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PCGN Meeting Minutes, Monday 23rd July 2018
Royal Geographical Society, London

Present

PCGN Staff

Defence Geographic Centre (JFIG-DGC)

United Kingdom Hydrographic Office (UKHO)

Defence Language Service (DLS)

Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)

BBC Monitoring (BBCM)

Apologies for absence: Royal Scottish Geographical Society, Ordnance Survey and British Library.

1. Head PCGN welcomed the Committee members.
2. The Minutes of the 201st meeting were considered and action items arising discussed.
3. Head PCGN briefly discussed the previously circulated report detailing recent work completed by the PCGN staff.
4. Head PCGN described the 32nd BGN/PCGN Conference, thanking DGC and FCO for hosting a day at each, which had given staff at those locations a chance to take part.
5. PCGN had taken part in meetings of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) Working Groups on Country Names and Romanization Systems in March.
6. PCGN detailed their participation at an international conference on Naming, Identity and Tourism at the University of Basilicata in May 2018 and two Working Groups of ISO Technical Committee 46 in Lisbon in May. PCGN was working on the annual update of the ISO 3166-2 country subdivision codes.

7. Upcoming meetings for PCGN included UN working group meetings in Riga in September and Brussels in October 2018.
8. DLS described their sources for names of features in the South China Sea. PCGN recommended using the PCGN list of names as an additional source. DLS and PCGN also discussed sources for place names in Kazakhstan.
9. UKHO had received a request to alter a name on UKHO charts of Cayman Islands. UKHO offered to provide historic charts for PCGN's centenary celebrations.
10. FCO reported on the country name change of Swaziland to Eswatini. They also mentioned their work to update various FCO briefing maps.
11. DGC reported on recent names work for the Multinational Geospatial Co-production Programme (MGCP).
12. PCGN mentioned that three Toponymic Factfiles would be distributed shortly: a new Factfile for Niger plus updated Factfiles on Mali and Saudi Arabia.
13. A PCGN information paper concerning the name change of Swaziland to Eswatini had been distributed to the Committee and the Cross-Government Geography Group (CGGG). The name change had been implemented on PCGN's website.
14. PCGN presented updated information papers on Cambodia and Tanzania. It was noted that Cambodia's preparation of a new Romanization system was ongoing. Tanzania was now divided into 31 regions at first-order administrative level (ADM1).
15. PCGN provided a brief update on administrative reform in Estonia.
16. PCGN had reissued the list of administrative divisions on Crimea to provide additional clarity on HMG's policy to recognise Crimea as being part of Ukraine, therefore Ukrainian geographical names were the names recognised by HMG.
17. The PCGN information paper listing the Names of dependent territories, United Kingdom Overseas Territories, and other entities had been distributed to the Committee. PCGN would work with FCO on the current Territories Register.
18. PCGN presented a paper describing the respelling of Russian names in Kazakhstan. The city of Shymkent had been elevated to a first-order administrative division in June 2018.
19. PCGN's attendance at the BBCM Staff and User Conference was mentioned.
20. No items were raised under AOB.
21. Head PCGN thanked the Committee members for their participation and their ongoing support in promoting and sharing PCGN's work.