

**Twenty-sixth session
Vienna, 2-6 May 2011**

Item 16 of the Provisional Agenda

Activities relating to the Working Group on the Promotion of the Recording and Use of Indigenous, Minority and Regional Language Group Geographical Names

Report on the Working Group for the Recording and Promotion of Indigenous, Minority and Regional Language Group Geographical Names *

* Prepared by the Bill Watt, Convenor of the Working Group on the Promotion of the Recording and Use of Indigenous, Minority and Regional Language Group Geographical Names

Report on Current Work Plan

The current work plan as determined at previous conferences and session is as follows:

1. Continue to maintain and update version 1 of the promotion report.
2. Compile a set of guidelines for field collection of indigenous, minority and regional language group geographical names.
3. Initiate dialogue between UNGEGN and other national and international groups and academic bodies involved with indigenous, minority and regional language group geographical names, to further the work on geographical names standardization.

Progress in relation to this is summarised as follows:

1. *Continue to maintain and update version 1 of the promotion report.*

Apart from a three new projects from Australia, no additional information has been forwarded for inclusion in the summary report.

New projects or updates to existing projects can be forwarded at any time using the templates found on the UNGEGN website.

2. *Compile a set of guidelines for field collection of indigenous, minority and regional language group geographical names.*

Documentation compiled thus far include the following:

- “Guide To The Field Collection Of Native Geographical Names”, - Canada 1992
- “Guidelines for the Use of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Place Names” – Australia Sep 2010
- “Dual Naming Depiction Guidelines” - Australia / New Zealand Sep 2010.
- “Guidelines for Dialogue by the Place Naming Jurisdictions with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities” - Australia Sep 2010
- “Guidelines for Dialogue by the New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa with Tangata Whenua” - New Zealand Sep 2010

Other information is welcomed, including any thoughts on how the contents of the existing material can be expanded to cover other experiences.

3. *Initiate dialogue between UNGEGN and other national and international groups and academic bodies involved with indigenous, minority and regional language group geographical names, to further the work on geographical names standardization.*

Members of the Working Group have been involved promoting the role of UNGEGN with indigenous, minority or regional language group geographical names through discussions with or presentations at conferences or meetings associated with the following bodies;

- International Federation of Surveyors - FIG Conference, Sydney, Australia 2010
- International Conference on Indigenous Place Names, Guovdageaidnu, Norway, 2010
- TopoTrends Research Group – at each of the five conferences held thus far.
- Net to Promote the Linguistic Diversity

Other Issues

Two other issues are relevant to the working group, being:

1. Development of a web based communication facility.

After some unfortunate delays, we now have a web site that we can use. This is a document exchange / discussion forum facility provided by the Australian Government for the use of committees. It is a secure site, and invitations need to be provided by the Australian representative. However, there is no limit to the number of people who can be associated with this site.

All existing reports and documentation has now been uploaded onto this site, and I am happy to show people how to use it during this session of UNGEGN.

2. Name of the Working Group

We still have not arrived at a suitable name that does not involve a sentence in its own right. Any suggestion will be welcome and will be considered at the meeting.

W H Watt
Convenor