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**Reports by Governments on the situation in their countries
and on the progress made in the standardization of geographical
names since the 10th Conference (for distribution only).**

Report of the Government of the Republic of Indonesia

Submitted by Indonesia**

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** Prepared and compiled by Geospatial Information Agency of Indonesia

1. Introduction

Indonesia already established a National Names Authority namely *Tim Nasional Pembakuan Nama Rupabumi* (the National Team for Standardization of Topographical Names) since 2006, based on Presidential Regulation Number 112 Year 2006. The core members of the National Team, namely, Geospatial Information Agency, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, Ministry of Defense, and Ministry of Education and Culture. However, due to some major organizational changes throughout Indonesia, this National Team was dissolved in 2016 based on Presidential Regulation Number 116 Year 2016. According to the Regulation, all the duties and functions of the National Team were assigned to Geospatial Information Agency of Indonesia (*Badan Informasi Geospasial* or *BIG*). Therefore, now BIG is the National Names Authority of Indonesia.

This report compiles all the activities that have been carried out by the National Team, which some of them are an update of activities that have been reported at previous UNGEGN meetings and other national toponymic activities.

2. Goals and National Programs

a. Standardization of Geographical Names

Indonesia is a large and diverse country, consisting of thousands of islands and hundreds of local languages and dialects, but only one national language: Indonesian. Therefore, standardization of geographical names has become one of the goals which needs to be settled by the National Names Authority. Standardization here does not mean that we will use Indonesian only for the geographical names, but instead we also encourage the use of local languages, but we must understand what the names mean in Indonesian.

Some steps in undertaking standardization of geographical names are:

1. Preparation and inventory
2. Toponym survey
3. Data entry to a standardized database format
4. Data verification
5. Recommendation and standardization

A program for standardization of geographical names has been scheduled since 2006 as follow:

- 2006 – 2008: islands
- 2009 – 2011: administrative regions
- 2012 – 2014: natural features
- 2015 – 2017: man-made features
- 2018 – 2019: cultural heritage

The programs have been planned in the strategical planning of Ministry of Home Affairs as the Chairman of the National Team. During implementation, the National Team cooperated with Regional Standardization Committees which were established based on Regulation of Minister of Home Affairs Number 35 Year 2009. These Committees were established in all Provinces and many Districts and Municipalities in Indonesia. Nevertheless, process of standardization a certain type of geographical names still continue even though the years have passed for that particular type of features. For example, since 2015 until now, while standardizing geographical names of the man-made features, the National Team also focus on standardizing names of Indonesian Islands which previously have not been reported.

Indonesia has submitted a gazetteer of Indonesian islands during the UNCSGN in 2012. At that time, Indonesia reported 13,466 names of islands. This year Indonesia will be submitting a new

gazetteer of Indonesian islands, consisting names of all islands (including the previously submitted 13,466 names) which have been standardized until July 2017, with schedules as follow:

- i. In 2014, the National Team conducted verifications and standardizations of island names in 1 province.
- ii. In 2015, the National Team conducted verifications and standardizations of man-made place names in 8 provinces, while at the same time standardization of island names were conducted in 6 provinces. Island surveys were also conducted in 8 provinces.
- iii. In 2016, the National Team conducted verifications and standardizations of man-made place names in 12 provinces while at the same time standardization of island names were conducted in 5 provinces. Island surveys were also conducted in 13 provinces.
- iv. In 2017, the National Team is conducting verifications and standardizations of man-made place names in the rest 14 provinces and additional 8 provinces that would like to report more names. At the same time standardization of island names were conducted in 30 provinces. Island surveys were also conducted in 22 provinces.

b. Development of Toponym Data Acquisition System

As the implementation of the previously introduced Topkit as a toponym data acquisition system, Geospatial Information Agency (BIG) in 2016 started developing an application for toponym data acquisition named SAKTI (*Sistem Akuisisi Toponim Indonesia*). This application was designed to be run on Android-based smartphones to make toponym data collecting easier. The application has been ready and used for testing purposes, and currently being introduced to the Regional Governments and Institutions related to inventory of geographical names.

