



United Nations Group of Experts  
on Geographical Names (UNGEGN)

GEOGRAPHICAL  
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# Legislation on Geographical Names





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

[http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/ungeen\\_info\\_bulletins.htm](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/ungeen_info_bulletins.htm)



## Message from the Chairperson

*My dear colleagues,*



It is good to be in contact with you again as we approach the next (or first) UNGEGN Session, depending how you look at the meeting structure.

Firstly, can I wish those who are celebrating Christmas and New Year a very happy holiday season. I trust it will

be a good opportunity to relax and enjoy family activities.

I am looking forward to meeting with you all in New York in April/May 2019. This meeting will be an opportunity to continue the great work of 50 years of effort by UNGEGN, albeit in a new meeting format. As mentioned before, the foundation and the focus of UNGEGN has not and will not change as a result of the new meeting format, but how we operate will need some refining and all of us can play a part in the transition.

Time will be a critical element, as it will be necessary to devote the time available to discuss the points that are important in seeking solutions to the issues that are emerging and need directions or answers.

To this end, I would encourage the following actions:

- Divisional reports should focus on the activities of the divisions (which are still a critical part of the overall organization) and provide a summary of what has occurred or is planned within the division. These reports should be for information only and not contain the items that are seen a suitable for presentation and discussion.
- Similarly, country reports should focus on the activities of the country, providing an overall summary report of the activities within the country for information only.

- Issue papers are the key to our knowledge sharing and the identification of emerging issues, new procedures, new legislation or processes and different or expanded technology use. These are the papers that I would like to see presented for discussion and I strongly encourage all of us to be willing to put some effort into preparing papers of this nature.

As the bureau will be asking the working group convenors to be very active in structuring the portions of the session that they will be chairing by groups in papers with similar subjects to facilitate discussion, it is therefore very important that we get the papers by the deadline set by the secretariat, being **28 January 2019**. Compliance with this request will be much appreciated.

As in the past, I stress the need for papers to avoid completely political statements or politicizing place names matters, as we are a technical committee and need to avoid distractions from the core work that we are pursuing.

On a personal level as this will be the last bulletin I contribute to as chair and also my last meeting, I would like to thank all those who have worked in the bureau, working groups and task teams during my term of office and of course I cannot overlook the support of the UN Statistical Division and in particular the Secretariat, without whom we would not have an UNGEGN body. The efforts of these individuals are the reason why UNGEGN is such a successful organization. I count myself privileged to have been part of this body and I recognize and appreciate the sharing of knowledge that has assisted me in my role in Australia and also the companionship of all the like-minded professionals who make up this unique body.

**Bill Watt**

Chair, UNGEGN

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## Message from the Secretariat

Dear UNGEGN Experts,

### Special Feature - Legislation on geographical names

As 2018 comes to a close the Working Group on Publicity and Funding and the Secretariat are delighted to share with you the 55<sup>th</sup> issue of the Bulletin which focuses on "Legislation on Geographical Names". Laws affect almost all aspects of our lives, they serve as guidelines for the conduct of citizens, they regulate how we transact business, access justice, protect our environment, and provide legal identity among other things and therefore, without laws there would be chaos. Laws are generally simple, concise and clear statements crafted from principles and policies; they are also agents of modernization and social change which is driven by technological advancement and different administrative arrangements.

Many will opine that to successfully manage our lives requires rules, guidelines and ultimately legislation, and so does the management of geographical names. Did you know that the United States and Canada have had Geographical Names Orders from as early as 1890 and 1897 respectively? In recognition of the need for the proper management of geographical names several countries have enacted appropriate legislation or an order. Eleven such Member States, Argentina, Cyprus, Egypt, Finland, New Zealand, Peru, Norway, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Spain and Sweden have shared articles that provide a wealth of information on the evolution, creation and amendments of their legislation and regulations on geographical names. After reading the articles I concluded that geographical names legislation is very diverse in terms of jurisdiction, composition, administration and procedures, and can take a long time to draft and enact depending on the government's policy priorities and available resources. In addition, on conducting preliminary desk research I found little to no documented guidance on the preparation of geographical names legislation except for the [UNEGGN Manual for the national standardization of geographical names – Chapter III](#). We hope our readers will appreciate the importance of having good geographical names legislation and that the Bureau of UNGEGN will consider creating a team to prepare detailed guidelines for the drafting of geographical names legislation, which should assist Member States should they wish to prepare one.

Also included in this issue of the Bulletin are the usual divisional and working group reports and a few articles from Member States. A special section is dedicated to preparatory activities for the first session of the "new" UNGEGN, in addition to an article on the recently concluded first United Nations World Geospatial Congress that was held in November in Deqing, China.

### Preparations for the first session of the "new" UNGEGN

As you hopefully are aware, the first session of the "new" UNGEGN is scheduled to be convened from 29 April to 3 May 2019 at the United Nations headquarters in New York, USA. Please note that the note verbale, announcement letter, draft agenda and **DOCUMENTATION** for the first session will be issued in December 2018 and will also be posted to the [UNEGGN website](#).

With the session just about 4 months away, we encourage Experts to begin preparing your technical papers and organizing your travel and

hotel stay. Please note that the summary of all papers should be submitted before **28 January 2019** to facilitate translation. **SUMMARIES** received after this date will not be translated and therefore issued in the language received. We also kindly ask that when submitting papers please state the agenda item, the relevant Conference resolution (if applicable) and whether the paper is for information or discussion. Member States, Divisions and Working Groups of the Group of Experts are encouraged to prepare their summaries and reports for submission under **AGENDA 5 a-c – REPORTS**. The full texts of digital documents prepared in support of items on the provisional agenda for the first session should be submitted no later than **18 March 2019**.

As has been the custom over the past years, rooms will be made available for **SIDE EVENTS** such as meetings of Working Groups and Divisions and special workshops. Should you wish to have a side event and or have related questions, please send the completed side event sign-up sheet (which will be posted on the [UNEGGN website](#)) to the Secretariat at [frani@un.org](mailto:frani@un.org). Side event requests will be accommodated on a first come first served basis. Please note that an exhibition of maps and posters will not be mounted for the first session, as its value and benefits are currently being evaluated.

General information on session logistics, meeting rooms, identification passes, hotel accommodation, visas and other matters will be provided in the **NEW YORK RESOURCE GUIDE**. Please visit the UNGEGN website in January for the Guide and updates regarding preparations for the first Session.

### General Remarks

A big thank you is extended to all our contributors to this issue and to Andreas Hadjiraftis of Cyprus for once again designing the front page.

States Members of national institutions responsible for geographical names are reminded to submit their information for the UNGEGN World Geographical Names Database. We also wish to remind our global experts and persons wishing to learn more about toponymy that they can pursue the [online BSc level, web course](#). It is a 20-module program, subdivided in chapters, complete with self-study guides, exercises and resource documents. We are pleased to let you know that in 2017 the Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy prepared a new comprehensive, 30 chapter, reader friendly Toponymy Training Manual, which is freely available in the [publications section](#) of the UNGEGN website.

Your comments on this issue and contribution to forthcoming bulletins are welcomed. Please circulate the bulletin among your colleagues and we hope you enjoy reading. Remember to tweet your geographical names activities [@UNSD\\_GEGN](#).

**Cecille Blake**

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# SPECIAL FEATURE

## Legislation on geographical names

### Legislation on geographical names in Argentina

In 1877, by Law N° 842, studies on the coast of Buenos Aires began. This event preceded the creation, in 1879, of the Central Office of Hydrography, which was created by Decree N° 11.289 of President Avellaneda.

The Military Topographic Office was created in the same year (preceding the current National Geographic Institute), in the need to map the new territories incorporated by the Argentine government during the 1800's.

The Navy, through the Central Office of Hydrography, (which today is known as the Argentine Naval Hydrographic Service), began a sustained effort to develop nautical cartography, necessary for the safety in navigation, and in 1883 the first chart was published, corresponding to the Bay of San Blas, on the south coast of the Buenos Aires province.

In 1917 the Argentine Navy expresses concerns over the standardization of toponymy in relation to the charts made by the hydrographic commissions. This led to the General Order No. 264 of the Navy Minister Álvarez Toledo in which the first prescriptions regarding toponymy are made. This General Order was in force until the creation of the Geographical Coordination Commission, created by a resolution of the Ministry of Defense in 1950.

This event can be considered as the first attempt to standardize the toponymy in the Argentine Republic, before, even, of the foundation of the IHO in 1921 and the United Nations in 1945.

In 1941 and 1954 the Law N° 2.696 "Law of the Chart" and the "Hydrographic Law", respectively are promulgated, designing the National Geographic Institute and the Argentine Naval Hydrographic Service as the authorities responsible for the publication and control of national charts, and since the geographical names were considered part of the charts, both institutes indirectly regulated the official toponymy.

Since the early 50's, the Argentine expeditions have followed the Toponymic Policy, developed and published by the Argentine Navy, in order to avoid name duplication.

Until 1951, the General Order No. 264 of 1917 was applied in the hydrographic tasks. On April 9, 1952, the Ministry of the Navy approved the project submitted by the Directorate General of Navigation and Hydrography, in File 1-N 421 "R" / 952. Regarding the Toponymic Policy to be applied in Antarctica, the Minister of National Defense adopted the Navy criteria for the work carried out by the Armed Forces.

New toponyms were imposed by the Argentine Hydrographic Service in the Antarctic chart published in 1947. With the scientific advances, Antarctic charts were perfected according to a plan for nautical publications formulated in 1957.

Many names were assigned and approved by the Geographic Coordination Commission of the Armed Forces that was created by the Executive Power according to the decree published in the Official Gazetteer No. 1872 from 1950.

