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PCGN Meeting Minutes, Monday 27th February 2017
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)

Apologies for absence: OS, DGC, BL and RSGS.

1. The Chair thanked the BBCM delegate for their support and contributions to PCGN's work over the past 11 years.
2. The Minutes of the 197th meeting on 10th October 2016 were considered and the action items arising discussed.
3. Head PCGN reported that a significant proportion of PCGN's work had been in preparation for the 31st BGN/PCGN Conference. FCO thanked PCGN for the advice they had provided on policies and names for FCO briefing maps.
4. The 31st BGN/PCGN Conference had provided PCGN and BGN with the opportunity to discuss specific toponymic subjects, agree updates to Romanization systems and maintain BGN/PCGN policy harmony.
5. PCGN described their attendance at the annual ISO 3166 (country codes and subdivisions) Maintenance Agency meeting. Significant effort had gone into improving the currency of the 3166-2 part of the standard. The official list of user-assigned codes (e.g. XKS, used by several nations as a code for Kosovo), would no longer be maintained.
6. The Upcoming United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) Working Group meetings were discussed.
7. PCGN reported that the 11th United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (UNCSGN) would be taking place in August in New York.

8. PCGN had reviewed the 2002 draft version of the Names and Limits of Oceans and Seas (S23) document ahead of the upcoming International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO) Assembly.
9. BBCM explained that it was now following BBC News Corporation policy for geographical names.
10. DGC reported on work on the MOD Gazetteer and the Names Database. The DGC iGRIPs product would be renamed 'Country Insight' and would be produced jointly with the US and Germany.
11. FCO work had continued on both the Territory Register and the Country Register. FCO had also worked on issues related to the IHO meeting.
12. UKHO described an office reorganisation. Ukraine name changes provided by PCGN had been actioned as appropriate. PCGN would liaise with UKHO about name changes in South Africa. Policy on the Hala'ib Triangle was mentioned.
13. DLS and PCGN had discussed minority names in China in preparation for the BGN/PCGN Conference. Ways to raise the profile of PCGN within DI were discussed.
14. PCGN described an updated Pakistan Factfile and reported that it would soon be posted on the PCGN website.
15. PCGN summarised an information paper on The Gambia, which described the administrative structure and the country name and state title.
16. PCGN described an information paper about the names of administrative divisions in Sudan.
17. PCGN reported on recent research on Hawaiian names. An information paper would be forthcoming.
18. There was nothing to discuss under 'Any Other Business'.
19. The date for the next meeting would be agreed at a later date. The chair thanked the Committee members for their participation and closed the meeting.