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PCGN Meeting Minutes, Monday 20th January 2014
RGS, London

Present

██████████	Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) (Chair)
██████████	Head PCGN
██████████	PCGN Senior Toponymist
██████████	PCGN Toponymist
██████████	Defence Geographic Centre (JFIG-DGC)
██████████	Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)
██████████	Hydrographic Office (UKHO)
██████████	Hydrographic Office (UKHO)
██████████	Defence Geographic Centre (JFIG-DGC)
██████████	BBC Monitoring (BBCM)
██████████	BBC Monitoring (BBCM)
██████████	Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)

1. ██████████ acting as Chairman in the absence of ██████████ (JFIG-DGC) opened the meeting. Apologies for absence had been received from ██████████ (JFIG-DGC); ██████████ (Royal Scottish Geographical Society); ██████████ (OS) and ██████████ (Amey Mapping).
2. The Minutes of the 189th Meeting on 7th October 2013 were considered and approved; the action items arising were discussed. ██████████ reported that the presentation of the date of policies and romanisation systems was discussed at the 29th BGN/PCGN Conference. ██████████ stated that while the longevity of the systems was a matter of great pride for PCGN, their dates had caused ambiguity for some customers, giving the impression that the systems might be out-of-date. The Conference had agreed that the addition of a note "Current as of" to each Romanisation system was a good idea. The Conference also discussed the possibility of producing a new edition of the BGN/PCGN book *Romanization Systems and Roman-Script Spelling Conventions*, but both parties agreed that the technicalities of producing a new version were too onerous to be embarked upon at

this time. However, it was agreed that a review of the systems would be undertaken and a composite file of all the pdf versions of the systems compiled.

3. Regarding the presentation of Israeli settlement names, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] reported that he and [REDACTED] had met with relevant FCO staff in November 2013 to discuss the matter and had agreed a way forward. [REDACTED]

Ongoing
Action: FCO

4. [REDACTED] reported on the Myanmar/Burma country name question and reiterated that UK policy remained to use Burma as the country name, despite changes at the BBC.

5. [REDACTED] reported on the changes at UKHO, which meant that this would be the last Committee meeting he would attend as the UKHO representative. He introduced [REDACTED], who would be the new committee member for UKHO. [REDACTED] is a Geographic Manager of one of UKHO's Regional Teams. [REDACTED] had given each UKHO Regional Team a brief on geographical names issues. The lack of a dedicated UKHO geographical names specialist would likely reduce the amount of time and effort that could be spent on geographical names in the future in that organisation.

6. [REDACTED] introduced [REDACTED], who had been recruited as a new member of the PCGN team; she was delighted that [REDACTED] had agreed to join the team and that the full complement of three staff would enable more proactive work to be undertaken.

7. [REDACTED] raised the issue of PCGN committee membership, noting that PCGN was keen to have as engaged a committee as possible and thanking those members present for their valuable contribution. PCGN proposed that each organisation nominate a deputy who would attend on behalf of the member if they were unavailable. [REDACTED] announced PCGN's intention to reinvigorate [REDACTED] and DIAS participation and to invite Amey Mapping to participate. A meeting between PCGN and Amey was planned. [REDACTED] reiterated PCGN's wish to continue the successful relationship that had built up with UKHO and encouraged [REDACTED] and his colleagues to contact PCGN if they required any assistance.

Action: All
members

8. [REDACTED] reported on recent work completed by the PCGN staff. A report had been circulated to the Committee. The 29th BGN/PCGN Conference had been the focus of policy work. The report listed the many and various papers, and members were asked to contact PCGN if they required more information on any topic listed or wished to read any of the papers. Other international work included input into BGN's FNC papers and ISO. The usual product support and review of briefing maps continued. [REDACTED] highlighted operational work on Syria, which DGC had shared with the UN under a new data-sharing agreement and had

received very positive feedback. PCGN had also met with DSTL to discuss the project to assess the feasibility of creating a UK names database. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] also mentioned the training being undertaken by PCGN staff.

9. [REDACTED] described the international meetings in which PCGN had participated. These included the 29th BGN/PCGN Conference, which had been delayed due to the US government shutdown. [REDACTED] thanked [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] for their participation in the Conference. She also noted that the Romanisation systems approved by the conference would shortly be posted on the PCGN website.

Action:
PCGN

10. [REDACTED] noted that there were several upcoming international meetings, which PCGN hoped to attend. It was hoped that [REDACTED] [REDACTED] would attend the UNGEGN Session in New York (28 April-2 May 2014) and associated meetings, followed by the ISO meeting to be held in Washington DC the following week. It was hoped to combine the ISO meeting with visits to BGN members and to NGA to introduce Mrs Dollimore to PCGN's US partners. The FCO hoped to send a representative to the UNGEGN Session.