Three years before the United Nations began with the Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names, the Argentine Navy released the publication N° H-235 "TOPONYMIC POLICY", which is still in force today. In its Introduction can read: "The absence of information on the origin of some toponyms in our maritime coast, created the need for its organic study to adjust them to specific standards and stable to ensure its validity for a better knowledge of maritime history and safeguarding the principles of international policy. The fruit of this task will enable the normalization of toponymy (...). This thought led in 1952 to the SHN to formulate further directives on Toponymic Policy".

Given the importance of toponymy, in 1978 the Ministry of Defense, by request of the Hydrographic Service, published the book "ANTARCTIC TOPONYMIC POLICY", which included: the form for the proposal, substitution or modification of place names in the Antarctica; the general directives for the imposition of geographical names and, most importantly, the classification of the geographical features.

Since 1972, by prescriptions of the Hydrographic Law N° 19.992, which replaced the Hydrographic Law from 1954, the Argentine Naval Hydrographic Service (in cooperation with the National Geographic Institute) are the authorities in charge of the toponymy in their areas of jurisdiction, taking into account principles and procedures such as:

Repetition of names will be avoided.

- When adopting personal names, only the surname will be applied.
- Names of living people will not be applied.
- Names of family or friends from expedition members will not be applied.
- Sponsors and company names will not be applied.
- Geographical names imposed by foreign explorers must be respected as such.

- A name may be replaced by another when such is not registered in the Argentine official charts, lacks historic property or such is liable to confusion.
- The fundamental criteria to define the change of a place name will be the rooting and the historic property in that order.
- Descriptive names will be applied only when they represent a true navigation aid.

- Exceptions to the norms must have irrefutable arguments.

### ***Frigate Lieutenant and Geography Professor Pedro Parica***

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## Legislation on Geographical Names in Cyprus

### Introduction

The Cyprus Permanent Committee for the Standardization of Geographical Names (CPCSGN) was initially created in 1967. It was officially established by the decision of the Council of Ministers no.15.769 of 21.4.1979, and constitutes the only competent National Authority for the Standardization of Geographical Names in Cyprus. According to law N.66(I)/98 and regulations ΚΔΠ 443/2001, the Committee operates under the Minister of Education and Culture. The following diagram illustrates the operational structure of CPCSGN:

In the exercise of its powers, the Committee selects from the existing types of geographical names, a single type for official and international use, after examining them, based on linguistic, grammatical, aesthetic, social and historical criteria.



Figure 2: Legislation of CPCSGN

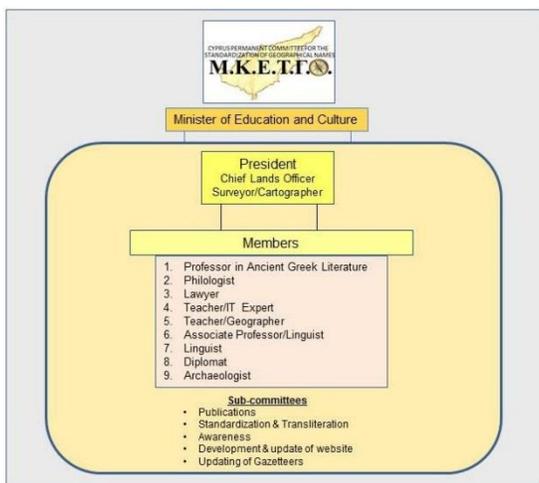


Figure 1: CPCSGN Organizational Structure

### Legislation

The following laws and regulations concern the geographical names of the Republic of Cyprus, and the operation of the Permanent Committee for the Standardization of Geographical Names:

- A. **Law N. 66(I)/1998** – Procedure for standardizing the geographical names of the Republic of Cyprus. Enacted on 17.7.1998.

This law provides for the establishment and operation of the Permanent Committee for the Standardization of Geographical Names in Cyprus (CPCSGN). The Minister of Education and Culture appoints the president and the nine members of the Committee every five years.

The Committee collect s data from the fields of history, linguistics, archaeology, literature, cartography and folklore that help the etymology, spelling and standardization of toponyms and names of the municipalities and the communities of Cyprus.

Based on this law, Greek geographical names are standardized in panhellenic demotiki (demotic) Greek Language. Turkish names, as they existed before the Turkish invasion of 20.7.1974, are also standardized based on the “panhellenic demotiki (demotic)” Greek Language.

The Minister of Education appoints an Advisory Committee of five experts. Most of these experts mainly come from the academic staff of the University of Cyprus.

The Advisory Committee examines any issues that are raised by CPCSGN. It also examines any objections that are submitted by interested parties and sends it’s outcomes to CPCSGN.

Any proposals from CPCSGN are not implemented, unless the corresponding regulations are approved by the members of the Parliament.

- B. **Κ.Δ.Π. 443/2001** – Regulations on the procedure for standardizing the geographical names of the Republic of Cyprus. Enacted on 30.11.2001.

The regulations provide for the composition and the operation of CPCSGN. Based on these regulations, CPCSGN examines specific issues and assigns tasks to sub-committees consisting of one or more

members. The outcomes of the sub-committees have to be approved by CPCSGN. The Committee is subdivided into five sub-committees which deal with specific issues as follows:

- Publications
- Standardization and transliteration
- Awareness
- Development and update of website
- Updating of Gazetteers

The president of CPCSGN represents the Committee in all public relations. He/she prepares the agenda of each meeting, he/she invites the meetings, and executes the Committee's decisions.

One of the members of the Committee is elected as secretary every two years. Additional persons are allocated to CPCGN for carrying out secretarial work.

The Committee mainly deals with the following topics:

- Handles all matters related to the standardization of geographical names of the Republic of Cyprus.
- Records the geographical names of the Republic of Cyprus, studies all related issues, and submits to the Competent Authority for approval its suggestions on standardization and coding of geographical names.
- Represents the Republic of Cyprus in international meetings of the United Nations (UN) on issues of its competence, and cooperates with the UN and other international organizations, and the corresponding national committees of other countries, to attain the objectives provided in legislation.
- Advises the competent local authorities for naming or renaming of streets, and the spelling of geographical names.
- Monitors the implementation of the standardization of geographical names and the Greek to Roman alphabet transliteration system of the Greek Organization for Standardization (ELOT 743), which was accepted by the Fifth Conference of the United Nations, as a standard of the International Standardization Organization (ISO 843.3) and was adopted by the Council of Ministers.

The annual budget of CPCGN is covered by the Government, under the budget of the Ministry of Education and Culture.

- C. **Law N.71(I)/2013** – Amendment to law on the Procedure for standardizing the geographical names of the Republic of Cyprus. Enacted on 19.7.2013.

According to Law N.71(I)/2013, an amendment was added to law 66(I)/1998, by creating a new section, which criminalizes the alteration of geographical names and toponyms and the illegal issue, import, circulation, supply, distribution and trade of maps, books or other documents, in conventional or digital form, which contain geographical names and toponyms of the Republic, imprinted differently than those specified in accordance with the procedures laid down in the Law, or those contained in the official Toponymic Gazetteer. The term "Toponymic Gazetteer" means the comprehensive gazetteer of all geographical names and toponyms, in the Greek and Turkish Languages, which was submitted by the Republic of Cyprus to the 5<sup>th</sup> United Nations Conference for the

Standardization of Geographical Names, which took place in Canada in 1987.

The law provides, in case of conviction, a prison sentence, which does not exceed three years, or a fine, which does not exceed 50000 Euro, or both sentences, and all documents/items of offence are subject to seizure and destruction.

- D. **Law 43(I)/2010** – Creation of Spatial Data Infrastructure (INSPIRE). Enacted on 14.5.2010.

According to this law, the Government of Cyprus is obliged to create a Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI), along with a mechanism to search, view, download and direct access spatial data of government and semi-government organizations in Cyprus, in accordance to Directive 2007/2/EC (INSPIRE) of the European Union. A total of 34 spatial themes are included, and each data theme is sub-divided into several other sub-themes, including metadata, datasets and e-services. Geographical names constitute a significant part of the SDI and play a very important role.

### Conclusion

Cyprus is privileged to have most of its geographical names bequeathed in ancient texts from Homer to Herodotus, the tragic poets and Strabon, up to ancient cartographers, like Claudius Ptolemaeus, and from medieval cartographers, like Abraham Ortelius, up to lord Horatio H. Kitchener, who mapped Cyprus in the 19th Century, at the beginning of the British rule of the island.



Figure 3: *Toponyms of Cyprus – Part of Map of Cyprus (Mercator Hondius), 1633*

The CPCSGN, realizing the benefits, strongly supports the efforts undertaken by the UN for the standardization of geographical names, and aims to fully comply and implement the UN and UNGE GN Conferences resolutions for the standardization of geographical names, as a part of its duties for safeguarding the cultural heritage.

### Andreas Hadjiraftis

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## Egypt's Legislation on geographical names

### 1. Legislation on geographical names in Egypt is governed by:

#### 1-1 Law No. 43 of 1979 of Local management system states that

**Article 1:** local government units are the provinces, districts and cities, suburbs and villages. Each one has its legal personality. The Decision of establishment of the units and the determination of its scope and changing their names and cancellation are defined as follows:

- a. Provinces: Decision of the President of Egypt and may be maintained within a single city.
- b. Districts and cities and suburbs: Decision of the Prime Minister after the approval of the popular Council of the province.
- c. Villages: Decision of the Governor on the proposal of the Popular Council of the districts and approval from the Popular Council of the province.

**1-2 Decree No.2915 of 1964:** Which organizes the work of Central Agency For Public Mobilization and Statistics "CAPMAS" states that which organizes the work of Central Agency For Public Mobilization And Statistics "CAPMAS" and considers it as the official source for providing information to all the state bodies, organizations, universities, research centers, and in the development and evaluation processes relevant to the information that can help them make informed decisions.

**Article 10:** Any ministry, institute, organization, or individual or individuals in the government, public sector or the private sector shall not publish any publications, results, data or statistical information except through the statistics of CAPMAS. Unplanned statistics within CAPMAS programs may not be published without the approval of CAPMAS.

