



## Economic and Social Council

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### **Tenth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names**

New York, 31 July – 9 August 2012

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 Ninth Conference  
(for distribution only).**

### **National Report of the Republic of Indonesia**

Submitted by Indonesia\*\*

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\*\* Prepared by the Secretariat of the National Team for the Standardization of Geographical Names, Indonesia.

## **Summary (Main Issues)**

1. National Names Authority  
(Ref.: Resolution 4/1967 :Recommendation A on National Standardization and Resolution 15/1987 on Establishment of Geographical Names Authorities)
2. National Priorities for Naming the Islands  
Being an Archipelagic State (UNCLOS 1982 Part IV), about 46.7% of the number of islands have no names yet (Ref.: Publication of the Ministry for Home Affairs as at 30 November 2006)
3. National Programs  
Activity since the 9th UNCSGN until to date focused on the following activities: coaching and empowering to the local authority names, verification and validation of geographical names, the 4th International toponymic training cooperation with UNGEGN, making guidelines for the standardization.
4. Contributing to divisional activity  
The divisional project namely "Regional Gazetteer and map" has been officially declared over, then Indonesia has proposed two activities: firstly, "Generic terms across languages in the region". This activity as a form of tribute to Prof. Jacob Rais who contributed on toponymy developing in Indonesia. Secondly, news letter and web site will be managed by Geospatial Information Agency (BIG) as Divisional activity.

## **Background**

Indonesia has a long history of population movements and settlements in the past and being a melting pot of all races coming from the Pacific, South and South-East Asia, China, Middle East and Europe. Indonesia has about 746 local / ethnic languages that make up the unity of Indonesia's population and enrich the national language "Indonesian", spread over 13.466 islands. This condition causes the ambiguous geographical names, it could have an impact on social and economic conditions that occur in people without realizing it. Therefore, the National Team for the Standardization of Topographic Names which was established by Presidential Decree No.112 of 2006, has the authority to standardize and manage geographical names throughout the country, in order to achieve the orderly administration of good governance.

### **A. National Names Authority in Indonesia**

The Government of Indonesia finally established a national geographical names authority, enacted through a Presidential Regulation No. 112/2006 on December 29, 2006. The organization is called the "National Team for the Standardization of Topographical Names". The Minister of Home Affairs is designated the authority and chaired the Team, supported by a cabinet level members, comprising the Minister of Defense, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Minister of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, and the Minister of Education and Culture. The Secretariat of the Team consists of two secretaries:

- a. the First Secretary is the Head of Badan Informasi Geospasial (BIG - Geospatial Information Agency) instead of the National Coordination Agency for Surveys and Mapping (BAKOSURTANAL), and
- b. the Second Secretary is the Director General of Public Administration of the Ministry for Home Affairs.

The mandate of the Team is to implement national standardization of topographical names/geographical names. The national standardization of names is based on local names. For that purpose a local names committee in each province were established.

## **B. National Priorities in Naming and Standardizing on the Islands**

Being an Archipelagic State, since 2004 the Government has established priority of naming islands. To proceed with Recommendation B of UN Resolution 4/1967, the Ministry of the Marine Affairs and Fisheries has embarked on intensive small island surveys, visiting each of the islands, however remote they are, in order to get the names from local people, its geographic coordinates by GPS surveys and other ancillary data, such as biophysical data. This stage have been conducted, such as surveyed (2005-2007), verified and standardized (2007-2008), as much as 13,466 islands, and adopted to be listed in the National Gazetteer. Concurrently a Government Gazette will be produced with the gazetteer as attachment for enforcement to the public at large.

## **C. National Programs**

1. Coaching and empowering to the local names authority are continuously carried out by the National Team for the Standardization of Geographical Names.

Since the year 2011 has implemented technical assistance or training to local government apparatus on the collection of geographical names in the framework of standardization of geographical names. Technical guidance is implemented within four (4) periods, each period consists of 20 participants. This technical guidance will be implemented also in 2012, and be conducted yearly.

In addition, toponymy socialization to be addressed to all stakeholders in government and the private sector (developers, media information, tourism, etc), and education as well.

In general, the development of local names authority slightly hampered due to lack of qualified human resources, and funding that have not been up in the area. To overcome this problem must be implemented socialization more intensive, and encourage local officials to provide funding for toponym activities in their respective area.

2. Verification and validation of topographical names all over the country
  - a. Number and the names of islands

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b. The names of prefectures (administrative areas)

At the end of the year 2011 the work on verifying and validating on administrative area names all over 33 provinces had been finished, that include over 399 kabupaten/regencies, 98 kota/municipalities, and 6693 kecamatan/districts.

c. The names of natural geographical features

For the standardization of natural geographical names feature will be implemented starting from 2012 – 2014. The implementation of this programme will be guided by the guidelines for collecting all natural geographical names have just completed.

d. The names of cultural geographical features

The cultural geographical names were a cultural heritage of our ancestors must be preserved, and it will be conducted after the collecting of natural geographical names are completed, starting from 2015-2017.

3. International training on toponymy

This training plan initially began with the discussion between the Head of Geospatial Information Agency (BIG) and the Chairman of UNGEGN-Working Group on Training, Mr. Ormeling, at the UNGEGN Session in Vienna 2011, that Indonesia proposed the fourth International Training on Toponymy to be held in Indonesia, September 17-21, 2012. The venue will be arranged in Yogyakarta, Center of Java.

This training are intended for local government officials related to the local names authority as a participants in the country, and participants from abroad will be offered to members of Southeast Asia and Pacific Southwest Division. Most of lecturers from the UNGEGN and from Indonesia as well.

4. In applying the standardization of geographical names some guidelines had been made as a guidance for local officials involved in local geographical names committee. The guidelines that had been made are:

- a. Guidelines for the Standardization of Geographical Names
- b. Guidelines for the Establishment of Local Geographical Names Committee
- c. Guidelines for the Standardization of Natural Geographical Names

**D. Contributing in Divisional Activities**

1. Regional gazetteer and map

Officially, the Division Project "Regional Gazetteer and Map" has finished, Australia is expected to distribute the final results to the Division members.

2. Generic terms across languages in the region

Indonesia has been collecting the generic terms of approximately 746 local languages spread through out Indonesia. Generic terms of the existing language in this region (ASEPSW) needs attention because it is still one clump of Austronesian language of Malayo-Polynesian. At the last Divisional meeting held in Manila, Indonesia proposed the "Generic terms across languages in the region" be officially adopted as a Divisional Project. This is as a tribute to Prof. Jacob Rais who is continuously and consistently strive to collect generic terms in this region.

3. Division newsletters and web site

To improve scientific communication between Divisional members in sharing experiences and exchanging ideas and disseminating the results of cooperation, is necessary to be built Newsletter / Bulletin and Division web site. Related to this matter Indonesia willing to volunteer to build a Division web site, and manage the Division Bulletin.

This is to increase our efforts in developing such a Bulletin of Toponymy as a communication medium for practitioners, researchers and observers of toponymy sciences, which has been published since 2010. Subsequently need to be discussed who are to be involved, as the editors and website administrators.

**E. Conclusion**

- The establishment of a national names authority will improving and developing of standardized geographical names in Indonesia will provide an impact on economic and social development, will strengthen the local languages that makes up national languages, and also achieved the orderly administration of good governance
- The Island names registered properly can be a strong basis for maintaining the sovereignty of the Unitary State of Republic of Indonesia as an archipelagic states
- Improving the quality of human resources particularly in applying the standardization and knowledge exchange of geographical names within the neighboring countries
- Enhancing regional cooperation between countries in Asia Southeast and Pacific Southwest.

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