

**Twenty-ninth session
Bangkok, Thailand, 25 – 29 April 2016**

Item 4 of the Provisional Agenda

Report of the Divisions

Report of the Asia South-East (ASE) Division

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

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A. Overview

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 27th 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.

Seven (7) member countries attended the 3rd Divisional Meeting held in Hanoi, Viet Nam on May 13- 15 2015. At present, activities of the Division include coordination to establish ASE Division's own Regional Map and Gazetteer, maintenance of UNGEGN ASED website and coordination for the formulation of the proposed training programme in toponymy for all member countries.

B. Divisional Activities

1. Meetings

- 1.1. The 1st 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 2nd 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 3rd 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.

2. Resolutions of 3rd Divisional Meeting on 14 May 2015

- 2.1. Formulation and establishment ASE Division's own Regional Map and Gazetteer to be indorsed to the 29th UNGEGN Session.
- 2.2. Formulation and development of divisional training programmes in toponymy.

3. Summary of Country Reports During the 3rd Divisional Meetings

3.1. Brunei Darussalam

Brunei Darussalam's National Geographical Names Committee (JKNG) is gaining national recognition as a geographical features and road names reference in Brunei. Although JKNG's rapid progress is recognized because of its efforts and pro-active activities, they still reported challenges in data collection due to lack of toponymy trainings for locals and new committee members. Aside from lack of training, public awareness was also minimal. They are currently making concerted efforts to promote and educate the public on the standardization of geographical names.

3.2. Indonesia

Indonesia's *Tim Nasional Pembakuan Nama Rupabumi* (the Indonesian National Team for the Standardization of Topographical Names) reported the enhancement of previously introduced *TopKit*, a toponym data

acquisition system. They launched a participatory mapping page in *TopKit* platform which will facilitate crowdsourcing of geographical names. The data contributed by the public will be verified and validated by authorized agencies. Indonesia also conducted several activities to standardize geographical names such as preparation and distribution of technical guideline for inventory and verification of place names; conduct of seminars, meetings and trainings; institutional strengthening of standardization through giving awards to areas with complete data collection and intensified toponymy training; conduct of toponymy survey; and establishment of a national toponymy organization called *Komunitas Toponimi Indonesia* (The Indonesian Toponymy Community).

3.3. Malaysia

The Malaysian National Committee on Geographical Names (MNCNGN) spearheaded meetings and workshops involving all Working Groups and State Technical Committees for continuous updates on activities, issues encountered and work progress on the implementation and guidelines of geographical names. MNCNGN developed the Malaysian Geographical Names Database and Gazetteer, a web-based geographical names database and gazetteer also called MyGeoName Application. It consists of modules such as searching, Arabic (Jawi) Character, audio, gazetteer document publishing and virtual reality. They are also ongoing with the development of Geographical Names Database and documentation of naming islands and geographical entities.

3.4. Philippines

The National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA) of the Philippines reported activities in the implementation of geographical names in the country. This include updates on the Philippine Standard Geographic Code (PSGC) which classifies well-established political subdivisions nationwide; Task Group on Inventory of Islands for the update of the Philippine Island Database; initial inventory and preparation of the Philippine Gazetteer based on 1:50,000 topographic maps which is still subject to validation through local government units and other resources; initial conduct of a comprehensive field data gathering for one province (1) as pilot area; and the ongoing preparation of Geographical Names Database for uploading into the Philippine Geoportal Project (PGP) which will provide data sharing and access of the database through the web.

3.5. Vietnam

The Department of Survey and Mapping of Viet Nam (DOSMVN) created guidelines and organized training courses for the standardization of geographical names. DOSMVN promulgated and distributed five (5) provinces and currently ongoing with the establishment of their geographical names database. Their future activities include improvement of the regulation system on standardization and toponymy, update the geographical names database and prepare the plan “Establishment of National Committee on Geographical Name” to be submitted to the Viet Nam Government. This plan will coordinate all geographical names activities of the country.

C. Activities of UNGEGN ASED

1. ASE Division Website and Newsletter
At present, Indonesia still maintains the website and newsletter of ASE Division.
2. Regional Map and Gazetteer Project
The Division agreed to develop its own Regional Map and Gazetteer separate from Pacific South West (PSW) Division and Indonesia will still be in-charge of its maintenance upon indorsement and approval of the proposed resolution during the 29th UNGEGN Session.
3. Regional Training Programme
The Chair has coordinated with the Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy and this will be presented during the 4th Divisional Meeting.
4. Venue of the Next UNGEGN ASE Divisional Meeting in 2016
The 4th Divisional meeting will be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on October 2016. It will be held in conjunction with the 5th Plenary Meeting of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific (UN-GGIM).