United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

Minutes

Meeting of the Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers (WG TDFG) of UNGEGN

08:45 – 09:45 hrs, Thursday, 5th May 2011

Vienna International Center (VIC) on the occasion of the 26th UNGEGN

Time	TOP#	TOP
08:45 – 08:50	**1**	**Opening** Pier Giorgio Zaccheddu (PGZ) opened the meeting.
08:50 – 09:05	**2**	**Wrap-up of the WG meeting on February 10 2011 in Zagreb, Croatia** • minutes (as PDF) • presentations (as PDF) are to be uploaded to the WG website PGZ summarized the "Key outcomes, actions and decisions" of the last meeting in Zagreb (February 10, 2011). The WG discussed how the WG / UNGEGN can contribute to the establishment of the "UN GGIM". PGZ emphasized that some of the UN GGIM topics are closely related to the objectives of the WG TDFG. PGZ mentioned it was necessary to further monitor the initiative and to keep in touch with the UNGEGN chairperson, Ms Helen Kerfoot (HK), on this matter and to inform the WG. The WG would also consider how to promote the work of UNGEGN during the UN GGIM meeting in Seoul, Republic of Korea, in October 2011. *Task 1 (WG members): Proposals / ideas by WG members on how the WG / UNGEGN can contribute to UN GGIM and promote UNGEGN's work should be sent to PGZ.* Regarding the topic "crowd sourced data" PGZ recalled the lunch-break workshop within the 26th UNGEGN. The following discussion items can be summarized: - for future consideration of this topic a clear distinction has to be made between 1. The "Crowd" being used for the creation of (new) geospatial data with powerful tools (examples are OpenStreetMap, Google MapMaker) 2. The "Crowd" being used for the review / check of existing authoritative data (as described by Switzerland

		during the workshop) - It was stated that "Crowd" has always been used in the (field) collection of geographical names to be standardized by names experts. The “new thing” is the availability of powerful web tools. - It was stated that authoritative institutions in the countries should be involved in the validation process of this additional geospatial data. It is obvious that the national institutions have to take these new sources into consideration when updating their database. *<u>Task 2</u> (WG members): Information on different use cases / scenarios related to crowd-sourced data in Members' countries will be exchanged in the WG taking into account the aforementioned distinction.* *<u>Task 3</u> (WG members): Based on the exchange of information, guidelines e.g. for the handling of crowd-sourced data by authoritative institutions might be developed.* *<u>Task 4</u> (Convenor): a deeper discussion about the handling of crowd-sourced data in the countries will be considered for the next WG meeting.* - PGZ referred again to W.P. 43 ‘Text encoding issues in geographical names’ and asked the WG to express gaps in the Unicode standard by completing the form attached to the W.P. *<u>Task 5</u> (WG members): the Unicode standard should be checked and any potential addition should be sent to Ms Caroline Burgess (CB) through the form.*
09:05 – 09:30	**3**	**WG business according to the next 10th UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names** The WG TDFG could • Draft a Resolution pertinent to standardized geographical names in the context of the crowd-sourced data; • Draft a Resolution that confirms UNGEGN's support of UN GGIM, but that confirms the necessity of the mandate of UNGEGN and the Conferences? • Consider if a Resolution is needed supporting the use of Unicode and/or ISO standards. - PGZ stated that drafting a resolution on the handling of crowd-sourced data seems to be pre-mature. The exchange of information on this matter could be the rationale for it, but not necessarily for the 10th UNCSGN.

		- Concerning a resolution on the cooperation between UN GGIM and UNGEGN PGZ suggested this matter be discussed with HK and the UNGEGN Secretariat first, offering collaboration by the WG for drafting a Resolution, if needed. - It was suggested that a Resolution be drafted on the importance and use of the Unicode standard within the creation of toponymic data files and gazetteers. *<u>Task 6</u> (Unicode, WG members): The WG would consider the drafting of a Resolution supporting the use of Unicode standards, the draft text of which would be sent to Unicode for technical review.* - Regarding ISO the current situation is acceptable and there is no need for a resolution on technical ISO TC 211 matters.
09:30 – 09:35	**4**	**Next meeting of WG TDFG** - PGZ kindly asked WG members for proposals to arrange a WG TDFG meeting in advance of the 10th UNCSGN in conjunction with another international event. - Particularly issues related to the handling of crowd-sourced data and/or potential draft resolutions could be discussed. - At least an informal meeting in conjunction with the 10th UNCSGN will be arranged in New York. *<u>Task 7</u> (WG members): Provide the Convenor with proposals to arrange a WG TDFG meeting in advance of the 10th UNCSGN in conjunction with another international event.*
09:35 – 09:45	**5**	**AOB & Closing** • How to support the UN Gazetteer project? • Future hosting of the WG website? - PGZ mentioned that the UN Gazetteer project has to be monitored by the WG. He will provide the WG with more information (documents etc.) as soon as these are made public. - Trent Palmer reported on the sort order of entries contained in the US Board on Geographic Names Geographic Names Data Base (GNDB) whereby all generic terms currently have to be reversed when querying the foreign names database (e.g. Windermere, Lake). The Board was considering changing the organization of entries to reflect reading order (e.g. Lake Windermere) and requested input from WG members.

		<u>Task 8</u> (WG members). Provide feedback to Mr Palmer on the style used in national data bases. - PGZ expressed greetings from Mimi Urbanc (MU) and conveyed her message that unfortunately she cannot manage the hosting of the WG website anymore. PGZ asked the WG members for volunteers to take over this task. The WG agreed that a discussion forum could usefully be included on the website. *<u>Task 9</u> (WG members): Check whether the hosting of the WG website can be taken over by another WG member. Provide the Convenor with an answer by end May 2011.* - The WG noted that the UNGEGN Technical Manual could usefully be updated if funds were available. Dr. Ken Whistler (KW) of Unicode offered to provide technical input. - PGZ expressed thanks to all WG members present for the very active participation and kindly asked members to provide him regularly with information, material and ideas on WG topics and objectives in order to be able to update the WG website and to guarantee a continuous exchange of ideas within the WG.