11. Members reported on their organisations' recent toponymic work. [REDACTED] provided an update on the recent work of DGC Names Branch, where the focus had been on Iranian 1:50,000-scale mapping and research ahead of the production of a C-GIS over Lebanon. Research into UAE Roman-script and native names was ongoing. Other tasks included Cyprus products, jointly with UKHO, and Arc products over Niger and Lebanon. [REDACTED] had completed Six Sigma (Lean) training and would be reviewing DGC names procedures. [REDACTED] recommended the Human Geography workshop to be held in June, having attended this event previously. [REDACTED] would forward the details.

Action: DGC

12. [REDACTED] reported that UKHO currently had no specific areas of concern, except the usual topics. He also informed the Committee that the ENC's of the South China Sea produced by the East Asia Hydrographic Commission and using Chinese names had been distributed without any explanatory note (against his advice), noting at least that this was not badged as a UK product.
13. [REDACTED] reported that with the exception of the Burma/Myanmar question, there had been no toponymic issues of note at BBCM since the last meeting.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

15. [REDACTED] reported on other toponymic matters of note at the FCO. He thanked PCGN for notifying FCO about the change in country name for Cape Verde (see

para.19). He mentioned that [REDACTED] had recently intercepted and corrected a product which had showed Taiwan as a country and discussed recent problems of providing nationality data for a government website drop-down menu.

16. [REDACTED] reported on Lebanon names policy, discussed at previous committee meetings and at the 29th BGN/PCGN Conference, where PCGN had presented a paper outlining the Committee's preference for maintaining the status quo [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] noted that this differed from the previous BGN proposal, discussed at the last Committee meeting, which had been for dual approved names (French-style and Romanised Arabic). The merits of both proposals had been discussed at the conference and following reservations expressed by both [REDACTED] and PCGN, BGN staff were no longer planning on putting their recommendation before the FNC at this time. As a compromise, BGN and PCGN had agreed to attempt some standardisation of the inconsistencies found in the Roman-script names e.g. an agreed romanisation for

the term seen variously as Muḥāfazāh, Mohafazat, Mouhafazat and Mohafazah.

[REDACTED] asked members to inform PCGN of any areas they felt required standardisation. [REDACTED] reiterated the importance of a joint BGN/PCGN approach, especially in the MENA region and noted that the matter would be discussed further at the VTC with BGN on 10th February.

17. [REDACTED] reported on Israeli settlement names, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] A UK policy on the presentation of Israeli settlement names was agreed at a meeting between PCGN and FCO staff in November 2013. The UK approach would be to use Hebrew names romanised according to the BGN/PCGN Romanisation System for Hebrew. Arabic names would be collected by PCGN but not routinely used on HMG products and Anglicised names may be used in an English-language context. BGN and PCGN were reviewing the Romanisation system for Hebrew and would welcome suggestions from the members. [REDACTED] mentioned the inclusion of a disclaimer on products dealing with this sensitive area and [REDACTED] confirmed that it had been agreed that one should be included. [REDACTED]

confirmed that [REDACTED] of FCO had forwarded an EU list of settlements and their postcodes.

18. [REDACTED] briefed the committee on a recent country name change for Cape Verde. PCGN had seen a letter to the UN requesting that Cabo Verde and Republic of Cabo Verde be used as the short and long form names in the UN and the UK Ambassador in Dakar had received correspondence similarly requesting that the state title used by the UK reflect the Portuguese form Cabo Verde. Accordingly, the UK would use the state title Republic of Cabo Verde, though, as Cape Verde was widely used in English, this would remain the country name. [REDACTED] noted that this change had been made to the FCO GNI and would shortly be made on the PCGN website. [REDACTED] said that it was not yet certain which name BBCM would use.
19. [REDACTED] mentioned that in addition to meeting the Korean Ambassador, and multiple other visits to DGC and FCO, she and [REDACTED] had visited Ordnance Survey. Liaison visits to FCO, UKHO and Amey were also planned.
20. Under AOB, the migration of the PCGN website to .gov.uk was discussed. The Committee thanked Lt Cdr Marshall for his contribution over the years. The next PCGN Committee meeting was expected to be in June.
21. The Chairman closed the meeting thanking the Members for their attendance.

Action: PCGN

Action Items – Summary

- All members would propose the name of a deputy Committee member for their organisation.
- PCGN would post the most recently approved Romanisation Systems and the Cape Verde name change on the PCGN website.
- [REDACTED] would forward details of the Human Geography Workshop – completed.