

**Ninth United Nations Conference on the
Standardization of Geographical Names**

New York, 21 - 30 August 2007

Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

**Reports by Governments on the situation in their countries
and on the progress made in the standardization of
geographical names since the Eighth Conference**

Brunei Darussalam Country Report

Submitted by Brunei Darussalam**

* E/CONF.98/1.

** Prepared by the Survey Department, Brunei Darussalam.



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UNITED NATIONS GROUP OF EXPERTS ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES (UNGEGN)

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM COUNTRY REPORT

(Status on Toponymic Activities

June 2007)

Background

- Formation of Committee on Geographical names in 1976
- New Committee Members in 2006
 - Director of Language and Literature
 - Surveyor General
 - Others
 - Historical
 - Museum
 - Land
 - Town and Country Planning
 - District Offices
 - Municipal
 - Education
 - PWD

Procedures

- Maps and information prepared
- Sources persons contacted
- Fieldwork / Interview
- Data Entry in Database
- Committee Meeting
- Names approved by National Committee on Geographical Names

- current local usage
- historical background
- avoiding repetition of names
- avoiding of more than one name for the same feature
- clarification of the precise extent of each individual geographical name
- Avoiding unsuitable names

Meetings

- Held 5 meetings since May 2006
- Names approved 377
- Web Site Launched in July 2007
- <http://www.survey.gov.bn/namageo/>
- Frequency of meeting once in two months

Problems

- Attendance of members
- Manually written maps for distribution
- Lack of facts and sources
- Spelling and Pronunciation

- The local spoken form of the name recorded on tape and, as far as possible, written in the Phonetic notation approved the National Geographic Names Committee.
- The character, extent the position of the feature named are determined and recorded as accurate as possible, and the meaning of the generic terms used locally are clearly defined.
- Written and spoken form of the name and its meaning according to local inhabitants.
- Historical background and the evolution of the names as known to the elders in the areas

Future Directions

- Training
- Membership review
- Circulation of proposal instead of meeting
 - Electronically
- Use of digital maps
- Linking the database to geo database
- Spelling and pronunciation dictionary
- Benchmarking with other agencies



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THANK YOU