**Article 11:** Each ministry, governorate, public authority and public institution shall create a department adjunct to CAPMAS titled "Central Statistical Department "in the ministry, governorate, public authority or public institution.

### 2. Responsible bodies:

- President of Egypt (naming provinces)
- Prime Minister (naming districts, cities and suburbs)
- Governors (naming villages, streets, all governmental landmarks included in the province)
- Ministry of Interior (naming and identifying boundaries for sections, subsections)
- CAPMAS (gathering names and disseminating them)
- Housing Ministry (Naming new cities street names and districts)

### 3. Rules of naming streets:

Ex. Cairo Governorate Council Resolution No. 189 of 1966," Rules for the release and replacement of street names and the system of honoring deceased martyrs and distinguished people"

- a. The public streets whose names have never been assigned yet are named by historical names or in the name of the greatest archeological building in which it was erected or in the name of

its original place before making it street or in the name of the most historic event occurred in it or on the name of residence.

- b. The resolution indicates that names of the roads have to be considering commemorating prominent incidents and prominent persons in the history of Egypt from different ages, choose the names of accidents or persons from the pre-Islamic era, except roads located in areas that had connection with those ages
- c. In the newly emerging areas of the city, which had no direct works in the history of Egypt in its different ages or that were not exploited in the past, it is necessary to place a name for each region that helps to choose the names of the roads, based on the geographical situation or Historical or geological of these areas, or the population in which they were born, or by the use of numbering, the roads are not called names of living persons.
- d. No Street shall be called a non-Egyptian living person except in exceptional circumstances where the owner of the name has performed an excellent service or in the event of exchange of names, avoiding as far as possible the release of the names of cities and villages.
- e. According to the decision is avoided as far as possible the launch of a name on more than one street in the city of Cairo and its environs in order to prevent any confusion, And avoid the names of lengthy and complex and very complex in order to facilitate the circulation of street names on tongues and conservation and preferably the name is composed of one word or two words, The current names of the streets are kept to the extent possible, as the change causes the loss of the features contained in documents of ownership of real estate owners only in case of assignment of individuals, in which case the old name under the new name is placed on a smaller line plus the word "previously".
- f. The decision allows for the replacement of undesirable names with a desirable one if the largest numbers of property owners who have their properties on the road request that. The old name is placed on the board under the new name, plus the word "previously".
- g. After the approval of the selection of street names, a register is made to record the names chosen and the reasons for the selection. The names given to all streets are placed through an alphabetical index. The names are then added to the new roads or the old names are changed.
- h. As for the naming of streets in the names of deceased martyrs and distinguished people, the resolution states that who deserves to be honored the person who has done a preserved work that will benefit his country and his nation. It is also necessary to erect a memorial for the Unknown Soldier in a wide public square, worthy of honoring the martyrs of the country, the facilities, streets, schools, institutes which belong to the governorate of Cairo have to be called names of deceased martyrs and distinguished people, taking into account the rules approved by the Committee for the names.

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## The work involved in bringing legislation on geographical names to Finland

Several different agencies in Finland are responsible for planning and dealing with geographical names. The legislation on decisions for geographical names is scattered about in different Acts and inherited place names, such as the names of natural features, are not mentioned in the law at all. In Finland there is no one national authority responsible for geographical names or any specific law that would determine who has the power to decide on different place names and their spelling, who registers the approved names and what place names the authorities have to use.

The absence of any clear legislation has led to a number of problems. For example, local authorities have tried to change the names of natural features for no good reason and without jurisdiction, merged municipalities have come up with unsuccessful naming solutions, and administrative regions have been given names that are unidentifiable in the national context. The problems not only take time and money to solve, but they also threaten the preservation of the intangible cultural heritage – inherited toponyms.

### The most recent legislative proposal from 2011

Efforts have been made to bring legislation on geographical names to Finland for several decades now. In 1956 the Finnish Parliament made a wish for the Government for a legislation on geographical names in order to achieve the objective, which, following the report by the Parliament's Legal Affairs Committee, nevertheless remained no more than a recommendation. It proposes that authorities in need of geographical names (for example Railroad Administration when deciding on the names of railway stations) should request an opinion on their proposals for names from bodies of experts on the subject. Later, proposals for an Act were put forward in 1962, 1978 and 1997. There are good arguments for an Act from the perspectives of the proper functioning of society, language policy and the preservation of the intangible cultural heritage.

The most recent initiative dates back to 2011, when the Institute for the Languages of Finland together with the National Land Survey of Finland proposed the enactment of a law on place names and the

establishment of an official body responsible for geographical names to their respective ministries. Enactment of a law on place names was also proposed as a draft measure under the Action Plan for Clear Administrative Language (2014). The Action Plan was drawn up by a working group appointed by the Ministry of Education and Culture and consisting of experts from the administrative and educational sectors and specialists in the use of language.

### Support from UNGE GN

There has been support for Finnish initiatives with respect to place names since 1967 from the United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names in the form of a resolution (I/4), which recommends setting up a national place name authority for each UN member country. Finland has been involved in the work of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGE GN), which organised the standardisation conferences, since it was established.

Finland would like to hear the experiences of other countries at UNGE GN sessions of national authorities and laws relating to place names. How can the need for an Act on geographical names and an authority to oversee the matter be justified? What should be taken into account in preparations for the Act and in its content? How will the Act have affected practical standardisation work? Listening and giving consideration to the experiences of other countries will help national standardisation of geographical names and encourage the introduction of legislation that supports it in the best possible way in Finland.

#### *Ulla Onkamo*

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## Legislation on geographical names in New Zealand

A milestone for geographical naming in New Zealand was reached when the [New Zealand Geographic Board \(Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa\) Act 2008](#) was passed on 22 May 2008, after more than five years of review. While the New Zealand Geographic Board Act 1946 was an enlightened piece of legislation for its time, an update was needed to improve jurisdictional, consultative and administrative provisions.

Legislative provisions for geographical naming in New Zealand were initially under the auspices of the Royal Geographic Society of London, until the Designations of Districts Act of 1894 gave the Governor-General of New Zealand authority to alter or assign geographical names in the colony.

One of the early reasons for an authority on geographical names was to avoid confusion in naming post offices and railway stations. In 1924 the Minister of Lands approved the formation of a board to settle questions and problems about naming places and features in NZ.

The first Board, known as the Honorary Geographic Board of New Zealand, lacked the necessary power to implement its decisions. Therefore, it acted in an advisory capacity until 1946 when the New Zealand Geographic Board was established under the New Zealand Geographic Board Act 1946.

In looking at the use of legislation for geographical naming, it is important to understand what needs to be achieved by the legislation, and what government purposes it may serve. Legislation is the strongest form of governmental intervention, and should only be used where less directive tools are unlikely to achieve the government's desired outcomes.

The passage of the New Zealand Geographic Board Act 1946 indicated a view at that time that legislation was necessary for the government to generally achieve its outcomes and objectives. It can be presumed that the government perceived that the effectiveness of the non-statutory Honorary Geographic Board of New Zealand was hampered by

the  
lack  
of a



statutory mandate. The 1946 Act retrospectively provided this mandate by explicitly recognizing the decisions of the Honorary Board and required that the new statutory board gazette them and formally bring them under the new legislation.

The view that legislation is necessary for the efficient and effective achievement of government outcomes in geographical naming was confirmed by the complete review of the 1946 Act, which culminated in the New Zealand Geographic Board (Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa) Act 2008. The need for legislation was achieved despite modern policy practice where the role and need for government legislation is subject to greater scrutiny and policy assessment than was probably the case in 1946.

The main issues considered in the review of the New Zealand Geographic Board Act 1946 were to:

- clarify the jurisdiction of the Board for naming:
  - undersea features
  - in Antarctica
  - Crown protected (reserve) areas
  - suburbs and localities
- revise procedures for public participation in the geographical naming process
- consider the composition and membership of the Board
- ensure the provisions of the Act align more clearly with the Treaty of Waitangi

- modernise the Act's administrative and procedural provisions
- provide for a publicly available Gazetteer of official geographic names
- strengthen the compliance provisions and modernise the penalty provision
- strengthen the Board's roles, enabling it to create new names, change or discontinue current ones, and approve recorded names.

The review also took into account these 12 principles Woods (2004) identified for the development and formulation of national geographic naming legislation:

1. National legislation should respect and observe international law and conventions.
2. Legislation should adopt international best practice for geographic naming, while taking into account particular local conditions.
3. Legislation should aim to strengthen national identity, in particular the rights and interests of indigenous peoples. It should have regard for the important role of geographic naming in the preservation of historical and cultural heritage.
4. Legislation should provide for the establishment of a central, national geographical naming authority. This authority should be directly responsible for naming all geographic features within its jurisdiction.
5. Legislation might provide for the devolution of administrative geographical naming to territorial authorities or other appropriate administrative bodies.
6. Legislation should provide for the national authority to be independent of the government in its decision making.
7. Legislation should provide for geographic naming interests at national and local community level to be represented on the national authority.
8. Legislation should provide for individuals, communities and indigenous peoples to be involved in, and contribute to, the geographic naming process at national and at local levels. They should have adequate opportunities to submit, or object to, proposals for new, amended or restored geographic names.

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### **Wendy Shaw**

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## Legislation on geographical names in Norway

The Norwegian Place Name Act (NPA) of 1990, put into force in 1991, with regulations and guidelines states that the purpose of the Act is to safeguard names as cultural heritage and provide practical standardized name forms. NPA applies where the state or any county or municipal body shall determine geographical names and/or the spelling of geographical names, or use them in the performance of its duties. NPA includes regulations for bilingual/multilingual name use, for instance on road signs and places restrictions on the changing and renaming of traditional/inherited names. Guidelines prepared by the Norwegian Language Council and the Sámi Parliament of Norway regulates in detail the spelling of geographical names.

