A retrospective of the years 2007-2011

Following many successful years of Timothy Trainor's chairmanship, the chair of the Commission passed on to Peter Jordan at ICC Moscow in 2007. The main intention in this new period was to elaborate and, if possible, to complete and publish a "cook book" for atlas editors. While an editorial board has been established, a detailed list of contents has been set up after intensive discussions (see right side), authors for all chapters could be engaged and several chapters have indeed been written, the book lacks still some contributions and could thus not be published so far. Prospects are good, however, to have it completed rather early in the next period of office.

Milestones of commission work in the past four years were – besides implementing a Commission website – meetings and workshops. In addition to the usual business meetings at the conferences in Moscow and Santiago, the Commission organized workshops in Timişoara (Romania) and Yogyakarta (Indonesia).

Workshop in Timişoara (Romania), 9-13 September 2008

This joint meeting with the Working Group on Exonyms of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) was hosted by the West University in Timişoara. In the focus of discussions were geographical names and their different modes of use as well as the structure of the "cook book".

48 colleagues from 18 countries and 4 continents attended the workshop. UNGEGN experts contributed essentially to the questions of rendering geographical names in atlases.

Old main square in Timişoara

In front of the Gadjah Mada University of Yogyakarta

Workshop in Yogyakarta (Indonesia), 20-21 October 2010

The meeting was organised jointly with the National Coordinating Agency for Survey and Mapping, Indonesia, the Faculty of Geography of the Gadjah Mada University of Yogyakarta, the Indonesian Cartography Association, the Indonesian Geography Association and the Association of Geographers of the Gadjah Mada University. It was composed of a workshop titled "Atlases as expressions and carriers of space-related identity" (20 October) and of a seminar on "The strategic role of maps in development" (21 October). It was also a good opportunity to present Volume II of the National Atlas of Indonesia. The meeting was attended by more than 150 participants, mainly from Indonesia, and received a wide echo in Indonesian media.

Atlas Cook Book
Ten steps towards successful atlas editing
(ed. by Asche, Jordan, Sieber, Williams)

Chapters:

(1) **Editorial aspects (internal)** (Asche, GER): Target group, atlas type, platform (DVD/Web/print/mixed), atlas structure

(2) Organization and marketing (external) (Williams, CAN): Business plan, timetable and milestones, marketing, product distribution, staff members, political and scientific embedding/support

(3) Atlas use (Ormeling/van Elzakker, NED): Atlas access, map reading, map analysis, map interpretation

(4) Prototyping and evaluation (Kramers, CAN): Usability, functionality, tests, user feedback, hotline

(5) Thematic/geographic content (Jordan, AUT): Thematic issues/chapters, geographic area, treatment of geographical names

(6) Data management (Trainor, USA): Data types: geometry data, statistical data; data base: relational, distributed mapping (Web); data processing, workflow

(7) Multimedia elements (Voželinek, CZE): Type of elements (text, pictures, sound, movies etc.), depth of integration (embedded/links)

(8) GUI and layout (Sieber/Cron, SUI): Atlas format, map format, map access (geographic, thematic), intro/cover, graphical means (color etc.)

(9) Map design and visualization (Spiess, SUI): Base maps, visualization modi (e.g., insular maps, 2D/3D maps), map types (raster, choropleth, diagrams, line, point symbols), map sections, map complexity/density/generalization; map structure (layer management), map graphics (color schemes, symbolization, fonts etc.), animation

(10) Functionality: tools and interactivity (Sieber/Cron/Wiesmann, SUI): Level of interactivity (basic/advanced), general tools, geographic tools, thematic map tools, information tools