

## Proposal for Forming an IAA Study Group SG 6.13

**Title of Study:**

**SPACE TERMINOLOGY FOR AFRICA**

**Proposer(s):**

*(Must be member(s) of the Academy M or CM)*

**MR. TOMUKUM CHIA, Regional Secretary, IAA, Cameroon.**

**Primary IAA Commission Preference:**

*(From Commission 1 to Commission 6)*

**COMMISSION 6 Space and Society: Culture and Education**

*Commissions: 1 Space Physical Sciences, 2 Space Life Sciences, 3 Space Technology & Systems Development, 4 Space Systems Operations & Utilization, 5 Space Policy, Law & Economics, 6 Space and Society: Culture and Education*

**Secondary IAA Commission Interests:**

*(From Commission 1 to Commission 6)*

**NONE**

### Members of Study Team

**Chair(s):**

*(Must be member(s) of the Academy, M or CM)*

**Mr. Tomukum Chia, Regional Secretary, IAA, Cameroon**  
**Dr. Jean – Michel Contant, Secretary General, IAA, France**

**Secretary:**

**Ms. Ful Gladys Nange, ASTI, University of Buea, Cameroon.**

**Other Members:**

*(Open to members and non- members of the Academy)*

**Prof.C. Emmanuel Nges, University of Buea, Cameroon**  
**Mrs. Ayeah Mary Fointen, Ndop, Cameroon**  
**Ms. Ntam Joyce Ndole, Muyuka, Cameroon**  
**Mr. Ngong-Nassah Nelson Akoni, Baingo, Cameroon**  
**Mr. Kawuldim Paul, BAMENDA, Cameroon**  
**Mr. Chia Zebedee, Belo Cameroon**

**Mr. Peter C. Kenya**  
**Mrs. Chiabi Imm-Relindis Ncham**  
**Mr. Mawain Valentine, Fundong, Cameroon**  
**Dr. Wiseman T., Pretoria, South Africa.**  
**Dr. Hililu A. Shaba, Abuja, Nigeria.**  
**Mrs. Ncham Jacqueline, Ashing, Cameroon**  
**Dr. Ngong Nassah, Ndotop 1, Bamenda, Cameroon**

### **Short Description of Scope of Study**

#### **Overall Goal:**

*(Expected scientific or practical benefit of the study group's efforts)*

In view of the International Astronautical Congress, IAC, to be held in Cape Town South Africa and the Space Summit in Washington, United States of America. It is intended in this study to identify the major, top ten or top 15 of the 2000 languages spoken in Africa. The criteria used for selection will be selected in the number of million of people speaking the language and or relevant to space interest. Once identified, we will propose to establish contact with space experts from the selected countries and then select a language Co-ordinator and form a nucleus team for each language. Then, the team will be invited to translate the basic list of space terms established by the Academy in time for publication in October, 2012.

One of our goal is to harmonize the various languages accros the continent and safeguard any that are on the verge of becoming extinct as well.

This study will be done in cooperation with the African Academy of Languages (ACALAN), SIL Cameroon and other similar organizations, Institutions, Universities, local linguistics experts in Africa. This is an ambitious programme that may double the number of languages of the current terminology activity of International Academy of Astronautics, IAA. Among identify languages to be selected by priority. The following are considered. Most spoken and their interest on space exploration and technology.

#### **Intermediate Goals:**

Africa has a wide variety of sign languages, many of which are language isolated and several other languages are whistled or drummed to communicate over long distances. To identify the most spoken inter-ethnic communication language in Africa. This is because, if clusters of up to a hundred similar languages are counted together, twelve are spoken by 75 percent and 15 by 85 percent of the first or additional language.

Cameroon and Nigeria has a high linguistic diversity of many African countries, (**Cameroon alone has 210, and Nigeria has 250, these are the greatest concentrations of linguistics in the world**). This has made language policy a vital issue in our IAA Study.

To create awareness of the value of African languages and their linguistic inheritance. Moreover, it will foster and stimulate the development of multilingualism. It will be a follow up of the African Union 2006, declaration of promoting the growth of African Languages. The final goal is to improve the literacy rates of African countries because many African states have low literacy levels, in part as a product of poor educational infrastructure and several regional and ethnic languages lacking an alphabet or writing systems and research methodology at all. In 2005, UNDP, ranked several African States at the bottom of its rankings.

**Methodology:**

*(Email works, workshops, stand alone conferences, interim publications, etc.)*

***Symposia, workshops, meetings, conferences and panel discussions.***

**Time Line:**

*(Cannot exceed three years)*

***2<sup>nd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> MAY 2010, Consultative meetings at IAA Regional Office in Yaounde, Cameroon***

***15<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> July, 2010, First IAA Regional Linguistic Conference at IAA Regional Office, ( By Invitation Only ).***

***August, 2010, First Draft to be Presented at IAA Office in Paris, France.***

***November, 2010. Second Draft Presentation at the Abuja, Nigeria Conference Final copy for publication, to be presented at the IAC2011, South Africa.***

**Final Product (Report, Publication, etc.):**

***Final Product for Report, publication, to be presented at the IAC2011, South Africa, and Publish at the IAA ACTA ASTRONAUTICA, journals, various Space Agencies, Organizations, Astronautics, (Cosmonauts), Institutions and various GOVERNMENTS..***

**Target Community:**

**Various Governments, Organizations, Institutions, Space Agencies, Astronautics, Outreached communities, NGOs, CIGs,**

**Teachers, Local leaders and practitioners.**

**Support Needed:**

**YES, for logistics and organizing conferences, workshops and consultations.**

**Potential Sponsors:**

International Academy of Astronautics, UNESCO, universities, Space Agencies, Institutions and schools.

*To be returned to the IAA Secretary General Paris*

*by fax: 33 1 47 23 82 16 or*

*by email: [sgeneral@iaaemail.org](mailto:sgeneral@iaaemail.org)*

**Date:**

*(No Signature required if document authenticated).*

**Follow-up Section for IAA use only**

<b>Initial Phase</b>
<b>Application received:</b>
<b>Commission Approved:</b>
<b>SAC Approved:</b>
<b>Web Site Section opened:</b>
<b>Members Formally Appointed by IAA:</b>

<b>Final Phase</b>
<b>Peer Review by Commission Completed:</b>
<b>Recommended by the Commission:</b>
<b>Final Report Received:</b>
<b>SAC Approved:</b>
<b>BOT Accepted:</b>
<b>Publisher Selected:</b>
<b>Study Published:</b>