

Twenty-sixth session
Vienna, 2-6 May 2011

Item 8 of the Provisional Agenda

Activities relating to the Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy.

**Report of the Convenor of the Working Group on
Training Courses in Toponymy
2009-2011***

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Summary of the report:

1. The UNGEGN-sponsored international training course in toponymy held since the 25th UNGEGN session in Yaoundé and the PAIGH training course held in Madrid (Spain, 2009) are reported on.

Ongoing work on the ICA webcourse in toponymy, supported by UNSD is described. The report ends with the composition of the working group.

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2. At the request of the Institut National de Cartographie (INC) and with the support of the UNGEGN Task Team for Africa and the UNGEGN Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy organised a programme for a 6-day course in November 2010, with a team of lecturers from Africa and from overseas. The team included Brahim Atoui (chair, UNGEGN Task Team for Africa), Helen Kerfoot (UNGEEN chair), Ferjan Ormeling (chair, UNGEGN Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy), Claude Obin Tapsoba (Chair, UNGEGN Africa-West Division), Michel Simeu Kamdem (Chair, UNGEGN Africa-Central Division), and Pier-Giorgio Zaccheddu (Chair, Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers); there were also two local ad-hoc contributors (Dr Bindom and Fernand Isseri). With their help the following programme was realised:

3. Program of the Yaoundé training course in toponymy

Jours	Sessions
Lundi Monday	Session d'ouverture (Opening session) - allocutions des responsables locaux et internationales - présentation des participants
	Session 1: Fonctions des noms géographiques (<i>Functions of geographical names</i>) 1.1. Fonctions des noms géographiques (<i>Functions of geographical names</i>) 1.2. Résolutions et terminologie (<i>Resolutions and terminology</i>)
	Session 2: Le processus de nomination (<i>The naming process</i>) 2.1 Le processus de nomination (<i>The naming process</i>) 2.2. Standardisation des noms géographiques (<i>Standardization of geographical names</i>) 2.3. Rôle du GENUING, documentation, ressources (<i>Contributions of UNGEGN, documentations and ressources</i>)
Mardi Tuesday	Session 3 Les Bureaux de noms géographiques (<i>National names authorities</i>) 3.1 Modèles de gestion des autorités toponymiques nationales (<i>Operating models for national agencies</i>) 3.2 Fonctions et devoirs des agences nationales (<i>Functions and duties of national agencies</i>) 3.3 Régions multilingues (<i>Multilingual regions</i>)
	Session 4 Le traitement des noms dans le bureau (<i>Office processing of geographical names</i>) 4.1. Recueil des noms de lieu au bureau (<i>Names processing in the office</i>) 4.2. Standardisation par l'autorité nationale (<i>Standardization by the national committee</i>) 4.3. Toponymie Sub-saharienne (<i>Sub-Saharan Toponymy</i>)
Mercredi Wednesday	Session 5: Préparation aux travaux de terrain (<i>Field work preparation</i>) 5.1 Caractéristiques des langues locales (<i>Characteristics of local names</i>) 5.2 Introduction a la problématique (<i>Field work preparation</i>) 5.3 Aspects géographiques de la région à visiter (<i>Geographic description of the fieldwork region</i>)
	Session 6: Les questionnaires (<i>Field work forms</i>) 6.1. Effectuation des travaux de terrain/établissement du cahier de terrain (<i>Practical preparations</i>) 6.2. La localisation des données - GPS (<i>Localizing the data with GPS</i>) 6.3. L'usage prévue des données (<i>Intended use of the names data</i>)
Jeudi Thursday	Travaux de terrain (<i>Fieldwork</i>)
Vendredi Friday	Session 7: Bases de données (<i>Data bases</i>) 7.1 Traitement des noms collectionnés pendant les travaux de terrain (<i>Processing of names collected during fieldwork</i>) 7.2 Les logiciels des bases de données (<i>Characteristics of databases</i>) 7.3 Constitution des bases de données (<i>Realisation of databases</i>)
	Session 8: Production des index toponymiques (<i>Production of gazetteers</i>) 8-1 Entrée des noms dans la BD (<i>Entering the names in the database</i>) 8-2 Entrée des noms dans la BD (<i>Entering the names in the database</i>) 8-3 Production d'un modèle d'écriture digital; incorporation dans Google Earth (<i>Production of a Google Earth map with the geographical names collected</i>)

