; to establish the appropriate communication channels between different administrations at State and regional levels; and finally, to create stable human teams in order to give a long term continuity to the project. All these efforts intend to provide the users with a free, updated, normalized and interoperable National Geographic Basic Gazetteer of Spain.

Angélica Castaño, Marcos Pavo, Marta Montilla, Rafael Téllez, Jordi Chicheri

Instituto Geográfico Nacional (IGN). España

National Geographic Institute. Spain

E-mail: toponimia.ign@fomento.es

The updated NGBE is periodically published in the IGN Download Centre

(<http://centrodedescargas.cnig.es/CentroDescargas/index.jsp>)

as well as in WFS and WFS services.

FROM THE COUNTRIES

The Sultanate of Oman's activity in the field of geographic Names, 2017-2019

1. The Sultanate of Oman participated through a paper on the Sultanate's achievements in the field of geographic names, in the 30th session and the 11th conference of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNEGN), held at United Nations headquarters in New York city.
2. The Sultanate of Oman also participated in the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the new United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names within the agenda of the 30th session and the 11th conference.
3. The National Survey Authority (NSA) continued the project of collecting geographic names to update 498 topographic maps at a scale of 1: 50,000 covering the whole Sultanate of Oman. The team responsible for this mission was able to finish this project in June 2019 and collected approximately 7000 geographic names of the sultanate. This was a great effort due to the diversity of the Sultanate's terrain that includes mountains, plains and islands. The completion of this project added a wealthy geographic names store to the NSA and its current geographic names database, which in fact will enable the decision makers to benefit from this important data.



Field collection of Geographic Name



Field collection of Geographic Name

4. Eight Omani specialists in geographic names from various government institutions attended a training course on geographic names held in the Royal Jordanian Geographic Centre and under the supervision of the Arab Division of Experts on Geographical Names in Amman, Jordan during the period 25-29 March 2018.
5. The NSA and the Ministry of Education implemented a project aimed at publishing the Sultanate's map and geographic names in all curricula of the Ministry of Education for grades 1-12, as well as printing more than 31,000 wall maps of the sultanate for all rooms.
6. The Unified Addressing System project which is supervised by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI) with the strategic partnership of the NSA, seek to implement a standardized system for all places in the sultanate. This project is also aimed to name the unnamed streets and roads and through this process more than 100,000 names of streets and roads in the sultanate will be collected. It is expected that this project will be completed in 2020 and it will be a prelude to conducting the electronic population census project to be implemented in 2020.
7. The Sultanate of Oman attended the 1st session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names



Map for school classroom

(UNEGN) during the period from April 29 to May 30, 2019 in New York City, USA.

8. The Sultanate of Oman also participated in the 8th conference of Arab Experts in Geographical Names held in Amman, Jordan during the period 1-3 October 2019 and submitted four working papers with the following titles:
 - a. Sultanate of Oman's achievements in Geographic Names
 - b. Standardized Arab System for transliteration (Arabic Romanization System): Difference between 2007 and 2017 editions
 - c. Non-written languages in the Sultanate of Oman
 - d. 1:50,000 scale map updates



Visit to Royal Jordanian Geographic Centre

9. The sultanate of Oman, represented by the National Survey Authority (NSA) was voted as co-chairman of the Arab Division Experts in Geographic Names in recognition of its active role in this field and its uninterrupted attendance to all conferences and meetings held by both UNGEGN and Arab Division of Experts on Geographical Names (ADEGN).
10. The National Survey Authority has applied to host the 9th conference of Arab Experts on Geographic Names scheduled to be held in year 2021.

Lt. Col. Yousuf bin Harith Al Nabhani

Head of the Geographic Names branch

National Survey Authority

4th Vice-Chair of the Arab Division of Experts on Geographic Names

E-mail: ynabhani@hotmail.com

FROM THE DIVISIONS

Arab Division of Experts on Geographical Names

The Eighth Arab Conference of the Arab Division of Experts on Geographical Names, Jordan -Amman, 1-3 October 2019

The Arab Division of Experts on Geographical Names consists of Arab experts officially assigned by their countries with responsibility for geographical names, in order to collect, control, unify and address the names of natural places and landmarks in various Arab countries. The Arab Division forms part of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEVN), a subsidiary body of the United Nations Economic and Social Council.



