

**Item 5 of the provisional agenda**

**Reports of the liaisons officers and international organizations**

**Report of the Liaison Officer, International Council of  
Onomastic Sciences (ICOS) \***

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UNGEEN Liaison with ICOS

UNITED NATIONS GROUP OF EXPERTS ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES  
Twenty-Sixth Session, Vienna, 2–6 May 2011  
Prepared by Mr. Botolv Helleland, State Place-Name Consultant, University of Oslo, Norway  
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REPORT OF THE LIAISON OFFICER, INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF ONOMASTIC SCIENCES (ICOS)

### **1. The International Council of Onomastic Sciences (ICOS)**

(<http://www.icosweb.net/>)

The *International Council of Onomastic Sciences* (ICOS) is the international organization for all scholars who have a special interest in the study of names (place-names, personal names, and proper names of all other kinds). The aim of ICOS is the advancement, representation and coordination of name research on an international level and in an interdisciplinary context. Every scholar who is actively engaged in scholarly name research may become a member of the ICOS. The official languages of ICOS are French, German and English.

The annual membership subscription is 20 Euros which implies reduced fee at the ICOS congresses. The congresses, which normally are held every three years, are organized on behalf of ICOS by one of its members (normally scholars working at a university). The General Assembly of ICOS, including the election of officers, is usually held in conjunction with the congresses. Members receive the journal *ONOMA*, the official publication of the association. It contains topical research reports as well as basic theoretical articles concerning all areas of scholarly name research, including names standardization. Presently, each issue is thematic, and the themes for issues 39-41 may be found on the *ONOMA* page of the ICOS web-site [<http://www.icosweb.net/>]. It should here be mentioned that *ONOMA* 35 (edited by Ms. Isolde Hausner) deals mainly with names standardization.

### **2. Newsletters**

The ICOS Board issues newsletters regularly with information of interest to the members. Links to the most recent newsletters are available on the home page of ICOS.

### **3. Congresses**

The most recent ICOS International Congress of Onomastic Sciences was held in Toronto, Canada in 2008, and the next one, which will be the twenty-fourth, will be held at the University of Barcelona, Spain, 5–9 September 2011, with the general theme *Names in daily life*. For this venue as many as 537 papers are registered. One of the subthemes is Cartography and geographical names, with 20 papers registered, and another is Names and standardization, with 34 papers registered.

### **4. Working Group on Terminology**

ICOS has established a working group on toponymic terminology and this group cooperates with the UNGEGN WG on Toponymic Terminology. Staffan Nyström chairs both groups and he will organize a meeting at this UNGEGN Session on Tuesday 3 May at 13.45–14.45.