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Reports: Governments on the situation in their countries and on the progress made in the standardization of geographical names

Report of Brunei Darussalam

Submitted by Brunei Darussalam**

Summary

The full report contains all the activities that have been carried out by the National Committee on Geographical Names of Brunei Darussalam between April 2016 and December 2018. The report includes information on the achievement and progress of activities concerning geographical names, road naming and related matters

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** Prepared by Brunei Darussalam National Geographical Names Committee (JKNG)

1. INTRODUCTION

This report compiles all the activities that has been carried out by the Brunei Darussalam National Geographical Names Committee (JKNG) within the period of April 2016 – December 2018. This report included the achievement and the progress of activities relating to geographical names, road naming and related matters.

2. ACTIVITIES

2.1. UNGEGN Asia South-East Meeting and Seminar

The JKNG Brunei Darussalam participated in all Divisional Meeting of UNGEGN ASE Division. Reported in the meeting were the JKNG's national commitments, developments, achievements and activities. The JKNG Brunei Darussalam also had the opportunity to present papers in the meeting and seminar.

2.2. Meeting

The JKNG holds their meeting at least four times a year where geographical features and road names are discussed separately. The last committee meeting was held on 23th August 2018 for road naming and the upcoming meeting will discuss geographical features. The majority of the JKNG meeting discussed on road naming. JKNG also attended 2 meeting organised by the Municipal Board Committee discussing issues pertaining to road naming.

2.3. Geographical Features

In 2016 – 2018, 5 site visits were conducted on 1:10,000 Tutong District's map sheets which comprised of thirteen villages (kampung). Three on-site meetings were held with villages (kampung) communities. 29 geo name approved, 24 geo name for map sheet Telisai to be discussed and 11 required further site visit.

2.4. Road naming

For the period of April 2016 - December 2018, JKNG had done 3 visits and held 5 meetings with head of local communities including meetings organized by Information Department. JKNG also received complaints regarding road names from the public and other agencies. Road names that are proposed must be discussed in the committee meeting before they are forwarded to the national authority for approval. To date there are 22 proposed names awaiting for approval.

2.5. Newsletter

This second edition of JKNG newsletter was released in November 2016. The content includes JKNG participation in the UNGEGN events, progress of the committee, activities and achievements. The newsletter were distributed to all relevant government agencies.

2.6. Parking Lot

In 2017 the committee received complaint on lack of naming for the public parking lot that create confusion among road users. The committee have discussed this issues and suggested names for several parking lot. To date 2 parking lot names has been approved and 3 awaiting for approval.

2.7. Preparation of Gazetteer

The working group of the geographical features and road names has produced an updated geo and road name database for reference. The approved geographical road name can be viewed in the Survey Geoportal which can be accessed in the department's official website (<http://www.survey.gov.bn>).

3. ACHIEVEMENTS

For the period of April 2016 – Dec 2018 there were as follows;

PROJECT	AREA	NUMBER OF NAMES
Road Naming	Outside of Municipal Board	16 Road Names 11 Bridges
	Within the Municipal Board	6 Road names 2 Parking Lot
Geographical Names	55/52NW – Birau	16
	55/52NE – Bakiau	13

In total there are 30 map sheets at scale of 1:10,000 for Tutong District. Until December 2018, 14 map sheets has been completed.

JKNG members also involved in research activities of old kampung names related to Kampong Ayer area. The activities involved the compilation of old kampung names via meeting and interviews with the villages (kampung) communities.

4. CHALLENGES

One of the challenges faced is that there is no toponomy courses or training available locally which leads to challenges in data collection for the committee and working group members especially those who have just joined. And we also seen several experiecne members leaving due to retirement with the government agencies and having new faces joining the committee. We also facing problems in proposing names especially while proposing the alternatives if the first proposal not approved.

Public awareness on the standard geographical road names is very minimal. Therefore, the committee is putting effort in promoting and educating the public on the standards. Support and cooperation from higher authorities are important for the success of the drive and overall committee activities. Since we participated in meeting organised by Information Department we used the platform to do some awareness for the committee.

5. CONCLUSION

The JKNG is gaining its national recognition as a geographical features and road names reference in the country. There is also a rapid progress in the number of activities conducted by the JKNG. The committee will continue to be pro-active in its activities and educating the public on the history and uniqueness of their villages (kampung) names. Since 2017 members of the JKNG committee actively participating in the meeting with communities organized by the Information Department.