The division aims to lay the foundations and rules necessary for collecting, controlling, unifying and using Arab geographical names at national, regional and global levels and for resolving all linguistic and phonetic problems that prevent their unification. The exchange of scientific and technical experiences assists all member states to issue their own geographical dictionaries and atlases, unified Arab geographical dictionaries, and other topics related to this work. Setting up mechanisms for cooperation between Arab organizations dealing with geographical sciences in general, and in particular, map-making with regional counterparts and international organizations. Attention is paid to geographical names in the Arab world in terms of controlling and unifying them, in order to enable all member states in the Arab division to use and write them in a unified way, and highlight the significant economic, social, cultural, historical and religious benefits resulting from this work.

The permanent headquarters of Arab Division of Geographical Names Experts is in Jordan, and Jordan also currently hold the presidency. It is one of the specific Arab federations, which are affiliated under the umbrella of the Arab Economic Unity Council of the League of Arab States.

The current Arab Division presidency has worked to establish the following:

1. the permanent headquarters of the division in the Jordanian capital,
2. a website for the division on the World Wide Web,
3. issue educational flyers with geographical names,
4. publish a magazine specializing in geographical names,
5. considered the first on the Arab level, and
6. hold specialized courses in geographical names.

In addition, the presidency organizes conferences and specialized scientific seminars. The Arab Division of Geographical Names Experts organized the Eighth Conference of Arab Experts in Geographical Names from October 1-3, 2019, in the Jordanian capital, Amman. The conference was held in cooperation with the Regional Center for Space Science and Technology Education for Western Asia of the United Nations and the Jordanian Geographical Society, under the patronage of the Prime Minister of Jordan. Arab experts in the field of geographical names, representing 14 Arab countries participated in the three-day conference. Several working papers were presented during the event covering the following topics:

- Documenting the Arab geographical names in Palestine



- Presentation of national programs for the standardization of geographical names.
- Local and national bodies/committees for standardizing geographical names.
- The unified Arab system adopted by UNGEVE for Romanization.
- Arabic Geographical Dictionaries.
- Work committees in the Arab division.
- Implementing the resolutions of UNGEVE and the decisions of the Arab Division.
- Non-written languages in the Arab countries.
- Geospatial Information Management.
- Marine geographical names.



The conference resulted in several recommendations and decisions, the most prominent of which were:

- 1) Forming a special committee of Arab experts specialized in geographical names to develop dictionaries and maps;
- 2) Arab countries that have not yet established national bodies to expedite the establishment of a permanent national committee specialized in unifying the appropriate geographical names for each country;
- 3) All Arab countries follow up the application of unified Arab system in an honest and continuous application, and strictly adhere to the use of movements in Romanization;
- 4) Member states work to organize databases of Arabic geographical names, and to make optimal use of modern technologies in geographical names;
- 5) Activating the work committees emanating from the Arab Division, giving the topic the utmost importance and working on holding annual meetings or whenever the need arises to discuss the topics and tasks entrusted to them. This should be so provided that formal invitations to hold these meetings by the division's presidency are directed to the official authorities in coordination with the League of

Nations in Arabic. Participating countries are responsible for travel and subsistence costs;

- 6) Arab countries with unwritten languages are to pay attention to these and document them;
- 7) Interest in geospatial information are to be used in geographical names, as it is closely related to geographical names and;
- 8) Geographical names should receive attention and be documented, as well as issuing a brochure on marine and water terms in the Arabic language.



The Conference elected the administrative body for a period of four years in their personal capacity, as follows:

- Dr. Eng. Awni Mohammad al Khasawneh (Jordan), Chairman
- Dr. Abdullah bin Nassir al Waliee (Saudi Arabia), First Vice-President
- Dr. Ibrahim Atwi (Algeria), Second Vice-President
- Dr. Muhammad al Marri (Qatar) is the third vice-president
- Yousif an Nabhani (Oman) is the fourth vice president
- Ibrahim al Jaber Obaid (Jordan) Rapporteur
- Dr. Muhammad al Asiri (Syria) Editor

- 9) In view of the interdependence of the joint work between the Arab 2021.

Dr. Eng. Awni Moh'd AL Khasawneh

Chairman of the Arab Division of Experts on Geographical Names

E-mail: kawni@yahoo.com



FROM THE WORKING GROUPS

Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers becomes Working Group on Geographical Names Data Management!

Name change... and what's next?

The discussion about the change of the Working Group designation was started in advance of the first session of the “new” UNGEGN in 2019. The recommended new name has been justified by more than the fact it's better than the current name! The Working Group had been discussing designations “Toponymic” or “Geographical Names” in general; both are ok for most UNGEGN experts, but obviously not well-known in other communities... like the Committee of Experts on UN-GGIM.

