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ASIA SOUTH-EAST AND PACIFIC SOUTH-WEST DIVISION

Report by Chairman of the Division

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FOURTEENTH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GROUP
OF EXPERTS ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES, GENEVA,
SWITZERLAND, 17-28 MAY 1989

Divisional Report

by

Chairman of the Division

1. Introduction

1.1 The Fourth Meeting of the enlarged United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names for Asia, South-East and Pacific, South-West Division was held in Bangkok, Thailand from 12-14 September 1988.

1.2 The Meeting was attended by member countries of Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand with also an observer from Australia, two from Lao People's Democratic Republic and seventeen from Thailand.

2. Review of Projects

2.1 Map of Asia, South-East and Pacific South-West Division
(Political)

2.1.1 The fully coloured 5th edition of the above map, was printed on schedule by the Department of Survey and Mapping, Malaysia and distributed to all member countries concerned. However, areas covering the map face of Burma, Democratic Kampuchea, Laos, Vietnam and Papua New Guinea were left blank since no information was received from these member countries.

2.1.2 The Indonesia delegation at the Fourth Divisional Meeting in Bangkok, Thailand informed that there is an amendment to the spelling of a geographical name in Indonesia in the political map of the Division. In this connection, Indonesia was requested to submit any amendments for corrective action before the next publication.

2.1.3 The Meeting above also took note of the areas covering the map face of countries that were left blank on the map, which the Indonesia delegation suggested to approach Australia for assistance and support to obtain information particularly Papua New Guinea, since mapping of this country had been undertaken with the cooperation of Australia.

2.2 Map of Asia, South-East and Pacific, South-West (Physical), including Marine and Sub-Marine Features)

2.2.1 The fully coloured 3rd Edition of the Physical Map for Asia, South-East and Pacific, South-West had been printed, using the same base map of the 5th Edition Political Map. Twenty copies of this map had already been distributed to all member countries for their perusal.

2.2.2 Again, areas covering the map face of Burma, Democratic Kampuchea, Laos, Vietnam and Papua New Guinea were left blank since no information was received from these member countries.

2.3 Gazetteers

2.3.1 There is no change in the Regional Gazetteer since there has been no new list of geographical names received from member countries.

2.3.2 The Meeting was informed that the Second Edition of the Concise Gazetteer is the latest edition. There was no additional or revised information received from member countries.

2.3.3. Member countries at the meeting were urged to submit additional geographical names in the required format for updating the gazetteers. In this respect attention was drawn to the computerized toponymy data base system in Malaysia in relation to a Paper submitted entitled 'Toponymy Data Base System - Gazet Version 1.0' at the meeting. Malaysia as the Divisional Representative expressed the hope that with this computerized system, it could be able to better serve the toponymic needs of the member countries of the Division.

2.4 Training Course in Toponymy

2.4.1 As mentioned in para 7.3.1 of the Fourth Meeting Report of this Division held in Bangkok, Thailand, and recalling the success of the 1982 training course held in Indonesia and resolution No. 20 adopted at the Eleventh United Nations regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific held in Bangkok in January 1987, emphasized the importance of training courses for member countries of the Division, but unfortunately it was not possible to obtain financial support from United Nations towards the holding of another course in this region.

2.4.2 Member countries are therefore urged to hold their own training courses. In this connection the Indonesian delegation suggested that Australia should be advised to conduct a training course sponsored by the Australian International Development Assistance Bureau (AIDAB) which the Australian observer at the meeting agreed to convey to his Government for consideration and decision. The Thai Delegation informed that there is a six-weeks course on Geographical Names conducted by the US Defence Mapping Agency (DMA) and member countries interested in the course should contact DMA directly for further information.

2.4.3 The Brunei Darussalam delegation expressed regrets for not being able to participate in the previous training course in Cisarua, Bogor, Indonesia in 1982 but would be very keen to take part in such future courses.

2.5 Geonames Newsletter

2.5.1 As mentioned in para 7.1.1 of the 4th Meeting report of this Division held in Bangkok, Thailand, 12-14 September 1988 consensus was reached after much deliberation by the member countries that the Geonames Newsletter should be dropped in favour of a similar Newsletter now being produced by the United Nations. Each member country should submit news of its activities for publication to the UN Secretariat, New York.

2.6 Regional Atlas

2.6.1 In accordance with the proposal by the Thai delegation in the last Divisional Meeting held in Bangkok, Thailand, 12-14 September 1988, it is requested that Indonesia put up the specifications and format for the Regional Atlas. The Indonesian delegation expressed the importance of quantifying the types of atlases already published in this region so as to avoid duplication. As such each member country was requested to submit an inventory of published regional atlases undertaken by that country so that a comprehensive listing could be circulated to all member countries before the next meeting.

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3. Other Matters

- 3.1 Pursuant to Australia's request for admission as a member to United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names for the Asia, South-East and Pacific South-West Division, official approval was granted to Australia to join this Divisional Group after discussions with Mr. Max de Hanseler, Secretary of the Experts Group on the Standardization of Geographical Names at the United Nations Office in New York.
- 3.2 Australia who is now a member of the United Nation Group of Geographical Names for Asia, South-East and Pacific South-West Division has proposed to host the next meeting of this Division in Perth, Australia, tentatively the last week of August 1990 (27th-31st August).
- 3.3 With regards to the Training Course in Toponymy, Indonesia as mentioned in para 9.6 of the 4th Meeting of this Division held in Bangkok, Thailand, is preparing to host the second toponymy training course tentatively from October 16, 1989 for a duration of 16 days including field work.

Director-General of Survey and Mapping
Malaysia

18 May 1989