INTRODUCTION

In 1948 the problem of standardization of geographical names was raised, particularly with regard to cartographic services. This led to the establishment of UNGEGN.

UNGEGN is tasked with:
- Encouraging countries that do not have name standardization mechanisms, databases (digital or manual) or national gazetteers to develop these;
- Supporting the development of single Romanization systems for languages with other forms of script;
- Encouraging the dissemination and wider use of nationally authorized names;
- Developing of communication and training tools.
What is UNGEGN?

UNEGGN is not:
• Decision making body.
• Agency to compel countries to follow a particular path.

UNEGGN is:
• A forum where best practice methodologies and direction can be presented, reviewed, adapted and adopted at the national level.
• A group of place names experts, cartographers, surveyors, linguists, historians and geographers who work together in a spirit of cooperation to assist each other develop, maintain and improve the process of standardizing place names.

STANDARDIZATION - What is it?

The methods used to:
• Record existing place names – includes:
  • Identification of authoritative sources.
  • Method of spelling.
  • Romanization of non roman script.
  • Feature types.
  • Relationship between generic terms and specific names.
  • Transliteration of non written languages.
• Creation of new names – includes
  • Consultation methods.
  • Education strategies
  • Implementation strategies
• Legislation
• Office management – includes:
  • Central or regional structures.
  • Jurisdiction within agencies
• Dissemination of information – includes:
  • Mapping
  • Databases
  • Web based application
  • Signage
STANDARDIZATION BENEFITS

Benefits include:
• Heritage retention and revitalisation;
• Trade and commerce;
• Population censuses and national statistics;
• Property rights and cadastre;
• Urban and regional planning;
• Environmental management - sustainable development and conservation;
• Natural disaster relief, emergency preparedness and receipt of aid;
• Security strategy and peacekeeping operations;
• Search and rescue operations;
• Map and atlas production;
• Automatic navigation;
• Tourism;
• Communications, including postal and new services.

UNEGGN Methodology

Major Conference every 5 years (last one in 2007, next 2012)

Members
• Report on:
  ▪ Progress of projects
  ▪ Emerging technologies
  ▪ New Initiatives
  ▪ Emerging trends

• Network with other countries facing similar issues
• Attend meetings of Divisions and Working Groups

FIG Congress 2010
Facing the Challenges – Building the Capacity
Sydney, Australia, 11-16 April 2010
UNGEIGN Methodology

During the previous 9 conferences, 150 resolutions have been passed, covering:

- Standardization of Geographical Names
- United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names
- International Cooperation in the Standardization of Geographical Names
- Toponymic Guidelines for Map and Other Editors
- National Standardization
- Regional Meetings
- Education and Training in Treatment of Geographical Names
- Terminology, including Glossaries
- List Country Names
- Preparation of Gazetteers
- Bibliographies
- Exchange of Experience
- Automated Data Processing / Digital Data
- Exonym
- Romanization
- Romanization by Languages
- Maritime and Undersea Feature Names
- Names of Features Beyond a Single Sovereignty
- Extraterrestrial Feature Names
- Geographical Names from Unwritten Languages
- Manual of National Name Standardization
- Aids to Pronunciation
- Minority Languages
- Physiographic Names
- Geographical Names on Tourist Maps

Three UNGEGN Sessions between Conferences to monitor the progress of implementation of the resolutions.

UNGEIGN Structure

UNGEIGN Divisions and Working Groups

Geographic and Linguistic Divisions

Africa Central Division
Africa East Division
Africa South Division
Africa West Division
Arabic Division
Asia East Division (other than China)
Asia South-East and Pacific
South-West Division
Asia South-West Division (other than Arabic)
Baltic Division
Celtic Division
China Division
Dutch- and German-speaking Division

East Central and South-East Europe Division
Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia Division
East Mediterranean Division (other than Arabic)
French-speaking Division
India Division
Latin America Division
Norden Division
Portuguese-speaking Division
Romano-Hellenic Division
United Kingdom Division
USA/Canada Division
UNGEGN Structure
UNGEGN Divisions and Working Groups

Working Groups
- Working Group on Country Names
- Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers
- Working Group on Toponymic Terminology
- Working Group on Publicity and Funding
- Working Group on Romanization Systems
- Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy
- Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation
- Working Group on Exonyms
- Working Group on Pronunciation
- Working Group on the Promotion of Recording and Use of Indigenous, Minority and Regional Language Group Geographical Names

UNGEGN SUCCESS
Countries with a national names authority

Geographical Names Authorities (September 2009)
SUPPORT FROM UNGEGN FOR JURISDICTIONAL PROGRAMS

For countries with an established program:

• Forum for:
  ▪ Sharing of ideas
  ▪ Keeping current with emerging technologies and issues

• Available through:
  ▪ Conferences
  ▪ UNGEGN sessions
  ▪ Formal structures of divisions and working groups
  ▪ Informal networking contacts.

SUPPORT FROM UNGEGN FOR JURISDICTIONAL PROGRAMS

For countries without a working established program:

• Publications:
  ▪ Manual for the National Standardization of Geographical Names
  ▪ Technical Reference Manual for the Standardization of Geographical Names

• Training sessions (Working Group on Training Courses on Toponymy - website: http://toponymycourses.geoq.uu.nl/)