Samedi Saturday	Session 9: Application des gazetteers (<i>Digital applications</i>) 9.1 - Problèmes toponymiques pour les atlas scolaires (<i>Small- scale applications</i>) 9.2 - Diffusion des résultats et coopération interafricaine (<i>Cooperation within Africa and Forwarding the results</i>)
	Session finale - Séance de clôture (<i>Closing session</i>)

4. Organisation of the Yaoundé course

The course was locally organised by the staff of the Research Section of the Institut National de Cartographie, headed by Dr Michel Simeu Kamdem and his adjoint Fernand Isseri.

Everything needed for such a course was provided for, such as interpreters (the course was held in French but was also accessible for anglophone participants from West-Cameroon), copying services, data projection and microphones, GPS receivers, as well as computers for the hands-on exercises with the database systems. In order to realise an optimal use of the available time catering had been organised for the lunches so that the students did not have to leave the premises for their meals, as well as for coffee and tea.

The fieldwork was held in the Mfou area, 20 km south of Yaoundé, where apart from the prefect and the mayor, the municipal authorities in charge of the urban infrastructure were interviewed; the participants were able to visit the bloc chiefs and traditional chiefs of nearby villages whom they could interview about the names in use, their spelling, their origin and meaning. The INC also organised the transportation and catering during the fieldwork.

5. Cooperation on behalf of the Yaoundé course

Apart from the big investment in time and equipment made by the Institut National de Cartographie and by the Ministry of Scientific Research and Innovation, which also was able to provide the travel costs for one of the foreign lecturers), the course had been made possible by UNSD which was able to cover the travelling costs of representatives from the Democratic Republic of Congo and Chad, as well as the travelling costs of three of the lecturing staff (from the Netherlands, Germany and Canada). Costs for the accommodation and meals of these five individuals were covered by the Government of Cameroon. The lecturing staff were able to participate thanks to the cooperation of the Bundesamt für Kartographie und Geodäsie (Frankfurt, Germany), the Institut Geographique National Burkinaabé (Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso), the Institut National de Cartographie et de Teledetection (Algiers, Algeria), Natural Resources Canada (Ottawa, Canada) and Utrecht University (the Netherlands).

6. Participation in the Yaoundé course

Four countries participated in the course, that is Algeria, Cameroon, Chad and the Democratic Republic of Congo, and although over 40 people participated at some stage, 33 were able to attend and actively participate in the whole programme and each received a diploma. The course received ample publicity, as its opening and closing ceremonies were attended by the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Scientific Research and Innovation, as well as foreign diplomats.

7. The 21st PAIGH toponymy course, held in Madrid, October 19-30, 2009

The José Joaquín Hungria Morell Geographic names course organised by PAIGH was held in Madrid, Spain, from October 19-31, 2009. The programme was much similar to the UNGEGN courses and consisted of a lecture programme, fieldwork, building a names data base and working with it. The course was targeted at Spanish topographers, and therefore held at a higher level than customary.

One of the main conclusions of the course, made by lecturer, Roger L. Payne (Chairman of the PAIGH Cartographic Commission WG on Geographical Names) was, that a second, more advanced course is needed where the focus should be on evaluation of the success of current policies, analysis of user needs and the implementation of maintenance programmes.

8. The 22nd PAIGH toponymy course will be held in Belize in 2011.

9. ICA toponymy webcourse

Thanks to support provided by UNSD, the ICA toponymy webcourse will be extended and completed in 2011. The existing 11 modules will be extended by another nine, on themes like: (6) Reference systems, (9) Languages, (10) Writing systems, (11) conversion systems, (16) names placement, (17) legal status, (18) Editorial issues (19) Toponymical planning and (20) Names as cultural heritage. If the budget allows, the existing 11 modules will be brought up to date as well.

10. Composition of the Working group

The UNGEGN Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy during the 2007-2012 term consisted of:

Mr B. Atoui

Mme Elisabeth Calvarin

Mr H. Dorion

Ms F. Hodges

Ms H. Kerfoot

Ms L. Möller

Mr F. J. Ormeling (convenor)

Mr R. Payne

Mr P. Raper

Mr P-G. Zaccheddu