

28 June 2017

Original: English

---

**11<sup>th</sup> United Nations Conference on the  
Standardization of Geographical Names**

New York, 8 -17 August 2017

Item 6 of the provisional agenda\*

**Reports on the work of the United Nations Group of Experts  
on Geographical Names, its divisions, working groups and  
task teams since the Tenth Conference**

**Report of the Asia South-East (ASE) Division**

Submitted by the Asia South-East (ASE) Division \*\*

---

\* E/CONF.105/1

\*\* Prepared by Dr. Peter N. Tiangco (Philippines), Chair, Asia South-East Division

## **Report of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names Asia South-East Division (UNGEGN ASED)**

### **A. Summary**

The United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names for Asia South-East Division (UNGEGN ASED), in accordance with the adoption of Resolution X/5 at the 27<sup>th</sup> UNGEGN Session, comprises twelve (12) member countries namely Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam.

The Division attended the 29<sup>th</sup> UNGEGN Session in Bangkok and organized a side event meeting which resolved the separation of its Regional Map and Gazetteer from the Pacific South West Division (PSW). Following this side event, the 4<sup>th</sup> Divisional Meeting was conducted in Kuala Lumpur and the regional training in toponymy was approved. However, due to unavoidable circumstances, the regional training will be conducted in 2018.

### **B. Divisional Activities**

#### **1. Meetings**

- 1.1. The 1<sup>st</sup> Divisional Meeting was held in Brunei Darussalam on 14 May 2013. Delegates from Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Singapore participated in the said meeting.
- 1.2. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Divisional Meeting was held in Bandung, Indonesia on 02 April 2014. Delegates from Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Vietnam participated in the meeting.
- 1.3. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Divisional Meeting was held in Hanoi, Viet Nam on 14 May 2015 wherein seven (7) member countries namely Brunei, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Vietnam attended.
- 1.4. A side event meeting for ASE Division was held during the 29<sup>th</sup> UNGEGN Session in Bangkok, Thailand on 25 April 2016. It was attended by twenty one (21) experts from Brunei, Indonesia, Philippines and Sri Lanka. The meeting resolved the turnover of Regional Map and Gazetteer developed by Australia.
- 1.5. The 4<sup>th</sup> Divisional Meeting was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 17 October 2016 in conjunction with the UN-GGIM International Forum on Policy and Legal Frameworks. It was attended by six (6) member countries namely Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Vietnam.

#### **2. Resolutions of 4<sup>th</sup> Divisional Meeting on 17 October 2016**

- 2.1. The training program will be held in the Philippines in conjunction with the 5<sup>th</sup> Divisional Meeting of UNGEGN-ASE Division.

- 2.2. Indonesia will provide each member country with their respective portion of the Regional Gazetteer and Generic Names Table for updating.
- 2.3. Member countries will actively contribute to the Division's website.
- 2.4. Malaysia will upload their guidelines on naming islands and geographic entities to the Division's website.
- 2.5. Member countries that were unable to attend the 4<sup>th</sup> Divisional Meeting will be informed of the Minutes of Meeting.

### **3. Summary of Country Reports during the 4th ASE Divisional Meeting**

#### 3.1. Brunei Darussalam

The Acting Surveyor of the National Geographical Names Committee (JKNG) reported that various activities were accomplished in the standardization of geographic names. Such activities include collection of geographic names concentrated in rural areas and conduct of meetings and interviews with the local community. Their latest achievement was the submission of 1,194 geographical names to the Attorney General for inclusion to the gazetteer.

#### 3.2. Indonesia

Indonesia presented its national activities related to the standardization of geographical names which include verification of island names, administrative regional names and natural geographical names. Moreover, they developed a toponym data acquisition mobile application named SAKTI (*Sistem Akuisisi Toponim Indonesia*) which will make data collection easier. Indonesia also conducted its 1<sup>st</sup> national seminar on toponymy for all government officials in November 2016.

#### 3.3. Malaysia

The Malaysian National Committee on Geographical Names (MNCGN) spearheaded meetings and workshops highlighting updates and work progress on the implementation and guidelines of geographical names. It developed the Malaysian Geographical Names Database and Gazetteer, a web-based geographical names database and gazetteer also called *MyGeoName* which contains modules such as searching, Arabic translation, audio recording and online updating, among others. They also developed a Geographical Names Database and toponymic guidelines. The guidelines will be shared through the ASE Division website for reference.

#### 3.4. Philippines

The Philippines reported activities in the implementation of geographical names in the country such as initial efforts in the inventory of islands,

integration of geographical names in topographic map updating and the online geographic database of the country (i.e. The Philippine Geoportal). The Philippine Standard Geographic Code (PSGC) which classifies local government units in the country was recently updated in June 2016. Additionally, the country will launch its Philippine Island Inventory Project to verify geographical names of islands using remote sensing technologies and field validation techniques.

### 3.5. Singapore

Singapore reported that their country has been completely mapped and its geographical names already established. There is an authority in Singapore which provides naming guidelines and approves building and street names. Although no major activities on geographical names are being implemented, Singapore extends its full support in ASE Division's efforts.

### 3.6. Vietnam

The Department of Survey and Mapping of Viet Nam (DOSMVN) reported continuous improvement on the standardization of toponym for cities and provinces of the country. Remaining provinces in the North and South West areas will be implemented in 2016 to 2017. Moreover, they promulgated gazetteers of its thirty five (35) provinces and organized conferences and training courses on geographical names.

## **C. Activities of UNGEGN ASED**

### 1. ASE Division's Email, Website and Newsletter

Indonesia maintains the email ([asedivision@gmail.com](mailto:asedivision@gmail.com)) and website (<http://asedivision-ungegn.org>) as well as generic terms and newsletter of ASE Division.

### 2. First Regional Training in Toponymy to be held in 2018

The Division coordinated with the Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy and requested the training course this year. But due to unavoidable circumstances, the training was postponed and will be conducted next year in the Philippines.

### 3. Venue of the Next UNGEGN ASE Divisional Meeting in 2017

Since the regional training course did not push through, the 5th Divisional Meeting will be held as a side event during the 30<sup>th</sup> UNGEGN Session in New York.