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Eighth United Nations Conference on the  
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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 SEVENTH CONFERENCE

Country Report of Malaysia

(Submitted by Malaysia)\*\*

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\*\*Prepared by the Department of Survey and Mapping, Malaysia



**EIGHTH UNITED NATION CONFERENCE  
ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHIC NAMES  
27 AUGUST – 5 SEPTEMBER 2002, BERLIN, GERMANY**

**COUNTRY REPORT – MALAYSIA**

**1. Introduction**

This report covers the period from the Seventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographic Names held in New York, United States of America from 17 - 24 January 2000, including all activities relating to geographical names, national gazetteer and other related matters.

**2. National Gazetteer**

2.1 The Department of Survey and Mapping, Malaysia (DSMM) has already created the National Gazetteer data file, which is being updated from time to time. Its interim publication has been produced and used by the DSMM in the production of its 1:25 000 and 1:50 000 scale base maps.

2.2 The National Gazetteer was initially compiled from names of places and other feature names obtained from the National Standard Topographical Map Series L7010 at the imperial scale of 1:63 360. Names were listed with their designations, geographical

coordinates, area location and description of map sources. The gazetteer was then revised by introducing standardized spelling of those names according to the new standard spelling system formulated by the National Language And Literacy Agency.

### **3. State Geographical Names Committee**

- 3.1 The geographical names and spelling of place names are under the jurisdiction of the various State Governments. With the establishment of the State Geographical Names Committee for the respective states, the National Geographical Names Committee under the National Language and Literacy Agency earlier formed was dissolved.
- 3.2 This committee in each state is responsible to look into the standardization of the spelling system of the names of places in the respective state as well as to decide and approve new place names. This committee is chaired by the State Secretary and the State Director of Survey and Mapping is one of its permanent members. Decisions made by the State Geographic Names Committee is channeled to the Language and Literacy Agency and DSMM for implementation.

#### **4. National Digital Gazetteer (NDG)**

Since 1990 DSMM has established the Computer Assisted Mapping System (CAMS) to expediate the creation and maintenance of National Topographic Data Base (NTDB). Since the geographical names used in the NTDB conform to the National Gazetteer, DSMM intends to establish a NDG as part of CAMS to ease updating and retrieval of geographical names.

#### **5. Establishment of The National Geographic Names Committee**

The establishment of the National Geographic Names Committee has been proposed by DSMM and is awaiting the approval of the Federal Government. This committee shall be chaired by the Director General of Survey and Mapping; and the State Secretaries and the Director General of the National Language and Literacy Agency are members. The terms of reference of this committee is to coordinate the functions of the various State Geographical Names Committees.