The Working Group topics like 'data file' and 'gazetteer' predates today's terms such as databases, data management, data integration and data services. Of course, we have seen the relation to UN-GGIM and its “Fundamental Data Themes”. UNGEGN experts contributed to the Fundamental Data Theme description for “Geographical Names”. One of the reasons for the request to change the name of the Working Group is that we want to be better understood by other communities including the Committee of Experts on UN-GGIM.

In a nutshell, several proposals for renaming the Working Group were exchanged by members of the Working Group. The preferred option was “**UNEGN Working Group on Geographical Names Data Management**”.

The Working Group preferred the designation “Geographical Names Data Management” compared to “Geographical Names Information Management”, as the latter would include many more issues related to geographical names which are tackled and discussed by other existing UNGEGN Working Groups. The latter designation would extend the scope of this Working Group to many non-technical issues. We wanted to keep the focus on technical issues related to the management of the geographical names data (data model, data integration, etc.) and the technical issues related to its provision (web applications, databases, linked data, etc.). This focus worked well in the past and the cooperation with other UNGEGN Working Groups with the focus on non-technical issues.

I think you may all be aware that, UN-GGIM is focused on addressing “Geospatial Information Management” including issues related to governance, legal, and technical management, among others. This broad focus is underlined by the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF) and the 9 pathways.

Under consideration of all these issues the Working Group members have chosen the designation “Geographical Names Data Management”.

The UNGEGN Bureau accepted the proposal for a name change as provisional, and to let the Working Group submit a report to the next 2nd UNGEGN session in April 2021 to have this change formally ratified.

Amendment of the Work Plan and the Actions 2020-2022

The discussion about the amendments of the Working Group's Work Plan and the Actions for 2020-2022 have also been ongoing in advance of the second UNGEGN session.

The Working Group used the Wiki (a component of the Working Group's operational tools) to discuss and agree upon amendments to the work plan until February 2020. With the acceptance of the extended UNGEGN Bureau and Convenors the updates of the information have been included in the member-operated Working Group's website. We wish to emphasize that the name change does not have an impact on the general and current “Scope of work” for the Working Group adopted by UNGEGN.

You may notice that the URL/link for the member-operated Working Group's website keeps the former abbreviation “wgtdfg”, but already includes the new Working Group name:

<https://wiki.gdi-de.org/display/wgtdfg/Working+Group+on+Geographical+Names+Data+Management+of+UNEGN>

The amendments of the **Work Plan** are visible (to everybody as this is an open area):

<https://wiki.gdi-de.org/display/wgtdfg/Work+plan>

The amendments for the **Actions 2020-2022** are visible (to everybody as this is an open area):

<https://wiki.gdi-de.org/display/wgtdfg/Actions+for+2020+-+2022>

In a nutshell, the amendments to the Work Plan and to the Actions 2020-2022 addressed, amongst others, a stronger linkage and provision of consultancy and technical advice to the UN-GGIM activities related to the Strategic Pathway 4 ‘Data’ of UN-GGIM's Integrated Geospatial Information Framework



(IGIF). In this pathway the fundamental data themes are addressed (comprising “Geographical Names”) as well as to the support of geospatial data (comprising “Geographical names” data) to the Agenda 2030, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) monitoring. Furthermore, the examination of processes and recommendation of best practices for the exploitation and validation of volunteered geographic Information, crowd sourced data and Linked Open Data (LOD) as part of national geographical names standardization work has been included in the Work Plan. The Actions 2020-2022 reflect the amendments for the Work Plan and address specific tasks to tackle the Work Plan issues. The Working Group continues to better streamline the actions to realistic tasks for a timeframe of two years aiming at concrete outcome and results. This means that the discussion about the Actions is an ongoing process and has to be flexible and consider changes in UN programs and in technology. Thus, the Actions might be updated again in conjunction with discussions at the 2nd UNGEGN Session.

After the publication of this information in the Bulletin, the amendments for the Work Plan and the Actions 2020-2022 will be uploaded to the UNGEGN Website.

*Online discussion forum / Wiki has been updated again!
(status: March 2020)*

The Online Discussion Forum / Wiki was updated in March 2020 with new information, including “best practices” and links to resolutions/decisions where possible.