The Norwegian Mapping Authorities (*Kartverket*) is the national name authority and standardize the spelling of the vast majority of inherited geographical names. The municipalities (*kommunene*) standardize newer names, for instance names of road addresses. All names recognized under the Act must be reported to a central register administered by Kartverket. Before names are standardized, the name consultancy services (*stedsnavntjenestene*) are consulted and local hearings is required. The name consultancy service for Norwegian language names and Kven language names are administrated by the Norwegian Language Council (*Språkrådet*), and the consultancy service for Sámi language names is administrated by the Sámi Parliament of Norway (*Sametinget*). An appeal committee (*Klagenemnda for stedsnavnsaker*) is set up to handle complaints

about the standardized forms of geographical names. NPA is evaluated and revised by the Ministry of Cultural Affairs (*Kulturdepartementet*). This ministry also finances the name consultancy services.

NPA is subject for struggle and debate on a high political level. Amendments was put into force in 2006 and 2015, and a third amendment is expected next summer (2019). The aim for the ongoing revision is to find a way to "democratize" the standardization of geographical names within the concept of local self-government, a concept that to a larger extent expresses a judicial and political ambition to build a municipal defense against the state.

The full text of the act and its regulations are available at [LOVDATA](#) website. The proposal from the Ministry of Cultural Affairs regarding the revision is available at [Regjeringen](#) website. The guidelines regarding the spelling of Norwegian language names are available at [Sprakradet](#) website.

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## Legislación Sobre Los Nombres Geográficos En El Perú

Nombre del Instituto Geográfico Nacional del Perú y del Departamento de Nombres Geográficos de la Dirección de Geografía, se les hace llegar saludos cordiales y felicitarlos por los 51 años de arduo labor en beneficio de la investigación de los nombres geográficos y su normalización a nivel mundial, regional y local.

A continuación se detallan las normas por el cual el Instituto Geográfico nacional a través del Departamento de Nombres Geográficos, se basan para realizar los estudios técnicos relacionados con los nombres geográficos.

### **Normativa de carácter nacional.**

#### **A. Ley N°27292 "Ley del Instituto Geográfico Nacional".**

El Instituto Geográfico Nacional tiene por finalidad fundamental elaborar y actualizar la cartografía básica del Perú, proporcionado a las entidades públicas y privadas la cartografía que requieran para los fines del desarrollo y la defensa nacional.

De acuerdo a las funciones relacionadas con los nombres geográficos, tiene lo siguiente:

- Coordinar con las autoridades correspondientes los asuntos relacionados a los nombres geográficos o topónimos.

- Representar al país ante los organismos técnico-científicos nacionales e internacionales en eventos y reuniones relacionados con las ciencias geográficas- cartográficas y sus aplicaciones.
- Autorizar a las entidades públicas y privadas la publicación de mapas del Perú, que contengan como tema principal las linderaciones político-administrativas e informaciones toponímicas.

De acuerdo a esta Ley, en el capítulo VII-Art 16 "La Dirección de Geografía, está encargada de planear, organizar, dirigir, ejecutar y controlar las actividades geográficas – cartográficas de límites, demarcación territorial y nombres geográficos, así como de las acciones de investigación y desarrollo de las ciencias geográficas aplicados al campo de la cartografía. Asimismo de acuerdo al artículo 29 del reglamento de Ley N° 27292, aprobado por Decreto Supremo N° 005 DE/SG, dispone que la Dirección de Geografía del Instituto Geográfico Nacional, tiene entre sus funciones desarrollar la política institucional con relación a los nombres geográficos, para lo cual coordinará con las entidades nacionales e internacionales.

Actualmente a través del Departamento de Nombres Geográficos, se formulan informes técnicos relacionados con la verificación y actualización de los Nombres Geográficos a las entidades públicas, privadas y usuarios en general; entre otros.



## b. Resolución Ministerial N° 1310-2007-DE/SG “Constituyen Comisión de Pre-Normalización de Nombres Geográficos”

Se constituyó la Comisión de Pre Normalización con el fin de realizar una labor concertada, uniformando un solo criterio para pre normalizar los nombres geográficos a nivel nacional con el objeto de facilitar el manejo mediático y digital de dichos nombres dentro del territorio nacional.

### Están designados como miembros:

- Instituto Geográfico Nacional, cuyo jefe lo presidirá
- Instituto Nacional de Estadística e Informática
- Secretaría Nacional Técnica de Demarcación Territorial de la Presidencia de Consejo de Ministros
- Dirección Nacional de Soberanía y Límites del Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores
- Dirección de Hidrografía y Navegación de la Marina de Guerra del Perú
- Sección Nacional del Instituto Panamericano de Geografía e Historia
- Colegio de Geógrafos del Perú
- Sociedad Geográfica de Lima
- Escuela de Geografía de la Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos
- Facultad de Ingeniería Geográfica de la Universidad Nacional Federico Villarreal.

## c. Ley N° 29735 “Ley que regula el uso, preservación, desarrollo, recuperación, fomento y difusión de las lenguas originarias del Perú”

De acuerdo a esta Ley, promulgado el 02 de julio del año 2011, se menciona lo siguiente:

- Capítulo I-Artículo 2 “Declaración de interés nacional”
- Declárase de interés nacional el uso, preservación, desarrollo, recuperación, fomento y difusión de las lenguas originarias del país.
- Capítulo IV-Artículo 19 “Toponimia”
- El Instituto Geográfico Nacional mantiene las denominaciones toponímicas en lenguas originarias en los mapas oficiales del Perú

## Conclusiones

De acuerdo a la normativa legal ya descrita, este Instituto Geográfico Nacional realiza las investigaciones de las ciencias geográficas cartográficas relacionado con los nombres geográficos y de acuerdo a

sus funciones es representante a nivel nacional e internacional ante otros organismos e instituciones:

- A nivel internacional es representante ante el Grupo de Expertos en Nombres Geográficos de las Naciones Unidas (UNGE GN), el cual nos permite mantener un vínculo a través de la elaboración de artículos para que sean publicados en los boletines y otros documentos.
- A nivel nacional, a través del Departamento de Nombres Geográficos, ha sido participe en la elaboración de la Política Nacional de Lenguas Originarias, tradición Oral e Interculturalidad, a través del Decreto Supremo N° 005-2017-MC, con el cual se da cumplimiento al mandato establecido en los artículos 11 y 12 de la **Ley N° 29735, “Ley que regula el uso, preservación, desarrollo, recuperación, fomento y difusión de las lenguas originarias del Perú”**, del Ministerio de Cultura.

Este Instituto Geográfico Nacional, a través del Departamento de Nombres Geográficos, realiza las acciones necesarias que correspondan para mantener las denominaciones toponímicas en lenguas indígenas u originarias los cuales son registrados en la cartografía básica oficial y así como en la publicación de nomenclátors geográficos impresos y en digital lo cual permite realizar estudios de evolución toponímica, conociendo las fuentes de su origen histórico, cultural y lingüístico.

Actualmente el Departamento de Nombres Geográficos como representante oficial de los nombres geográficos en el Perú, continuamos trabajando en la verificación y recopilación de toponimia en el norte del Perú, comprendiendo los departamentos de Tumbes, Piura, Lambayeque y la Libertad, en este último departamento se recopiló un total de 8529 topónimos, con la finalidad de mantener actualizada la base de datos de la cartografía básica oficial escala 1:25 000, y posterior a la generalización de los topónimos que contendrán en la cartografía a escalas 1:50 000 y 1:100 000 para la actualización de las referidas series cartográficas.

## Departamento De Nombres Geográficos

### Organización

Instituto Geográfico Nacional

E-mail: [nombres\\_geograficos@ign.gob.pe](mailto:nombres_geograficos@ign.gob.pe)



## Rules and Regulations of the National Committee on Geographical Names in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (NCGN)

There is a growing interest in geographical names throughout the world in general and also in Saudi Arabia which is evidenced by the presence of multiple government agencies dealing with place names in the Kingdom. Some of these agencies are the General Commission for Survey, the Directorate-General for Military Survey in the Ministry of Defense, the Saudi Geological Survey, the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs, the Ministry of the Interior, the King Abdulaziz Foundation for Research and Archives and the Saudi Geographical Society, as well as a number of researchers and interested individuals.

To address this issue a Royal Decree was issued on August 4, 2013 to synergize the efforts being made by these bodies, through the establishment of the National Committee on Geographical Names in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia with its headquarters in King Abdulaziz Foundation for Research and Archives. Another decree by the Council of Ministers no. 318, dated March 6, 2018 which issued the rules that regulate the operation of the National Committee on Geographical Names in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. This decree begins with the following phrase: "It is incumbent upon the governmental bodies concerned with geographical names, when designating new place names or changing existing place names, to act in coordination with the NCGN – in its capacity as the official authority in this respect to solicit have its recommendations for such matters".

The NCGN has since its inception has been very active in publishing books, holding the Arabic Division of the UNGEEN in Riyadh in April 2017, and has been attending the UNGEEN meetings ever since. The NCGN has been effective in coordinating the work of more than 15 governmental authorities, and answering queries coming from these agencies and from local citizens.

### Regulatory Rules for the Operation of NCGN:

#### The Objectives of NCGN:

The objectives of the NCGN are to unify efforts relevant to geographical names within the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in terms of their writing, vowelization, spelling and all respective national criterion of them, and prepare data bases for such names.

#### Members of NCGN:

The NCGN shall have in its board the following governmental agencies:

1. The Secretary General of King Abdulaziz Foundation for Research and Archives (as the chairman);
2. A representative of the Saudi Historical Geographic Information System Center (as a member);
3. A representative of the Ministry of Interior (as a member);
4. Representative of the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs (as a member);
5. A representative of Ministry of Energy, Industry and Mineral Resources (as a member);
6. A representative of Ministry of Transport (as a member);
7. A representative of the Ministry of Education (as a member);
8. Two representatives of The Ministry of Culture (one) and Media (one);

9. A representative of the Saudi Geographical Society (as a member);
10. A representative of the General Commission for Survey (as a member);
11. A representative of Saudi Geological Survey (as a member);
12. A representative of the Saudi Commission for Tourism and National Heritage (as a member);
13. A representative of the General Authority for Statistics (as a member);
14. A representative of King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology (as a member);
15. A representative of the National Center for Archives and Records (as a member);
16. A representative of the Saudi Post (as a member).

