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PCGN Meeting Minutes, Monday 10th October 2016
Royal Geographical Society (RGS), London

Present

PCGN Staff

Defence Geographic Centre (JFIG-DGC)
Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)
BBC Monitoring (BBCM)
Defence Language Service (DLS)
United Kingdom Hydrographic Office (UKHO)
British Library (BL)

Apologies for absence: OS, BBCM, FCO, UKHO and RSGS.

1. The Minutes of 196th meeting on 9th May 2016 and the action items arising were discussed. PCGN were pleased to have access to the new user-friendly BBCM portal.
2. A PCGN paper listing place names changes in Ukraine had been published. PCGN had not found any evidence of the name of the South African city of Durban having been changed but noted that the municipality covering the Durban area was known as eThekewini.
3. Head PCGN described the previously circulated report detailing recent work completed by the PCGN staff. The main focus had been preparation for the upcoming BGN/PCGN Conference, engagement with UNGEGN and work on updates to the ISO 3166 standard.
4. DGC summarised the 9th International Socio-Cultural Knowledge Workshop, held at Shrivenham on 23-25th May. The next workshop, scheduled for 27-29 June 2017, would be combined with its 'sister event' on culture and conflict.
5. PCGN described a toponymic exchange visit to NGA St Louis. A variety of areas of collaboration had been deliberated during the visit. PCGN planned to host NGA staff in 2017.

6. PCGN outlined plans for the 31st BGN/PCGN Conference to be held 31st October-4th November in Washington, DC. PCGN would compile the conference papers and share with Committee members on request.
7. DGC described their attendance at a seminar entitled ‘Borders’, at Germany’s Bundeswehr Geoinformation Service (BGIS).
8. PCGN described their work on the annual update of the ISO 3166-2 country subdivision codes. Updates would be approved and published in November 2016. The ISO 3166 codes were now publically available on the ISO OBP (Online Browsing Platform).
9. The UNGEGN Bureau (of which Head PCGN was a member) had drafted a proposal for collaboration between UNGEGN and UN-GGIM. Both groups report to the UN Statistics Division.
10. BBCM described the recent visit of PCGN, where PCGN had met with BBC editorial staff as well as monitoring staff. BBCM, BBC editorial staff and PCGN agreed to share information about BBCM name changes.
11. BL described the upcoming exhibition at the British Library entitled “Maps and the 20th Century: Drawing the Line”.
12. DGC described the recent meeting of the Human Dimensions Community of Interest. The main focus of DGC work had been creating GeoNames Research Files. PCGN offered to share the country policy statements that PCGN compile for DGC to other committee members.
13. FCO work has continued on both the Territories Register and the Countries Register.
14. PCGN described an information paper on Bangladesh, detailing the 2015 exchange of enclaves between India and Bangladesh. PCGN had collaborated with NGA on the paper.
15. PCGN reported that an updated version of the Nigeria Toponymic Factfile was available on the PCGN website.
16. PCGN updated the Committee on the new English-language country name Czechia, noting that the new name had been incorporated into the UN Terminology database in July. PCGN and BGN would discuss the proposed new state title of The Gambia at the 31st BGN/PCGN Conference.
17. PCGN described recent liaison meetings and visits with BBCM, DGC, and FCO. PCGN continued to liaise with TNA to fulfil PCGN’s archiving obligations.

18. DGC mentioned the difficulties with coding the administrative structure of the UK for DGC's names database, noting the absence of a single authority for names in the UK.
19. The date for the next meeting would be agreed at a later date.