In 2017, some features will be enhanced to improve functionality and user-friendliness of the application. Also, a web-based application will be developed and integrated with the mobile application. The web-based application hopefully will speed up the process of data verification and standardization by Regional Governments.

c. Toponymy Survey

- In 2015 Indonesia conducted Toponym Survey in Yogyakarta independently. This survey produced a detail geospatial toponym database which can be used as an input to a topographic map production of the area later.
- In September-October 2016 Indonesia conducted Toponym Survey in part of Kecamatan Pujut, Lombok Tengah, Nusa Tenggara Barat as a development of the toponym survey mentioned in point (i).
- Identification and verification of name of islands in Nusa Tenggara Barat, Rajaampat Papua, Sumatera Utara, Sumatera Barat, Sulawesi Tengah has been conducted in this year and will be adopted to be listed in the National Gazetteer. Further toponym surveys of islands will also be conducted this year in Kalimantan Barat and Kalimantan Timur. In 2017 Indonesia plans to conduct toponym survey for the rest of names of islands for complete the National Gazetteer.

d. Seminars, meetings and trainings on toponymy in Indonesia

- Geospatial Information Agency of Indonesia has held toponymy trainings for government officials involved in the Committee on the Standardization of Topographic Names in 8 provinces in 2015 and 12 provinces in 2016. The trainings were held for 5 days and focused on sharing general knowledge and practices on the process of toponym inventories and verifications.
- A new national toponymy organization, *Komunitas Toponimi Indonesia* (The Indonesian Toponymy Community) or KOTISIA in cooperation with the Centre for Research on Humanities and Culture (PPKB) at *Universitas Indonesia* has held its first national seminar on toponymy, themed “A Humanities Perspective on Toponymy”. The seminar was held at the Humanities Faculty of Universitas Indonesia, Depok 3 November 2016. For further information, please kindly contact: Multamia R.M.T. Lauder, mia.lauder@gmail.com
- A national seminar on geographical perspectives on toponymy was held by the Department of Geography at *Universitas Indonesia* on 24 November, 2016. The theme was “Realizing the Integration of Sustainable National Spatial Development”. For further information, please kindly contact: Multamia R.M.T. Lauder, mia.lauder@gmail.com
- On 26 May 2017 Geospatial Information Agency, in cooperation with Tempo Media, held a media gathering themed “The Roles of Toponymy in Strengthening National Sovereignty”. This meeting was attended by journalists and aimed to raise awareness of the importance of toponymy.
- This year Coordinating Ministry of Maritime in cooperation with Geospatial Information Agency will provide training on toponym for Regional Governments of Aceh, Nusa Tenggara Timur, Kalimantan Utara, Maluku Utara, Papua Barat dan Papua. The training will be held in Jakarta for 3 days and will focus on identification and naming of islands.
- A toponymy workshop will be held by Ministry of Home Affairs in September 2017. This workshop aims to increase awareness and understanding in the importance of toponym standardization. This workshop will be participated by government officials from Ministries/Institutions/Regional Governments relating to toponymy.

e. Research and Publication on Toponymy

- Faculty of the Humanities at *Universitas Indonesia* is currently undertaking a university funded research into toponymic aspects of the relationship between urban space and identity. Data collected from a number of slum areas in the city, including Kampung Pulo and Kalijodo. This research is a cooperation between the Humanities Faculty and KOTISIA (Indonesian Toponymy Community). The research started in July 2016 and finished in May 2017.
- Humanities Faculty of *Universitas Indonesia* has begun to see students graduating with Masters or Doctor degrees in toponymy. Masters research has been conducted on the names of train stations in the greater Jakarta area, on changes to street names in Yogyakarta, and on the names used in a Sundanese village enclave in Java, in the Cilacap regency. Meanwhile, doctoral research has been conducted on the names of villages and historical port cities along the northern coast of the island of Java and the different naming practices of people living near the seven highest mountains in Indonesia.
- Ministry of Marine and Fisheries has published 3 books in Indonesian as guidelines in performing toponym surveys on marine area. The books entitled “Guidelines of Island Surveys”, “Guidelines of Bay and Cape Surveys”, and “Guidelines of Strait Surveys”.