The following colleagues from Australia and United Kingdom were active contributors within the Online Discussion Forum / Wiki: <https://wiki.gdi-de.org/display/wgtdfg/Discussion+forum>

- Rafe Benli added some content to “**Topic 1 - Volunteered Geographic Information**”. Each question has been touched on and responses have been added by Rafe. He also added some content to “**Topic 5 - Support of UNGEGN to SDGs**”.
- Catherine Cheetham added some content to “**Topic 4 - UNGEGN-UNGGIM collaboration**”.
- Susan Birtles added some content and restructured the “**Topic 6 - Linked Data**”

We are awaiting others to upload “best practices” or country specific examples!

According to a decision of the Working Group within the 1st UNGEGN Session in April/May 2019 the Online discussion forum / Wiki is not open to “everybody” anymore. The access is restricted to registered UNGEGN experts only since December 2019. This decision was taken in order to overcome the fear of some UNGEGN experts to post comments or upload information to an open community. Preference was given to a “professional” discussion forum / Wiki restricted to experts only.

Therefore, if you wish to contribute now in a “closed” environment please send me or the moderators a message by E-mail:

Topic 1 - Volunteered geographic information and crowd-sourcing	Mr. Rafe Benli (Australia) E-mail: rafe.benli@delwp.vic.gov.au
Topic 2 - Definitions for gazetteers and data types	Ms. Vita Strautniece (Latvia) E-mail: Vita.Strautniece@lgia.gov.lv
Topic 3 - General feature types and categories	Mr. Teemu Leskinen (Finland) E-mail: teemu.leskinen@maanmittauslaitos.fi
Topic 4 - UNGEGN-UNGGIM collaboration	Ms. Catherine Cheetham (United Kingdom) E-mail: ccheetham@pcgn.org.uk
Topic 5 - Support of UNGEGN to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) indicator framework	Mr. Pier-Giorgio Zaccheddu (Germany) E-mail: pier-giorgio.zaccheddu@bkg.bund.de
Topic 6 - Linked Data	Ms. Susan Birtles (Australia) E-mail: susan.birtles@dnrme.qld.gov.au

The same applies to UNGEGN experts who are already registered and wish to upload documents and or other relevant/ content to the Wiki. Please get in touch with us if you have problems using the Wiki. If you cannot manage the upload yourself, please send us the documents / content by E-mail and we will upload it for you.

You are welcome to participate in the Working Group’s exciting discussions, come on, give it a try, ask for your log-in details or use your access and be active!

Pier-Giorgio Zaccheddu

Convenor of the Working Group on Geographical Names Data Management of UNGEGN

(formerly known as Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers)

E-mail: pier-giorgio.zaccheddu@bkg.bund.de

SPECIAL PROJECTS AND NEWS ITEMS

UNGEKN - Romano-Hellenic Division - International Scientific Symposium Permanence, transformation, substitution and oblivion of geographical names

Napoli [Naples] – Italia, 22nd - 24th September 2021

CALL FOR PAPERS

The Romano-Hellenic Division (RHD) of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEKN) announces its third International Scientific Symposium focused on “Permanence, transformation, substitution and oblivion of geographical names”.

The symposium will be held in Napoli [Naples], Italia, from 22nd to 24th September 2021. Members of the UNGEKN, linguists, historians, geographers, planners and cartographers are cordially invited to take part in the symposium. Participation is free of charge. Language: English.



The event will be organized in close cooperation with the Italian Geographic Military Institute and the Regional Council of Campania – Directorate General for the Government of the Territory, and under the auspices of: Italian Association of Geographers, Italian Association of Geography Teachers, Italian Cartographic Association, Italian Centre for Historical and Geographical Studies, Italian Geographical Society and Society of Geographical Studies (Italia).

Topics of the symposium are: preservation of the toponymic heritage, historical maps and toponymy, *genius loci* and identity, etymological studies, place names of historical linguistic minorities, vernacular place names, new toponyms, role of national and regional geographical names authorities.

Announcements of papers and submissions of abstracts (max. 400 words – in English) may be e-mailed to the chairman of the RHD (see Registration form below) no later than **May 30, 2021**.

Extended abstracts should be e-mailed to the same addresses no later than **June 29, 2021**.

Scientific committee:

- Andrea Cantile, Chair of the UNGEKN's Romano-Hellenic Division and IGMI's Commission for Italian Official Toponymy; University of Florence (Italia);
- Simonetta Conti, University of Campania “Luigi Vanvitelli” (Italia);
- Monica Dumitrascu, Institute of Geography, Romanian Academy (Romania);
- Peter Jordan, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Co-Convenor of the ICA-IGU Joint Commission on Toponymy (Austria);
- Helen Kerfoot, Former Emeritus Scientist Natural Resources Canada, Honorary Chair of UNGEKN (Canada);
- Cosimo Palagiano, Emeritus of Sapienza - University of Rome, Accademia dei Lincei, Co-Convenor of the ICA-IGU Joint Commission on Toponymy (Italia);
- Domenico Proietti, University of Campania “Luigi Vanvitelli” (Italia);
- Annette C. Torensjö, Uppsala University, Convenor of the UNGEKN Working Group on Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage (Sverige).