#### Jurisdiction of the Committee:

With due deference to the authorities and jurisdictions of the governmental bodies laid down or stipulated in statutes, organizations, regulations, resolutions, and instructions, the NCGN shall be an official reference for everything pertaining to the existing geographical names or new ones in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and provide recommendations to deal with such matters. It has the right to seek assistance from whoever the NCGN sees suitable from both the public and private sectors in relation to geographical names.

#### Functions of the NCGN:

1. Collect and propagate geographical names in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and exert operations pertaining to this function, and preparing a database for such names and an indexed gazetteer that includes those names written in Arabic and Latin words (Romanization) in coordination with relevant governmental bodies concerned with, or specialized in, geographical names, and be regarded as a compulsory reference for all governmental bodies; and to be updated whenever necessary to have later ratified by the Royal court.
2. Coordinate with other governmental bodies concerned with geographical names, and cooperate with such bodies in order to unify all efforts being exerted in this matter;
3. Represent the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia internally and externally in all matters concerning geographical names in the KSA, and also to cooperate and participate at the international level for the preparation of the International Indexed Gazetteer.

#### Headquarter of the NCGN and its Budget

The NCGN headquarters will reside in King Abdulaziz Foundation for Research and Archives which will supervise it administratively and financially, and provides it with everything it needs from financial support and supportive administrative services, and cater for it with researchers and specialists in order to accomplish its functions.

#### Abdullah N. Alwelaie

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## Legislation on geographical names in Spain

The purpose of this article is to show the influence of administrative and linguistic diversity of Spain on the normalization and legal regulation of geographical names.

The Spanish Constitution is the supreme Law in the Spanish legal system. Article 137 establishes that, “the State is organized in municipalities, provinces and Autonomous Communities. All these entities have the autonomy to manage their own interests”. Article 3 says that “1. Castilian is the Spanish official language of the State. 2. The rest of Spanish languages will be also official inside their own autonomous communities, according to their statutes. 3. The linguistic richness of Spain is a cultural heritage that must be respected and protected”.

Spain is divided into 17 Autonomous Communities, 2 Autonomous Cities (Ceuta and Melilla), 50 provinces and 8124 municipalities. Spanish is the official language in all of them. There are several co-official languages depending on the region: Catalan in Catalonia and the Balearic Islands, Basque in the Basque Autonomous Community and Navarre, Valencian in the Valencian Community, and *aranés* in the Aran Valley (Catalonia). There are also some dialects like *asturleonés* and *aragonés*, which are protected too.

At an international level, Spain belongs to the European Union and thus is under the rule of the European regulations and directives. The former are immediately implemented in the Spanish legal frame and the latter need to be transposed into a Spanish law. Moreover, there also exist recommendations or guidelines on toponymy such as that of the International Hydrographic Organization or the United Nations, both organizations being competent authorities in geographical names.

Thus, there are three levels of competence corresponding to the State, the Autonomous Communities and the Local Administration (municipalities and others) (fig. 1). Every Administration has the right to create its own competent organizations in geographical names: At a State level we can consider several of them: the Local Entities



Figure 1: Levels of Territorial division in Spain

Register, the National Hydrographic Institute, the Directorate General of Roads, Hydrographic Confederations, National Parks Organization, Spanish Airports and Air Navigation Agency, State Ports Agency, Administrator of Railway Infrastructures, and the National Geographic Institute. Some Autonomous Communities and Autonomous Cities have created their own organisms responsible for normalization of geographical names. In the territories where a second official language exists, the competences for normalization belong to the official Academies of the co-official Language but if Spanish is the only official language, the task is usually assumed by the corresponding regional cartographic institute. Finally, municipalities are the authorities for establishing their own official name, those of their urban streets and other minor populations inside their territory. For competences to be assumed it is necessary for each Administration to create and publish their normative in the official bulletins, always in coordination with the rest of Administrations in order not to produce overlaps between them.

Due to the diversity of Spanish legal frame in geographical names, the Specialized Committee for Geographical Names (*Comisión Especializada de Nombres Geográficos*), a multidisciplinary committee that includes State and regional Administrations, plus other organizations with competence in geographical names, such as Universities and Academies of Language) has published a summary of the Spanish legal frame that can be consulted at [FOMENTO website](http://FOMENTO) (fig. 2).

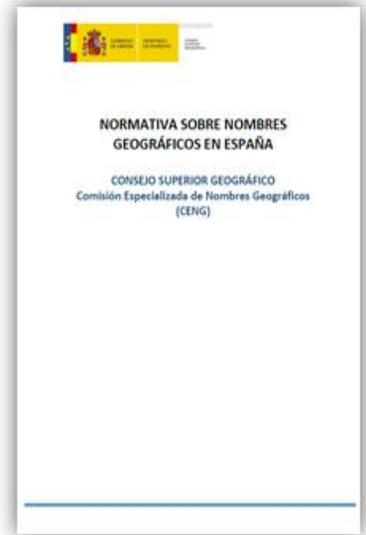


Figure 2: Summary of Spanish legal frame in geographical names

This document is maintained and updated frequently in order to help understanding the regulations that affect geographical names in Spain.

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## Rules of consideration concerning good place-name practice – the Swedish example

Since July 2000, the Swedish *Historic Environment Act* (*Sw. Kulturmiljölagen*) contains rules of consideration concerning good place-name practice, primarily aimed for decision-makers in state and local authorities responsible for naming activities. The aim of this legislation is to preserve place-names as a part of the nation's cultural heritage and to prevent names from being distorted or arbitrarily changed.

### Background

In the late 1970s, the issue was raised on how to preserve place-names from falling out of use or being altered or misrepresented. A Government report entitled "The value and care of place-names" was published in 1982, but no legislative proposal was prepared. Instead, Lantmäteriet (the Swedish Mapping, Cadastral and Land Registration Authority) was instructed to formulate general guidelines for handling place-name questions in connection with cadastral activities and real property registration.

Another important initiative was the establishment of the Place-Name Advisory Board of Sweden (*Sw. Ortnamnsrådet*) in 1985. The Board is appointed by Lantmäteriet and has an overall consultative responsibility. The board consists of members who represent authorities with a responsibility in naming activities.

In the following decade the debate continued in the Swedish parliament. Demands were made that place-names should be protected, if necessary through legislation. In 1994, the Government appointed a special enquiry to examine issues concerning the protection of cultural monuments and finds. In 1996, this committee delivered its report, proposing that place-names should be regarded as part of Sweden's intangible heritage and acquire legislative protection. In a bill a few years later, the Government proposed the inclusion of a special paragraph in the Historic Environment Act that would make it mandatory for central and local government authorities to observe the code of good place-name practice. The legislation is compulsory but cannot be linked to sanctions.

### Rules of consideration concerning good place-name practice

The rules of consideration concerning good place-name practice give priority to established names. Names approved for inclusion on public maps constitute the starting point for what is considered good practice in matters concerning place-names. These names must not be changed without strong reasons.

The provision also stresses the importance of respecting correct linguistic forms. New names should not be created before taking into account the effect this may have on the already established place-names.

The section in the Historic Environment Act also states that in multilingual areas, Sami, Meänkieli and Finnish names, must be used together with Swedish names on maps and on road signs. In 1999, the Swedish parliament approved the ratification of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. The recognition of the minority languages also acknowledges that these languages are part of Sweden's intangible cultural heritage.

Finally, the clause states that names that have been approved by Lantmäteriet, for example in the property register or on official maps are normative. This means that approved names must be used in their proper form also in other contexts.

### Swedish national name standardization - in short

The supervision of the Act is the responsibility of the Swedish National Heritage Board. However, the role as national place-names authority is performed by Lantmäteriet. The third main part involved in Swedish place-name standardization is the Institute for Language and Folklore. The Institute for Language and Folklore is a Swedish government agency, which conducts research and provide advice on dialects, language policy, names and folklore. For a long time, it has been standard practice in Sweden to submit place-names to the Institute for Language and Folklore for consultation. In this process, Lantmäteriet interacts with the Institute's department of Onomastics. When it comes to alteration of names in the property register, the consultation process also includes the Swedish National Heritage Board.

The Place-Name Advisory Board of Sweden, appointed by Lantmäteriet, has an overall consultative responsibility. The Board develops recommendations for a good national policy regarding place-names. As part of its mission, the Board recently released a revised edition of its guide to name standardization and good place-name practice. The booklet is primarily intended for local authorities in Sweden involved in official naming activities.

To sum up, the impact of this legislation is mainly reached through information efforts aimed at strengthening the understanding of good-place-name practice in society.

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## FROM THE DIVISIONS

### Arabic Division

#### Recognizing of Former ADEGN Chair Eng. Ahmed Kamel (Egypt)

We take this opportunity to recognize Eng. Ahmed Kamel for his contributions to the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGE GN) and the Arabic Division of experts on geographical names (ADEGN), Eng. Ahmed Kamel served as the General Manager of GIS department at Central Agency for public mobilization and statistics (CAPMAS), Egypt since 2005 and also was chair for ADEGN for 2 years, 2010-2012 and Egyptian UNGE GN expert for 9 years since 2010.



