

UNGEGN World Geographical Names

Version 1.x

United Nations Statistics Division

Overview

- To help respond to questions received
- Multilingual, multi-scriptual database
- Countries, capitals, cities >100,000 population
- Data accessible through UNGEGN website
 - By clickable world map or by country list
- Expandable to other places and features
- Initially designed and loaded by UN

User interface



Developed in ASP.Net 2.0 and Macromedia Flash 8

Interface parts:

- Map application
- Table format

The map application



Based on a Web Map Server (WMS)

Followed the OpenGIS standards

WMS features

- Zoom in and out
- Pan Click and drag
- Layer selection
- Distance tool
- Print map

Boundary shapefile

- Boundary representations used by the United Nations
- Based on the United Nations Geographical Information Working Group UNGIWG - http://boundaries.ungiwg.org/
- Worldwide coverage of international boundaries

Database

- Country names
 - 6 official UN languages (UNTERM)
 - In 'official' language(s) of the countries (WG)
 - Other languages
- Capital cities
 - Help from WG Country Names/Romanization
 - Coordinates: UN Cartographic Section list of capitals
 - Variants in other languages (UN and other)
- Major Cities
 - From individual countries (base: UN Stats) + .wav files
 - Some coordinates from US GEOnet or Times Atlas
 - Variants in other languages (UN and other)

Database

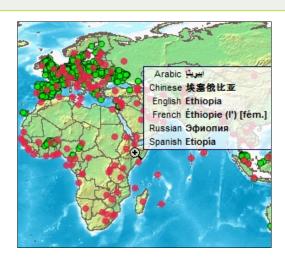
Country names

- Country code (UN Stats M49)
- Short name and/or formal name (endonym)
- Language (not etymology)
- Variants UN and other languages
- Data source
- Romanized name including the Romanization system
- Footnotes/Comments

Capital and city names

- Country code (UN Stats M49)
- Name
- Language (not etymology)
- Data source
- Coordinates
- Is capital city
- Romanized name including the Romanization system
- Variant names (inc. UN lang.)
- Sound file of endonyms
- Footnotes/Comments

Map display



- Display of six United Nations languages
 - Arabic
 - Chinese
 - English
 - French
 - Russian
 - Spanish





- Capital and other cities
 - Local name(s) romanized
 - English, if available

Country selection



Drop down menu to select countries or areas

Features:

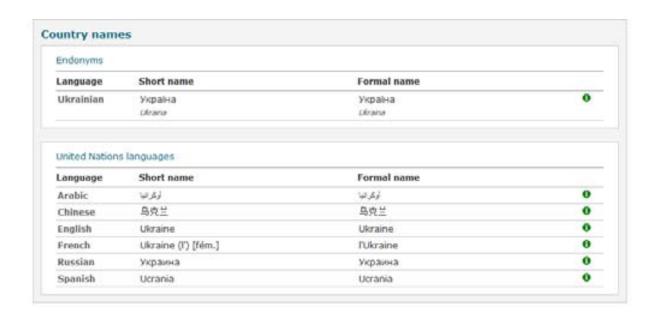
- Zoom in on country level
- Populate table with all names available

Table format – Country names



- Endonyms ... short and formal names
- UN languages ... short and formal names
- Other languages ... short and formal names
- Data source

Table format – with romanization



City selection by country



Table format – Cities - capitals



- Endonyms; UN languages; Other languages
- Lat. Long. Language Source (?)
- · Sound files for endonyms

Table format - Cities



- Alphabetical
 Lat. Long.
- Each city record can be expanded as for Borås
- · Sound (.wav) can be included

Table format – cities – with romanization





Status quo

- Until end of February
 - Work on user interface (e.g. download, print buttons)
 - Further loading of data
 - UN Term; UNGEGN files; UN Cartography; countries' data + wav
 - Cities for 53 countries and 61+6 only capital cities; 17 .wav files
 72 missing countries
- Testing in part of March (volunteers!)
- Some modification before launching at 25th UNGEGN
- At UNGEGN ... discussion about process for future, more data and other features

Future prospects

- Mechanisms on data collection and processing
 - Process to ensure accuracy and reliability
 - Templates to provide country and city names
 - Need coordinates provided
- Database maintenance
- Further application development
 - Improvements of the navigation
 - Download feature
 - Search by language
 - Adding major geographic features and their names

Online version

Web access

http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/geonames/Default.aspx

Login information

User name: tester

Password: **geonames**

Comments and suggestions can be sent to zewoldi@un.org.

Outline

- International boundaries
- Database: Country and city names content
- User interface:
 - Мар
 - Table
- Future prospects
 - Mechanisms on data collection and processing
 - Database maintenance
 - Other geographic features