Please download the participation form from the following link:
<https://www.igmi.org/en/toponomastica/genung/simposio-2020>

For further information about the symposium, please contact Andrea Cantile:

e-mail: andrea.cantile@unifi.it;
toponomastica@geomil.esercito.difesa.it

Andrea Cantile

Chair, Romano-Hellenic Division

E-mail: andrea.cantile@unifi.it



Cultural Heritage and Commercialization of Geographical Names UNEG N

Symposium and Joint Working Group and Division Meetings

20-24 October 2020, Halmstad, Sweden

Dear colleague,

We sincerely hope you and your families have been able to stay healthy. The UNEG N Working Group on Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage and the Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation jointly invite you to a symposium and Working Group and Division meetings which will be held at Halmstad University, Halmstad, Sweden, 20–24 October 2020.

Over the past few decades, UNEG N has made efforts to share experiences of identifying and conserving cultural heritages contained in geographical names and to raise awareness of their importance. The basic consensus is that every name in any form and language has its own story, history and memory, which have to be respected. In line with this course of arguing, a series of resolutions have been adopted since 2002, which fulfilled the criteria for getting geographical names acknowledged as an instance of cultural heritage in 2012.

Another direction found in geographical naming practices today is to regard geographical names as a commodity that can be sold and purchased. This commodification, or commercialization in a broader sense, is particularly evident in diverse varieties of urban names, including urban facilities, sports stadiums, subway stations, apartment districts and farms. Most of these names are subject to private property rights, hence, depending on legislation, to naming rights.

Geographical names motivated by commercial factors that replace long-standing local names threaten the integrity of geographical nomenclatures. Commercialization might thus bring misuse and distortion of the meaning and purpose of the intangible cultural heritage carried by geographical names. Faced with these issues, UNEG N adopted a resolution in 2012 that recommended national toponymic authorities to discourage the use of geographical names for commercial purpose by adopting standards addressing these issues.

Cultural heritage and commercialization with geographical names are in sharp contrast with each other. Geographical names as cultural heritage is a highly valued endeavor to be cherished and encouraged. However, commercialization or commodification of geographical names is a trend not to be ignored. How then should this problem be understood and how can it be dealt with? What is the role of UNEG N and individual toponymic authorities? This symposium will be addressing these and related questions.

Under the theme of **Cultural heritage and commercialization of geographical names**, the following sub-themes could be suggested:

- Case studies of cultural heritage contained in geographical names
- Indigenous and minority geographical names as a means of cultural revitalization
- Good place-name practices
- The nature of commercialization/commodification of geographical names

I names, with focus on geographical names as cultural heritage

- Urban names and naming rights
- Issues in national standardizations of geographical names
- The role of UNEG N and individual toponymic authorities

The symposium will be open to any expert interested in geographical naming. The meeting venue also seeks to provide opportunities for the UNEG N Working Group and Division meetings. Those who are interested in participating, as individuals, Working Groups or Divisions, are kindly advised to contact one of the organizers listed below. Due to available facilities, we have to limit the number of participants to 40. Any further enquiry or suggestions are also welcome. There is no fee for registration, but all costs for travel and accommodation are to be covered by each participant.

A suggested time-table is as the following:

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| • 20 Oct 2020 morning | Business meetings (Working Groups/Divisions) |
| • 20 Oct 2020 afternoon | Plenary Session (invited keynote speech) |
| | Symposium Session I |
| • 21 Oct 2020 morning | Plenary Session (invited keynote speech) |
| | Symposium Session II |
| • 21 Oct 2020 afternoon | Symposium Session III |
| • 22 Oct 2020 morning | Symposium Session IV (wrap-up) |
| • 22 Oct 2020 afternoon | Business meetings (Working Groups/Divisions) |
| • 23-24 Oct 2020 | Business meetings (Working Groups/Divisions) |

PLEASE NOTE

Under the present circumstances, we do, however reserve the right to either cancel or postpone the workshop and meetings at a later date, in case the general virus situation in the world so demands.