*26th UNGE GN session, Vienna, 2010*

#### Some of his notable contributions were:

- As The former chair of ADEGN; he has been very committed to promote resolutions of UNGE GN, advancing the use of geographical names and has been supportive to technical experts of Arab States in sharing, encouraging and empowering them to establish geographical names authorities and to collect and publish geographical names.
- He has been committed to participate on both sessions and conferences of UNGE GN and Arab conferences of geographical names since 2010.
- He encouraged and supported CAPMAS GIS department employees to contribute on both 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> session African contests and they won the third and second place for both.
- He contributed on discussions and approval of Unified Arabic Romanization system .

Prof. Abdullah Alwelaie Vice Chair of ADEGN (Saudi Arabia) shares his appreciation, "I have interacted with Eng. Ahmed Kamel in the Riyadh meeting on April 2017. He proved himself to be of great help in that meeting as to bring together array of opinions. He was instrumental in our success of the Riyadh Declaration which helped

secure the final draft of the Unified Arabic Transliteration. I wish him well in his retirement, and hope that he will still play a major role in the Arabic Division. We need him badly. "

Dr. Brahim Atoui (Algeria): "Mr. Kamel, whom I met for the first time in Beirut, at the Arab meeting on the standardization of geographical areas in 2010 and last in Riyadh in 2017, was during all this time, a major actor of the Arabic toponymic activity especially during his presidency of our Division. He was able to give our Division a new impetus. Now he has more time being in retirement, we hope to continue to benefit from his experience and his wise advice. "

Prof. Saif AlQaydi (UAE): "It gives me a great pleasure to write these remarks about my colleague and senior member of the Arabic Division Eng. Ahmed Kamel, who has been our valued member at the Arabic Division, as a member and later on as a chair to the Division. During my interaction with him as the previous Vice-chair of the Arabic Division or as a colleague, I had only positive things to speak about him. He is a highly committed, sincere, honest and a hard-working senior individual who knows how to deal with members by profession. He has always been highly dedicated about his duties responsibilities and roles. He is very clear about the expectations of management and member delivers results as per the requirement. I wish him the best in his retirement."

Dr. Eng. Awni Moh'd Al-Khasawneh- (The Hashemite kingdom of Jordan- Chairman of the Arab Division of Geographical Names, Director General of The Royal Jordanian Geographic Centre, Director General of the regional Center for Space Science and Technology Education for West Asia) : "Eng. Ahmed Kamel ,whom I worked with



*7<sup>th</sup> Arab conference on geographical names (ACGN), Amman, Jordan 2014*



first in the Arab division of geographical names meeting in Beirut, and since, we met and visited and worked together in many occasions , not only in the geographical names field, but also in many other



*Fifth Arab conference on geographical names Beirut, Lebanon 2010*

scientific fields in Amman during his visits to the Royal Jordanian Geographic Centre. Ahmed, an energetic, preserving & gregarious

engineer, has always been keen to transfer his knowledge and science to his colleagues.

His faith in Arab reunion was always a motive for him through his contributions in the field of Geographical names and in many other scientific fields. I admire his work, and I appreciate his achievements that will be always remembered and respected by all who met him or heard about his contributions. I'm sure that he will always be the professional, helping, supporting engineer we know, and I wish him success in his life and the best for him and his family."

Nahla Saleh, CAPMAS, Egypt: "I worked with Eng. Ahmed Kamel since 2005 until now. He is a smart manager and always motivates *the* staff under his leadership. He is involved with me in several activities as UNGGIM and Egypt-NSDI. I wish him success and coming happy life."

Eng. Kamel has encouraged and supported me on contribution on activities of ADEGN, UNGEGN, I wish that he will continue to provide experience, and assistance on the workings of UNGEGN and ADEGN. We wish him a wonderful retirement and the very best in the next phase of his life.

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## Norden Division

The Norden Division held its yearly meeting in Brussels on 10 October 2018 in connection with the joint division meeting with the Dutch and German Speaking Division. Nineteen members from Denmark, Finland, Greenland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden were present at the meeting. It was particularly nice to have representatives from the Inuit, Kven and Sámi communities present, resulting in much new information and knowledge.

The meeting started with a joint session with the Dutch and German Speaking division, where the individual experts of each division were acquainted with each other. Then followed a round of country geographical names information and news from the division. The remainder of the meeting focussed on Norden Division specific items and the upcoming UNGEGN meeting in the spring of 2019. The joint meeting was a great success and it is our impression that everyone were much inspired by the information shared between the two divisions – particularly geographical names regulations, effects of administrative changes, minority name issues, as well as new and ongoing projects.

The next Norden Division Meeting will take place in connection with the upcoming UNGEGN plenary meeting 29 April – 3 May 2019 in New York. The meeting will take place at the United Nations Headquarters. Date and time will be announced closer to the venue.

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## Romano-Hellenic Division

### Toponymy and Cartography between History and Geography

The Romano-Hellenic Division (RHD) of the United Nations Group on Geographical Names (UNEGGN) organized its second International Scientific Symposium in Venezia [Venice], Italia [Italy], from 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> September 2018, focused on “Toponymy and Cartography between History and Geography”.



Some of the participants in the symposium “Toponymy and Cartography between History and Geography”, held in Venezia [Venice] Italia, from 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> September 2018.

The symposium was prepared in close cooperation with the Italian Geographic Military Institute (IGMI), the Veneto region and the Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti under the auspices of the Italian scientific Associations of Cartography and Geography and with the precious contribution of the Scientific Committee, composed of:

- Andrea Cantile, UNEGGN-RHD, IGMI, University of Firenze (Italia)
- Helen Kerfoot, Honorary Chair of the UNEGGN (Canada)
- Peter Jordan, Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Institut für Stadt und Regionalforschung (Österreich).
- Carla Marcato, University of Udine, Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti (Italia)
- Alberto Nocentini, University of Firenze, Accademia della Crusca (Italia)
- Cosimo Palagiano, Sapienza - University of Roma, Accademia dei Lincei (Italia).

The symposium started with a special session, chaired by Eng. Maurizio De Gennaro from the Veneto region (Italia) and focused on the project titled “The Italian Geographic Military Institute and the Veneto Region for a new geographical names database”. Welcome speeches and the introductory remarks were given by:

- Dr. Cristiano Corazzari, Veneto’s Regional Minister of Territory, Culture and Security (Italia);

- Ms. Helen Kerfoot, Honorary Chair of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (Canada);
- Maj. Gen. Pietro Tornabene, Commander of the IGMI (Italia);
- Prof. Gherardo Ortalli, President of the Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti (Italia);
- Prof. Giuseppe Scanu, President of the Italian Association of Cartography and
- Prof. Elena Dai Prà, on behalf of Prof. Carla Masetti, Chairperson of the Italian Centre for Historical-Geographical Studies.

Two presentations were included in this special session: the first one by Andrea Cantile, titled “The standardization of geographical names in Italy and the joint project IGMI - Veneto region”, and the second one by Franco Alberti *et alii*, Responsible for urban and regional planning in the Veneto region, titled “The Italian Geographic Military Institute and the Veneto region for a new geographical names database”.

The first session of the main symposium, chaired by Andrea Cantile, was structured as follows:

- Andrea Cantile (Italia), *Toponymy and Cartography between History and Geography*;
- Andreas Hadjiraftis, President of Permanent Committee of the Standardisation of Geographical Names of Cyprus (Kýpros), *Modern maps, Geographic Information Systems and toponymy in Cyprus*.
- Vania de Oliveira Nagem, Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatística (Brasil), *State of the art on the standardization of geographical names in Brazil*;
- Gil Tiago, University of Brasilia (Brasil) and Vinicius Maluly Université de la Rochelle (France), *The significance of native experience in the creation of colonial toponymy in the Portuguese America*;
- Cosimo Palagiano, Sapienza Università di Roma, Accademia dei Lincei (Italia), *The activity of the Joint Commission on Toponymy, International Geographical Union – International Cartographic Association*;
- Helen Kerfoot, Honorary Chair of the UNEGGN (Canada), *Where are you flying? On-board airline magazines and their route map toponymy*.
- Alberto Nocentini, University of Firenze, Accademia della Crusca (Italia), *Preservation vs. innovation in the toponymy of Europe*;
- Laura Cassi, University of Firenze (Italia), *Territorial Identity and Place Names*;
- Andrea Masturzo, University of Bergamo (Italia), *Toponymy and colonization, the case of Italian colonial villages in Libya*;
- Stefano Piastra, Alma Mater Studiorum - University of Bologna (Italia), *Urban Toponymy in Shanghai and Tianjin before the Rise of the People’s Republic of China. The Presence of Italian Road Names*.

The second session, chaired by Laura Cassi, University of Firenze (Italia), was structured as follows:



- Élisabeth Calvarin, Chair of the UNGEGN French-speaking Division (France), Dialectical terms and geographical locations;
- Lorenzon Arianna (Italia), Vernacular places names in the Venetian cartography (XVII-XVIII century): a case study;
- Silvia Siniscalchi, University of Salerno (Italia), The transformations of the place names of Naples in historical and contemporary cartography, between landscape changes and territorial identity;
- Furio Ciciliot, Società Savonese di Storia Patria – Progetto Toponomastica Storica (Italia), The precise toponymy of descriptive cadastre (before XVIII Century).
- Giuseppe Scanu (Coordinator), Cinzia Podda, Caterina Madau, Salvatore Lampreu, University of Sassari (Italia), Geo-cartographic aspects of the toponymy of Sardinia between conservation and enhancement;
- Elena Dai Prà, University of Trento (Italia), Place names as sources to identify landslide risk areas: a diachronic approach to the Trentino case study;
- Ayokunmi Ojebode, Redeemer's University, Ede, Osun State (Nigeria), Toponymy, History and Geographical System of Selected Place Names in the Cognomen of the Alaafin of Oyo.

