

United Nations Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers  
2<sup>nd</sup> June 2008, 14:00-17:00 hrs  
Freising, Germany  
Draft Agenda

**1. Introduction** (5 min)

**2. Review of Agenda** (5 min)

**3. Review of report of last WG meeting (9<sup>th</sup> UNCSGN, August 2007)** (15 min)

**4. Activities of the WG according to the work plan (E.CONF.98/CRP.60)** (1 hr)

- (1) WG website: [www.zrc-sazu.si/ungegn/gazetteers.htm](http://www.zrc-sazu.si/ungegn/gazetteers.htm)
- (2) Report of the “Working Group on Toponymic Data Exchange Formats and Standards”
  - Evolution of the “Draft Toponymic Data Exchange Standard” (1998)
  - Future of “data models”
    - > Text encoding came up, main focus was put on defining the minimum content,
    - > Influence of UNGEGN into the right channels (e.g. OGC, ISO),
    - > Not in the focus of UNGEGN WG to define an overall standard data model
    - > More technical assistance to UN
    - > give advice to countries starting with the development of a GN database
- (3) Cooperation, contribution or liaison with:
  - Unicode Consortium
    - > strengthen the liaison with Unicode by UNGEGN colleagues
  - International Organization for Standardization (ISO)
    - > report was prepared for ISO/TC 211, Helen is current liaison officer, should be taken over by the WG TDFG
    - > new work item proposal (Copenhagen) of place names/identifier
    - > co-convenors will take over this issue
    - > issue of ISO 19112: (Adela) problem to understand the standard. (Andreas) terminology is ISO and not referred to geographers, the intention behind it is consistent, e.g. LocationInstances.
  - Cooperation with other UN groups, e.g. UNGIWG (UNSDI)
    - > Reference to Helen’s email of 29-05-08
  - Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC)
    - OGC SWG activity, see item 5
  - Alexandria Digital Library (ADL)
    - > Reference to Greg’s report of 09-12-2006
  - Google Earth
    - > Reference to Helen’s email of 29-05-08
    - > (Teemu) agreement between Google and NLS discussed; not finalized yet.
    - > (Andreas H.) considered as unstable environment.
  - Geonames.org
    - > (Pier-G) mentions the free-of-charge-gazetteer-service and the consequences for EuroGeoNames. More information at the EGN workshop.

- (4) Practical programs of toponymic data exchange
- EuroGeoNames project (E/CONF.98/WP 92)
  - > more information at the EGN workshop
  
  - Projects discussed at 9<sup>th</sup> UNCSGN (Brazil, Ethiopia)
  - > Reference to Helen's email of 29-05-08
  
  - United Nations Geographical Names Database
  - > Reference to Helen's email of 29-05-08. Volunteer to support the Statistics Division in implementing the DB.

(5) Toponymic data exchange workshops  
 Last WS in August 2007. See item 6.

#### 5. New business & discussion (45 min)

- OGC Project: WFS Gazetteer Profile 1.0 Standards Working Group
- > current paper is "best practices", OGC-SWG would like to evolve it as a standard. Resolve user issues. WG charter is presented.
- > (Pier-G) ISO 19112 will be supported within this OGC activity.
- > (Chris P.) OGC is working effectively.
  
- Future of gazetteers: from publication to web services
- > Reference to Yaives Ferland discussion paper (August 2007)
- > (Teemu) is there room at the next UNGEGN meeting for such papers (e.g. web ontologies)? (Randy) how should these issues be discussed within UNGEGN: WP-presentation or workshops?
  
- Consideration of the compilation of technical handbooks & training
- > Compile information mainly from the PAIGH TopTrainCourses together with TopTrainCourses (Ferjan). No activity so far.
- > (Pier-G.) Should be addressed to countries starting with developing a GN DB.
- > (Ferjan) Two TopTrainCourses coming up: Ouagadougou (Aug'08), Timisoara (Sep'08). Information should be compiled until the Timisoara course.
- > (Randy) the recent PAIGH course was conducted in Quito (Ecuador).

#### 6. 25<sup>th</sup> UNGEGN session, 5<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> May 2009, Nairobi, Kenya (30 min)

- WG report
- Special presentations
- > Reference to Helen's email of 29-05-08
- > follow-up WS on toponymic data exchange
- > "Lessons learned" WS: e.g. EuroGeoNames, US databases
- > Simple gazetteer applications, data management
- > (Randy) tutorial for building a GN database for people not yet familiar with computer science
- > (Chris P.) South-African DB and Geonames.org by Marc Wick
- > (Randy) OGC activity for a WFS gazetteer profile
- > (Ferjan) project in Sudan, merging different sources

#### 7. Other business, plans for future meetings (15 min)

- Possible future meetings jointly with:
- 31<sup>st</sup> International Geographic Congress, Tunis, 12<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> August 2008
  - ICOS conference, Toronto, 17<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> August 2008
  - EuroGeoNames, January-February 2009
  - > good opportunity to prepare things for UNGEGN session.

- 25<sup>th</sup> UNGEGN, 5<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> May 2009

**8. Closing (5 min)**