Annette Torenstj

Convenor, UNEG N Working Group on Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage

E-mail: annette.torenstjo@isof.se

Sungjae Choo

Convenor, UNEG N Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation

E-mail: sjchoo@khu.ac.kr

Leila Mattfolk

Rapporteur, UNEG N Working Group on Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage

E-mail: leila.mattfolk@isof.se

Symposium “Place Names and Migration” at the occasion of the Austrian Board’s 50th anniversary

The Austrian Board on Geographical Names (AKO) celebrated its 50th anniversary 6-8 November 2019. At this occasion, AKO, UNEG N’s Dutch- and German-speaking Division (DGSD), the Joint ICA/IGU Commission on Toponymy, the Austrian Federal Office of Metrology and Surveying (BEV) and the Austrian Geographical Society (ÖGG), personally represented by Gerhard RAMPL, Regina FALKENSTEINER and Peter JORDAN, organized in the premises of the BEV in Vienna a festive symposium on the topic "Place Names and Migration" with 95 toponymists and guests from 19 countries and 5 continents. The event was particularly distinguished by the presence of the former UNEG N Chair Helen KERFOOT (Canada), the current UNEG N Chair Pierre ARD (France), two former (Jörn SIEVERS, Germany, and Ferjan ORMELING, Netherlands) and one current (Sungjae CHOO, Republic of Korea) UNEG N Vice-chairs as well as a high-ranking representative of the International Council of Onomastic Sciences (ICOS), Oliviu FELECAN (Romania).

After welcome addresses by representatives of the organizers, Gerhard RAMPL for AKO, Tjeerd TICHELAAR for the DGSD, Peter JORDAN for the Joint ICA/IGU Commission on Toponymy, Wernher HOFFMANN for the BEV and Wolfgang KAINZ for the ÖGG, the first meeting focused on half a century of AKO's work and its international cooperation. Initially the AKO Chair since 2017, Gerhard RAMPL – completely surprising for the rapporteur and out of the program – referred to scientific work and achievements of the former AKO Chair (2007-2017) Peter JORDAN at the occasion of his 70th birthday. Isolde Hausner, AKO Chair from 1997 to 2007, then described the involvement of AKO into the Permanent Committee on Geographical Names (StAGN). Helen KERFOOT (Canada), long-term and meritorious UNEG N Chair, highlighted the Austrian contributions to UNEG N and the standardization of place names at the level of the United Nations in general and closed in the presence of UNEG N

experts from the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, to whom the rapporteur would have attributed this at least as much, that Austria had earned merits there like no other country. Markus JOBST (BEV) presented tasks and structures of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM). Finally, Tomasz WITES as the representative of the Polish Geographical Society presented Peter JORDAN a certificate of honorary membership awarded in 2018.

The topic of the symposium proper, place names in the context of migration, could be approached in two ways: synchronically, i.e. with reference to modern migration situations or diachronically, i.e. in the historical dimension, with regard to the multitude and variety of migrations in the course of history, since migration is a universal and all-time phenomenon. As far as place names are concerned, migration can be directed to areas with little or no names, but also to areas with a dense and well-established namescape. In the latter case, it is interesting to see how migrants with other linguistic and cultural backgrounds deal with the names they find. This can differ depending

on whether migration occurs individually or in groups, whether it is backed by strong political power – as in the case of conquest and colonization – or whether migrants over- or underlay the resident society in the social sense. This leads a.o. to the following questions: Do the newcomers adopt the place names they find? Or do they adapt them to their own language through translation, morphological or phonetic adaptation? Do they create their own names for already named places? And how do long-term residents react to these approaches? The transfer of place names by migrants is another common phenomenon.



UNEG N and AKO chairs – from left to right: Sungjae Choo (UNEG N Vice-chair), Helen Kerfoot (former UNEG N Chair), Pierre Jaillard (UNEG N Chair), Gerhard Rampl (AKO Chair), Regina Falkensteiner (AKO Deputy chair) (Photo: Gerhard Rampl)

In the first session on the research field as such and transcontinental migration, chaired by Peter JORDAN (Vienna), he first gave an overview of the research field, the research questions and the state of research in the individual sub-areas. Then Ferjan ORMELING (Amsterdam) highlighted the approach of Dutch sailors and colonists in the 17th and 18th centuries to the names found in many parts of the world explored or colonized by the Dutch. Fatima LOUATI (Tlemcen, Algeria) spoke in her lecture, authored together with Souad BOUHADJAR (Saida, Algeria), about the multitude of names in the Mediterranean and the Middle East that originate in Phoenician names. In his presentation, co-authored by Ester CAPUZZO (both Rome), Cosimo PALAGIANO dealt with the names transferred by Italians when they emigrated to Latin America, with the interesting aspect

that names of their hometown were not transferred just to maintain ties to the former home or to make the new place more familiar, but also to stimulate further emigration from and to the same place. ("This is the place overseas where many of you already stay and where you will not be a stranger!"). Andrej HERZEN (Moscow) finally emphasized the historical-geographical context of name transfers and exemplified it by Serbian migrants from today's southern Serbia to modern Ukraine.

