

**Twenty-Sixth Session
Vienna, 2 to 6 May 2011**

Item 13 of the Provisional Agenda

Activities relating to the Working Group on Publicity and Funding

Report of the Working Group on Publicity and Funding*

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Report of the Working Group on Publicity and Funding

Aims

Established following the Sixth UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names in 1992, the Working Group on Publicity and Funding aims to make the activities of the UNGEGN more visible and, where appropriate, to seek or help identify funds to support:

- publication and dissemination of material relevant to the advancement of geographical names standardization;
- provision of training for the development and management of geographical names administration;
- establishment of names authorities; and
- participation of delegates in UNGEGN events and activities.

Working Group Meetings

Meetings of the Working Group on Publicity and Funding were held jointly with the Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation on 11th May 2009 during the 25th Session of UNGEGN in Nairobi, Kenya, and on 21-23 June 2010 at the Hilton Vancouver Metrotown, Vancouver, Canada. A total of 16 delegates attended the meeting in Nairobi. Seven Working Group members and three observers attended the three-day meeting in Vancouver during which a telephone discussion was held with Mr Stefan Schweinfest, Mr Amor Laaribi and Ms Sabine Warschburger of the UN Statistical Division in New York.

Press and Publicity

Press releases: At the conclusion of the 25th Session of UNGEGN in Nairobi, a press release was prepared by the Working Group Convenor for distribution by the UNGEGN Secretariat. It highlighted the important role of geographical names in developing the economy and infrastructure of Africa.

Conferences: In 2010 the Working Group Convenor took part in the *Trends in Toponymy 4* conference which was held at the University of Edinburgh in the UK. He chaired a session and took part in a public place-names debate held in the National Library of Scotland at which he outlined the need for standardization and the work of UNGEGN. At its meeting in Vancouver the Working Group agreed to prepare display maps for the GGIM World Forum in Seoul in 2011 and a poster for the 10th UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names in 2012. It was also agreed that leaflets for special interest groups such as map editors, statisticians, cultural heritage managers, linguists and onomasticians, be prepared.

Celebrating Geographical Names in 2010: In 2010, the Working Group prepared a submission proposing that the UN Postal Administration publish a set of postage stamps in 2012 to mark the 10th United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical names with a view to raising awareness of the universal importance of geographical names as well as the work of geographical names standardization at the United Nations level. Submitted in November 2010, the *Celebrating Geographical Names in 2012* proposal was, unfortunately, not taken forward by the UN Postal Administration, but the text of the submission remains a useful media document.

Postcard from Vienna: Following the successful ‘Postcard from Nairobi’ distributed at the 25th Session of UNGEGN in 2009, the Working Group agreed to prepare a similar ‘Postcard from Vienna’ for the 26th Session in 2011.

Press Kit: At the Joint Working Group Meeting held in Vancouver in June 2010, the first drafts of texts for the press kit to promote geographical names standardization and the work of the Group of Experts were reviewed and a folder designed by the UN Statistics Division was presented. Since then the content has been revised and expanded with help from members of other Working Groups prior to submission to the UNGEGN Secretariat in February 2011 for design and printing. The publication of the press kit is in response to Resolution IX/10 of the Ninth UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names held in New York in 2007.

Funding

Noting in particular the need for funding in support of the Task Team for Africa, the Working Group has continued to assist in finding financial support for training courses and for representatives of developing countries attending the 26th Session of UNGEGN in Vienna.

Convenorship of Working Group

At the Joint Working Group Meeting in Vancouver, David Munro intimated his intention to stand down as Convenor of the Working Group on Publicity and Funding after 10 years. Although he may not be able to attend Sessions of UNGEGN, he agreed to continue until the Conference or a new Convenor has been appointed. The Working Group will be considering the appointment of a new Convenor.

10th UN Conference 2010

In preparation for the 10th Conference in 2012, the Working Group reminds the Group of Experts that any new proposals for major publications or training events should be presented to the Conference through a resolution prepared in consultation with the Working Group on Publicity and Funding.

Report of the Working Group on Publicity and Funding

Summary

The report highlights the activities of the working group in raising awareness of the need for geographical names standardization and the work of the Group of Experts, particularly in advancing the press kit arising from Resolution IX/10 of the 9th UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names. The report also highlights efforts to find financial support for training and for representatives from developing countries attending UNGEGN Sessions.