The third session, chaired by Élisabeth Calvarin, Chair of the UNGEGN French-speaking Division (France), was structured as follows:

- Marcos Pavo Lopez, Instituto Geográfico Nacional (España), *A gazetteer in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century: Claudius Ptolemy's Geographia*;
- Marco Martin, Geography and Historiography in Antiquity (Italia), The greek ethnonym Romanoī in the Administrando Imperio of Constantine Porphyrogenitus;
- Viviana Ferrario, Università IUAV - Venezia (Italia), 19th Century cadastres as a source for the toponymy of the Venetian region;

- Sergio Pinna, Massimiliano Grava, Giancarlo Macchi Janica, Universities of Pisa and Siena (Italia), The cadastral particle toponymy of the Grand Duchy of Tuscany;
- Nicola Gabellieri, University of Trento (Italia), Place names as historical products: boundary conflicts and toponyms disputes in XVIII c. Liguria.
- Lucrezia Iacuzzi, Martina Simeone, University of Firenze (Italia), Phitonyms, phitotonyms and landscape's history. *The case of the municipalities of Borgo San Lorenzo and Vicchio*.

Closing remarks and final greetings were pronounced at the end by Maj. Gen. Pietro Tornabene, Commander of the IGMI, Dr. Umberto Trivelloni, Responsible for regional mapping and GIS of Veneto region, Helen Kerfoot, Honorary Chair of UNGEGN, and Andrea Cantile.

During these three days, the event was attended by over one hundred people, technicians, experts and scholars (geographers, linguists, historians, architects, planners and cartographers) from various countries.

The symposium was enlivened by a tour of the city to the viewpoint of the San Marco basin, led by Mrs. Barbara Brogi (IGMI), and a visit to the Venetian art museum "Gallerie dell'Accademia".

IGMI plans to publish the papers from the symposium during the coming year.

**Andrea Cantile**

Chair of the UNGEGN Romano-Hellenic Division

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## FROM THE WORKING GROUPS

### News from the Joint ICA/IGU Commission on Toponymy

The Joint ICA/IGU Commission on Toponymy was in 2012 established under the auspices of the contemporary chairs of UNGEGN (Helen Kerfoot), the International Cartographic Association, ICA, Georg Gartner), and the International Geographical Union (IGU, Ron Ablar) as a joint venture of the two global umbrella organizations of cartography and geography, ICA and IGU. The Commission's statutory goal is to foster toponymic research in geography as well as in cartography complementary to UNGEGN with its focus on standardization and the International Council of Onomastic Sciences (ICOS) with its focus on linguistics. This goal is to be achieved by organizing sessions in the framework of international conferences (mainly the biannual International Cartographic Conferences and the almost annual IGU conferences) as well as by separate symposia on specific topics, mostly in cooperation with a local institution.

The Commission is headed by a chair from the ICA side (currently Peter Jordan, Austria, the former convenor of the UNGEGN Working Group on Exonyms), a chair from the IGU side (currently Cosimo Palagiano, Italy), a common vice-chair (currently Paulo de Menezes, Brazil) as well as a steering board with five additional members (Peter Raper, South Africa, former UNGEGN chair, Ferjan Ormeling, the Netherlands, former UNGEGN vice-chair, Sungjae Choo, Republic of Korea, current convenor, UNGEGN Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation, Kohei Watanabe, Japan, current convenor, UNGEGN Working Group on Exonyms, and Yaïves Ferland, Canada). Thus, the Commission is closely associated with UNGEGN.

In 2018, the Commission organized the following sessions in the framework of conferences:



1. IGU Thematic Conference, Moscow, 4-6 June 2018. Session “Use of Place Names in Public Space”, organized by Cosimo Palagiano and Peter Jordan, chaired by Cosimo Palagiano and Paulo de Menezes, 7 papers presented.
2. IGU Regional Conference, Quebec, 6-10 August 2018. Session “Place Names as Means of Structuring Geographical Space”, organized by Cosimo Palagiano and Peter Jordan, chaired by Yaïves Ferland, 9 papers presented.



For 2019, the Commission has the following program:

1. In the framework of the 29<sup>th</sup> International Cartographic Conference (ICC), Tokyo, 15-20 July 2019, the Commission will organize a session open for all toponymic issues. The deadline for submitting abstracts is 19 December 2018.
2. Within a pre-conference symposium of ICC Tokyo, Tokyo 11-12 July 2019, locally organized by Kohei Watanabe, the Commission will highlight role and structure of national names boards. This is to support considerations to establish a national names board of Japan, for which international models and benchmarks could be helpful. The call for papers will be disseminated by the end of 2018 and addresses especially UNGEGN members with names boards in their countries. It would be great and a fine synergy effect of cooperation between UNGEGN and the Commission, if potential members of a future Japanese board could be confronted with the successes and problems of other boards, also of boards of divergent competences and structures.
3. Together with the University of the Free State, Bloemfontein, South Africa, the Commission will organize a symposium on indigenous names in Clarens, South Africa, 18-20 September 2019. The symposium will be preceded (16-17 September) by a toponymic training course for locals, for which still some lecturers are needed.

4. On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Austrian Board’s foundation, the Commission will organize together with the Austrian Board on Geographical Names, the Permanent Committee on Geographical Names (StAGN) and the UNGEGN Dutch- and German-speaking Division (DGSD) a symposium in Vienna, Austria, 6-8 November 2019. The topic will be “Place names and migration”, where aspects and examples of historical and recent migrations, with a focus on the question how newcomers dealt with the names they found, can be highlighted. A call for papers will be disseminated by the end of 2018. The symposium will figure under the DGSD trademark “GeoNames symposia”, the last of which took place in Vienna in 2008 (see figure).



*Figure: A podium discussion at the last GeoNames symposium in Vienna 2008. From left to right: Helen Kerfoot (Canada), Trueman Khubheka (South Africa), Peter Jordan (Austria), Hans Rudolf Mösching (Switzerland), Pier-Giorgio Zaccheddu (Germany), Ferjan Ormeling (Netherlands)*

**Peter Jordan**

ICA chair, Joint ICA/IGU Commission on Toponymy

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## Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation

### Working Group Meeting, Brussels, Belgium, 12-13 October 2018

The Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation had a joint meeting with the Working Group on Publicity and Funding on the occasion of the *UNGE GN Scientific Symposium and Joint Divisions and Working Group Meetings*, organized in Brussels, 10-13 October 2018. The meeting was composed of two parts; a two-hour session on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> devoted to reporting progress made since 2017 and whole-day sessions on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> to discussing selected agenda items. The former, held in Prins Albert Club, was attended by 27 participants while the latter in NH Brussels Bloom was by 13 participants. The Saturday meeting was sponsored by the National Geographic Information Institute (NGII) of the Republic of Korea.

Items for reporting included the process of restructuring operational modalities carried out during the past two years (reported by Bill Watt, UNGE GN Chair), an outline of the new UNGE GN rules of procedure, current status of the resolutions database (an update of the English, French and Spanish versions and a new establishment the Arabic version), cooperation with UN-GGIM, etc. A brief review of the results of the evaluation survey conducted at the 11<sup>th</sup> Conference was also delivered.

Most of the discussion was dedicated to the operation of the 'New' UNGE GN as a combined body of the former UNCSGN and UNGE GN, with specific focus on the first session in 2019. Optimizing the five-day session, documentation, format and ways of presenting working papers, guidelines for National/Division reports, further development of agenda items organized interactively with Working Groups, special presentation and exhibition were major items for discussion. Action items resulting from the discussion will be implemented in cooperation with the Secretariat.

The next meeting, also jointly with the Working Group on Publicity and Funding, will take place during the first session of the UNGE GN in New York, April 29 to May 3, 2019.



*Participants of the Joint Meeting of the Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation and Working Group on Publicity and Funding, Brussels, Belgium, 13 October 2018*

Participants of the meeting on Saturday, 13 October:

1. Brahim Atoui (Algeria)
2. Ferdinand Bako (Burkina Faso)
3. Catherine Cheetham (United Kingdom)
4. Sungjae Choo (Republic of Korea)
5. Allison Dollimore (United Kingdom)
6. Vehbi Esgel Etensel (Turkey)
7. Peder Gammeltoft (Denmark/Norway)
8. Aðalsteinn Hákonarson (Iceland)
9. Jon Ivanovski (FYROM)
10. Helen Kerfoot (Canada)
11. Young-Hoon Kim (Republic of Korea)
12. Gerhard Rampl (Austria)
13. William Watt (Australia)

#### **Sungjae CHOO**

Convenor, Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation  
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- 2) Original name – name in the official language(s) and in well-established language(s). Arabic names are written according to the DMG transliteration system, Chinese names are written in pinyin, Greek names are written according to the transliteration system for Modern Greek or Ancient Greek depending on the current or historical existence of the geographical feature.
- 3) Language of the original name – official and well-established language(s).
- 4) Type of geographical feature – basic classification on: continents, countries, partially recognized countries, dependent territories, historical countries, natural, cultural and economic regions, historical provinces, current and historical administrative units, settlements, historical settlements, landforms, coastal relief forms, undersea landforms, seas, inland waters and other.
- 5) Subtype of geographical feature – more detailed classification on: rivers, lakes, channels, deltas, swamps, straits, islands, capes, ranges, mountains, plateaus, bays, departments, colonies, basins, deserts, valleys, tectonic plates, dams, oceans, seas, etc.
- 6) Location of geographical feature – on the continent or in the ocean.
- 7) Location of geographical feature – additional division: in the country or in the sea.
- 8) Remarks – all variants of an exonym in the first row are recorded. Thus, it is noted that the exonym has an alternative name or an allonym. Historical names of the current exonym are also noted. Likewise, if the historical name is listed in the first row, its current variant is written in the remarks. If an exonym is replaced by an endonym (usually in the contemporary sources), it is recorded as well.

The next chapter is also presented in a form. It is a list of most frequent topographical appellatives in Croatian, English, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese and Russian, such as empire, delta, colony, ice shelf, beach, rift valley, waterfall, and volcano. The final chapter is an extensive reference list.