In the second session on exclusively non-European situations, chaired by Sungjae CHOO (Seoul), the chair first dealt with forced migration of Koreans before and during the Korean War (1950-53) in a presentation authored together with Jihwan YOON (also Seoul). He particularly dealt with some local concentrations of North Koreans in South Korea. A very related topic was then addressed by Young-Hoon KIM (Chenongju, Republic of Korea) when highlighting the transfer of Korean names by Korean migrants to Chinese Manchuria in the 19th and 20th centuries. Wenchuan HUANG (Taipei) showed that in Hong Kong some of the most important streets and squares have colonial names reminiscent of the British colonial era or the British royal family and thus contribute to the specific identity of the city. The question arose as to what role these names play in the current conflict between autonomists and Chinese centralists. The Czech

sinologist Vladimír LIŠČÁK (Prague) followed with a lecture on the settlement of the Han people in Taiwan, today forming the majority population, from the 17th century onward and associated name changes. Peter KANG (Taipei) examined name use of the Hokkien speakers having immigrated from southern China to the then Dutch Batavia, today's Indonesian Jakarta, from the 17th century onward. The Polish Arabist Bogusław ZAGÓRSKI (Warsaw) developed by the example of the migration of Arabic toponyms a whole system of relationships between place names and migration with the potential of forming a basis for further research in this area. Philip MATTHEWS (Lower Hut, New Zealand) did not leave it at his core topic of the effects of British immigration on place names in New Zealand but enlarged

on fundamental considerations on the wider topic from a linguistic point of view.

In the fourth session, devoted to European situations and chaired by Ferjan ORMELING (Amsterdam), Arjen VERSLOOT (Amsterdam) first showed possibilities of using geographical information systems (GIS) and place names in combination with other sources of information such as archaeological findings to shed light into the historical darkness of Germanic migrations to northwestern Europe. Using examples from Europe, Małgorzata MANDOLA (Paris) emphasized the fact that place names can also migrate independently of people, i.e. without physical migration. Marit ALAS (Tallinn) used the case of the industrial town Kohtla-Järve in north-eastern Estonia to describe how the namescape was changed in a colonial way after World War II, when under the roof of the Soviet Union many Russians immigrated. Using another example from northern Estonia, Tiina LAANSALU (Tallinn) turned again to theory by analysing different types of toponym transfer. Wojciech WŁOSKOWICZ (Warsaw) used the example of the Polish Beskids to demonstrate the important function of place names as keys to settlement and cultural history paying special attention to the names given by Wallachian shepherds. Přemysl MÁCHA (Brno) used the example of Brno to demonstrate the influence of migrants on the



The AKO chairs of the last 22 years – Isolde Hausner (1997-2007), Peter Jordan (2007-2017), and Gerhard Rampl (since 2017) (Photo: Heinz Sattlberger/BEV)

linguistic landscape of this Moravian city, mainly on names of restaurants and shops, but also reported on names used by the local population for migrant neighbourhoods. Helge PAULIG (Dresden) again referred to settlement and cultural history, this time using the example of Upper Lusatia in Saxony, where Sorbian, Bohemian, German and Polish influences on the namescape can be traced. Peter A WEENINK (Ruimteschepper, Netherlands) finally highlighted the influences of Chinese migrants on the namescape in Europe with a focus on the Netherlands.



Veterans of toponomastics from three continents – Helen Kerfoot (Canada), Phil Matthews (New Zealand), Peter Jordan (Austria) (Photo: Sungjae Choo)

