

GEBCO SUB-COMMITTEE ON UNDERSEA FEATURE NAMES (SCUFN)

21st Meeting, 19-22 May 2008, Jeju Island, Rep of Korea

followed with the

3rd Symposium on Application of Marine Geophysical Data and Undersea Feature Names, 23 May

The Rep of Korea's National Oceanographic Research Institute (NORI) hosted the 21st meeting of the IHO-IOC GEBCO Sub-Committee on Undersea Feature Names (SCUFN) in Jeju Island, 19-22 May 2008. The meeting was chaired by Dr Hans Werner Schenke (Germany) and attended by 23 participants from Argentina, Brazil, Germany, Hungary, India, Japan, Rep of Korea, Mexico, New Zealand, Russia, USA and IHB. This included 9 out of the current 11 SCUFN members, plus the secretary (IHB). A welcome speech was given by Mr. Ye Jong WOO, Director of NORI and Chairman of the Korean Committee on Marine Geographical Names. The meeting welcomed Ms. Ksenia Dobrolyubova (Geological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences) as new member appointed by IOC.

In total, the meeting considered 48 names, of which 29 were the subject of new name proposals received at the IHB, as SCUFN Secretariat, from Argentina, Brazil, Japan, Rep of Korea and Russia. After careful examination of each proposal, including the supporting survey data / bathymetry and the reason for the choice of name, the meeting eventually accepted 33 new names for inclusion in the GEBCO Gazetteer of Undersea Feature Names, which is maintained at the IHB. Additionally, 9 names/features will be placed in a "reserved" section of the Gazetteer, pending further clarification / supporting documentation or the submission of an alternative name. As a result, a new GEBCO Gazetteer will be generated as an Excel file, for use in GEBCO and IBC products, and by Member States when new editions of INT charts / ENCs are prepared.

The meeting reviewed and agreed the English part of a new 4th edition of IHO-IOC publication B-6 *Standardization of Undersea Feature Names*. The new edition takes account of the revised Terms of Reference and new Rules of Procedures for SCUFN, which have recently been approved by Member States. The meeting also acknowledged the submission of the following draft language versions of B-6, 4th edition: E/French, E/Spanish, E/Russian, E/Japanese and E/Korean. The non-English part of each language version will be updated to reflect the changes agreed at the meeting. It is intended to have the five language versions of B-6, 4th edition published by the IHB at the same time.

Other topics addressed by the meeting included:

- A review of the IHO-IOC Undersea Feature Name Proposal form, in view of its improvement and modernization, and its harmonization with the form used by ACUF (Advisory Committee on Undersea Features, of the US Board of Geographic Names). As a result, a new form has been agreed.
- Consideration of reports on the GEBCO Gazetteer from the British Oceanographic Data Centre (BODC) and the German Alfred Wegener Institute (AWI), and of proposals for improving the Gazetteer. This will result, in particular, in corrections to the Gazetteer and additional positions to a number of features in the Gazetteer, in order to better define their shape and areal extension.
- Consideration of a report on the examination of 73 "unnamed" seamounts in the central Pacific Ocean, which were identified from the GEBCO Digital Atlas. The study was conducted by a SCUFN member, Walter Reynoso-Peralta (Argentina), based on the best available bathymetry. This has revealed that 5 seamounts had already been named and that 9 seamounts did not exist.

The 2009 meeting of SCUFN has been planned in Brest, France, following invitation by the French Hydrographic Office (SHOM).

The 3rd Symposium on Application of Marine Geophysical Data and Undersea Feature Names, organized by the Korean Cartographic Association and sponsored by NORI, took place at same location on 23 May 2008. Various papers, most of them relating to undersea feature naming, were presented at this occasion. This included a review of SCUFN and ACUF procedural similarities and differences, and a method of determination of sea limits in the Southern Ocean, based on the existing bathymetry. More details on the symposium can be found at <http://geo.khu.ac.kr/marinesympo>.

It has to be recorded that the organization of the SCUFN meeting and the symposium by NORI and Prof. Sung Jae CHOO (Kyunghee University, Seoul) was just outstanding.