The last output of the project *A Dictionary of Foreign Geographical Names* should be a comprehensive easily searchable online database of exonyms, and all forms of exonyms recorded in analysed sources (18 rows), and other attributes – a kind of e-dictionary of Croatian exonyms. It should be presented in a form of web-application and released in 2019.



The image shows an open book with two pages of a dictionary. The pages are filled with text organized into columns, likely representing geographical names and their variants. The text is dense and appears to be a list of names with associated information.

**Ivana Crljenko**

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## SPECIAL PROJECTS AND NEWS ITEMS

### How to be able to attend UNGEKN meetings

**Would you like be an expert of the UNGEKN?** Then here is a short how-to, which should help you on the way. Generally speaking, it is possible to attend if your work and your country allows you to. But there is some amount of footwork to be done before you will be ready to go.



Before we start, I must stress that, although these lines of advice should be applicable with most countries procedures, it is not necessarily the case in all countries. So please do not rely blindly on this document but clarify which procedures are current within your country.

First of all, look out for the *Note verbale* which is issued 4-6 months in advance of UNGEKN meetings. A *Note verbale* is a formal invitation by the United Nations Secretary General to governments through their Permanent Mission to appoint experts to participate in an UNGEKN meeting. The *Note verbale* is published on the UNGEKN homepage once forwarded to UN member state governments. If you are interested in attending a UNGEKN Session, then contact your country's Foreign Department or Ministry and express your interest in being appointed as an expert. Your expression of interest will probably carry more weight if it is issued by your employer.

When the *Note verbale* is published, then go directly to your employer and ask for permission to go to the UNGEKN meeting – and don't forget to inform the employer about the costs associated with attending (flight, accommodation, etc.). The question of funding varies considerably from country to country, in some countries, the employer bears the costs, in other countries, the Geographical Names Committee or the State is in charge of funding. Regardless of the source of funding, it is imperative that your employer grants you permission to attend.

With the employer's acceptance, contact your Foreign Department or Ministry again and inform those in charge of United Nations affairs that your employer wishes you to be given expert status for the UNGEKN meeting and have them issue the credential needed for participation.

If your Foreign Department accepts your request, then start visa application procedures for entry into the USA. Please note that it may take up to three months for nationals of some countries to be issued a visa, so make sure you have this done early!

Make sure you have the funding in place well in advance of the meeting. Book flights and accommodation as soon as you possibly can. If your employer or your country is not able to support your participation, it is possible to apply for funding with the UNGEKN secretariat, see the article *Are you in need of funding?* elsewhere in this bulletin – deadline is **31 January 2019**. However, very few get funded this way, so this should only be considered a last resort.

Once all this is done, you are almost ready to go. When the time of the UNGEKN meeting approaches, contact your Foreign Department – or possibly your country's Permanent Mission in New York to make sure that you are included on the List of Participants of the Session. For this, your Permanent Mission needs to send an official Note Verbale to the United Nations and UNGEKN requesting you to be placed on the list. They will also be able to inform you if your credentials are ready and everything else is in order.

When you arrive in New York, there is one final thing to do – and that is to get a card that grants you access to the United Nations building. Normally, you have to get your photo taken at a specially designated place, and your access card is issued at the same time. You will not be permitted entry without this card, so make sure you have your card when the meeting begins. In reality, this means that you have to get up early to queue in front of the issuing office in order to get your access card in time.

If you are already in the UN-system, if you have been an expert previously, your photo may be stored and your access card can be issued in advance and picked up at your country's New York representation.

... and then you are an UNGEKN expert - and ready for work!

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## Sponsorship Opportunity to Participate in the First Session Of UNGE GN

*Are you in need of funding to participate in the 1st UNGE GN Session - New York April 2019?*

In order to determine the need for funding for participation in the upcoming UNGE GN Session in 2019, we invite experts who know they will have difficulty in obtaining funding to submit an application to the UNGE GN secretariat (E-mail:



[geoinfo\\_unsd@un.org](mailto:geoinfo_unsd@un.org)). The secretariat will then distribute the applications for review to a special UNGE GN funding committee who will identify funds and select the successful experts. Only applications submitted using the UNGE GN application will be eligible.

**Download the application form here:**

[https://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGE GN/docs/UNGE GN\\_funding\\_form\\_PG.docx](https://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGE GN/docs/UNGE GN_funding_form_PG.docx).

**Deadline for submission of applications is 31 January 2019**

It should be stressed that neither the Working Group on Publicity and Funding, nor UNGE GN can guarantee funding. However, the utmost will be done to try and secure funding for those in need. Prioritization will be made at the discretion of the special funding committee.

All persons granted funding will be required to submit a report on the session attendance to the UNGE GN Secretariat and the funding committee no later than 7<sup>th</sup> June 2019, 1 month after the UNGE GN Session.

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## The UN World Geospatial Information Congress, promoted the geospatial way to a better world



United Nations  
World Geospatial  
Information Congress  
联合国世界地理信息大会

The first United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress (UNWGIC) was held from 19 – 21 November 2018, in Deqing “the geographic information town”, at its newly built international convention centre in Zhejiang Province, China. The UNWGIC was organized by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) with the support of the Government of China, through the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Zhejiang Provincial Government. The UNWGIC was held in fulfillment of the mandate from the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) to the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) to convene global forums to promote comprehensive dialogue on global geospatial information management with all relevant governments, non-governmental organizations and the private sector.

Therefore under the theme ‘The Geospatial Way to a Better World’, and in recognition of its mandate the Congress empowered the 2,000 plus participants and exhibitors, from government, international organizations, civil society, academia and the private sector, giving them the opportunity to examine new and emerging issues, exchange and share information, design solutions and create partnerships and alliances which should ensure that geospatial information will be used to facilitate social, economic and environmental development, thereby underpinning the attainment of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

The UNWGIC featured a high-level opening segment with a ministerial dialogue and four plenary sessions focused on sustainable development, sharing the digital economy, building smart societies, and growing international cooperation. There were also thirty-five parallel sessions, three special sessions and a young geospatial professional summit all delivered by a diverse cast of moderators, presenters and panelists. The UNWGIC programme and presentations are available at [UN-GGIM website](http://UN-GGIM website).

The congress was opened with high level statements from the congress conveners; the head of the Ministry of Natural Resources China, the Governor of Zhejiang Province, UN-GGIM Co-chair from the Netherlands, Under-Secretary General of DESA and a video statement for the UN Secretary General. For me the take away thought from the



statements was, *increased openness, innovation and building a community of sharing will enable prosperity in the use of geospatial information.* The opening was followed by the global key note addresses delivered by Mr. Jack Dangermond, Esri and Mr. James Fallows, writer and journalist. [Mr. Jack Dangermond](#) spoke about geospatial information helping us to prepare for and respond to a changing world and encouraged participants to embrace the transformation that is happening – get on board- learn more- keep learning and keep moving, he ended with “GIS is the best platform to transform how we change the world” and “collective successes will inspire us to achieve a better world.”

The ministerial dialogue featured a panel discussion with 10 ministers moderated by a former Co-chair of UN-GGIM, from the United Kingdom. They shared their national perspectives on the importance of having access to accurate and reliable geospatial information to make planning and policy decisions, to facilitate business processes and the efficient management of government’s resources resulting in the generation of savings. The Minister from Tonga noted that for his country “geospatial information is not an option it is a necessity” given its vulnerability to climate change, sea level rise among other hazards and the need to manage and quickly respond to their effects. The recurring message in the dialogue was the benefits of partnerships and cooperation in sharing of knowledge, experiences and good practices to meet the growing national, regional and global demand for geospatial information. I was delighted to hear a Minister referring to geospatial information as the “new water, the new

electricity” given its tremendous use, value and benefit to planning and development of a country’s economy.

The UNWGIC ended with the adoption of the [Moganshan Declaration](#), containing eight preambular paragraphs and ten operative paragraphs. The declaration called upon participants of the congress to 1) connect geospatial information to national development, 2) reduce the geospatial information divide, 3) collaborate and engage across professional domains to democratize and transfer technologies and share data and 4) support the establishment of Global Centre of Excellence on Geospatial Knowledge and most importantly the UN-GGIM system was asked to provide guidance and support developing countries and to engage with young professionals and advocates.

Participants requested a second UNWGIC in four years’ time, to continue to promote dialogue with Governments and between Governments and all stakeholders, including young professionals, and to stimulate progress in global geospatial information management. Participants commended Zhejiang Province’s and Deqing County’s commitment to growing the geospatial information industry, the hospitality and the cordiality of the local community during the week. At the closing ceremony, over 750 local volunteers who exposed the international geospatial community to local culture through their warm and engaging support were recognized through a rousing show of appreciation by participants.



Deqing International Convention Center & Deqing International Exhibition Center



## UPCOMING EVENTS



**First session of the Group of Experts on Geographical Names**

**29 April - 3 May 2019, New York, NY**

**Pre-conference symposium of ICC Tokyo “National names boards”**

**11-12 July 2019, Tokyo, Japan**

Contact: Peter Jordan ([peter.jordan@oeaw.ac.at](mailto:peter.jordan@oeaw.ac.at))

**International Cartographic Conference (ICC), session of the Toponymy Commission**

**15-20 July 2019, Tokyo, Japan**

Contact: Peter Jordan ([peter.jordan@oeaw.ac.at](mailto:peter.jordan@oeaw.ac.at))

**Ninth Session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM)**

**31 July – 2 August 2019, New York, NY**

**5th International Symposium on Place Names “Recognition, regulation, revitalisation: place names and indigenous languages”**

**18-20 September 2019, Clarens, South Africa**

Contact: Chrismi Linda Loth ([kongresETFB@ufs.ac.za](mailto:kongresETFB@ufs.ac.za))

**GeoNames Symposium “Place names and migration”**

**November 2019, Vienna, Austria**

Contact: Gerhard Rampl ([gerhard.rampl@uibk.ac.at](mailto:gerhard.rampl@uibk.ac.at))