In a second session on European situations, chaired by Oliviu FELECAN (Baia Mare, Romania), the chairman himself initially referred to mostly unofficial names that emerged in Romanian cities for places and neighbourhoods with migrants after the political change in 1989. Guido LUCARNO (Milan) then dealt with the specific situation of the Walser settlements in the Italian Alps, which developed from the 13th century onward in previously unpopulated areas and to which the Walser people therefore applied their names. The old Alpine Slavic/Slovenian name stratum in Carinthia and East Tyrol, later intensively mixed with a Bavarian/German one, was the subject of the lecture by Heinz-Dieter POHL (Klagenfurt am Wörthersee). Ivana CRLJENKO (Zagreb) spanned a wide range from the first migrations from the area of what is today Croatia in the High Middle Ages across Croatian emigration to overseas in the 19th century up to Croatian labour migration to western Europe after World War II and pointed at Croatian name traces in the respective target areas. Attila SASI and Gábor MIKESY (both Budapest) demonstrated that the namescape of the Pannonian Basin reflects a long history of migrations, invasions and occupations and therefore consists of many layers. Margareta Magda MANU (Bucharest) referring to (nick) names of ethnic groups used in Transylvania showed that the distinction between endonym and exonym is not only confined to place names, but can also be applied on other name categories including ethnonyms and is to be regarded a basic and comprehensive onomastic concept.

The symposium thus offered a first approximation to the relation between migration and geographical names. It revealed the whole diversity of this topic but certainly also a strong need for further research. Conference proceedings will appear as Volume 9 of the toponymic book series *Name & Place* edited by Allison DOLLIMORE and Peter JORDAN by the end of 2020.

Peter JORDAN

Honorary Chair, Austrian Board on Geographical Names

E-mail: Peter.Jordan@oeaw.ac.at



Geospatial Frameworks being developed by the Committee of Experts on UN-GGIM

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management is an inter-governmental mechanism, established in 2011 by the United Nations Economic and Social Council. UN-GGIM works with governments to make joint decisions and set directions on the production and use of geospatial information within national and global policy frameworks, and to develop effective strategies for building and strengthening geospatial information capacity, especially of developing countries. UN-GGIM supports countries to have access not only to more comprehensive and accurate data, but also to make their information systems more integrated, interoperable and accessible to support national, regional and global development.

Since the adoption of ECOSOC resolution on "Strengthening institutional arrangements on geospatial information management" (Resolution 2016/27) in July 2016, The Committee of Experts has invested considerable effort in the development of frameworks, guides and methodologies for countries to be able to implement geospatial capability.

In pursuit of its mandate the Committee of Experts has prepared several frameworks and guides covering critical geospatial development topics; all in support of strengthening operations and service delivery of national mapping and geospatial management organizations. They are:

1. [Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters](#)
2. [Guide on the Implementation of Geospatial Standards](#)
3. [Guide on National Institutional Arrangements in Geospatial Information Management](#)
4. [Global Fundamental Geospatial Data Themes](#)
5. [Future Trends in Geospatial Information Management – the 5 to 10 year vision \(2 editions\)](#)
6. [Global Statistical Geospatial Framework](#)

Currently under development, now being reviewed globally and are to be presented to the Committee of Experts at its tenth session in August 2020 are:

1. [The Integrated Geospatial Information Framework](#) (IGIF)
2. [Framework for Effective Land Administration and Management](#) (FELA)
3. [Future Trends in Geospatial Information Management – the 5 to 10 year vision](#) (Version 3)

The IGIF is a guide for developing, integrating, strengthening and maximizing geospatial information management and related resources in all countries. The IGIF is a three-part document: Part 1 is an Overarching Strategic Framework; Part 2 is an Implementation Guide; and Part 3 is a Country-level Action Plan. The Implementation Guide communicates what is needed to establish, implement, strengthen, improve, and or maintain a national geospatial information management system.

The FELA is an overarching policy guide that provides a reference for Member States when developing, renewing, reforming, strengthening or modernizing land administration and management systems.

The Future Trends Report is a compilation of expert opinion on the mid to long term-developments and a strategic insight in geospatial information management. It examines emerging trends in technology, legal and policy, skills and training, the private and non-governmental sectors, and the role of government as they impact the geospatial sector.

These frameworks available on the UN-GGIM website <https://ggim.un.org/> reinforce the Committee of Experts relevance in times of rapid change and disruption, with data, technology and the entire development paradigm, and that now also includes the COVID-19 pandemic.

UN-GGIM Secretariat

E-Mail: ggim@un.org



UPCOMING EVENTS

UNEGN Joint Meetings - Bureau and WG's on Evaluation and Implementation and on Publicity and Funding

5 - 9 July 2020. Suwon, Republic of Korea

Cultural Heritage and Commercialization of Geographical Names

UNEGN Symposium and Joint Working Group and Division Meetings

20-24 October 2020, Halmstad, Sweden

UNEGN - Romano-Hellenic Division - International Scientific Symposium

Permanence, transformation, substitution and oblivion of geographical names

22nd - 24th September 2021, Napoli [Naples] – Italia