f. Involvements in UNGEGN Asia South East Division

- ASE Division Website and Newsletter

Currently, Indonesia maintains the website and newsletter of UNGEGN ASE Division at a new address <http://asedivision-ungegn.org/>. This address has been announced to members of UNGEGN ASE Division and their contributions such as articles and information on training, meeting, and seminar about toponym that can be post into the website are most welcome.

- **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 be in charge of its maintenance upon indorsement and approval of the proposed resolution during the 29th UNGEGN Session. The previous Asia-Pasific Regional Map and Gazetteer Project is available at the UNGEGN ASE Division website. Members of UNGEGN ASE Division are urged to download and check the database, and submit corrected or new regional map gazetteer to email: asedivision@gmail.com.
- **Generic terms**
Generic terms is a divisional project as a tribute to the late Prof. Jacub Rais, who had dedicated his knowledge and expertise in toponym. The project needs to be participated by all members of UNGEGN ASE Division due to the historical background that the language used by some of the ASE Division member countries derives from the same root, which is the Austronesian language of Malayo-Polynesian language. The generic term compilation can be downloaded from the UNGEGN ASE Division website. At present, the glossary of generic terms has only been filled by Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei Darussalam, and the Philippines. Indonesia urged that all ASE Division member countries to complete the glossary of generic terms and submitted to email address: asedivision@gmail.com.

3. Problems, Solutions and Achievements

a. Regulation and Coordination

With the dissolvment of the National Team for Standardization of Topographical Names by the President, and the assignment of Geospatial Information Agency (BIG) as the new National (Geographical) Names Authority, BIG faces a new challenge. In order to accomplish the new duty, BIG must be able to collaborate with other institutions, especially previous members of the National Team.

Currently BIG is preparing a regulation on the execution of stardardization of geographical names in Indonesia. In executing the duties of the previous National Team, BIG will continue seeking supports from previous members of the National Team and will also involve more institutions which were previously not part of the National Team, such as the Coordinating Ministry of Maritime, Indonesian National Institute of Aeronautics and Space (LAPAN), and Indonesian Military.

In addition, since Indonesia is a very large archipelagic country, BIG needs to maintain involvements of Regional Governments. To get technical supports that comply with its standard, BIG must continue providing necessary trainings for officials of Regional Governments.

If necessary, BIG may also involve community or general public in a participatory mapping activity to assist with the collection of toponyms. However, BIG must provide a standardized tool and basemap for that purpose. The toponym acquisition system may become a solution for this issue.

b. Exonyms

A problem that remains unsolved at present is that the issue of exonyms has not yet been discussed by the country's national language agency, *Badan Bahasa*, which functions under the Ministry of Education and Culture. Most urgent is the need to regularize the names of foreign countries. In order to properly address this problem, it will be necessary to immediately have BIG, the Ministry of Home Affairs, the National Language Agency, and a team of experts in toponymy coordinate to solve the problem of irregular and anachronistic spellings of foreign country names so they can conform to the sound-spelling conventions of the Indonesian language. Among the country names that are still problematical are the Indonesian exonyms for the Netherlands Antilles, Bhutan, Liechtenstein, Guinea-Bissau, the Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Andora, Brunei Darussalam, Mayotte, the Marshal Islands, Switzerland, Swaziland, Bangladesh, and Turkmenistan.

4. Conclusions and Recommendations

Realizing the importance of standardization of geographical names, Government of the Republic of Indonesia has taken many serious efforts. Even though BIG has been appointed as the National Names Authority, the standardization was not only performed by BIG alone, but instead a large collaboration among Ministries and Institutions in central and regional governments, and also supported by toponymy experts. This collaboration may be strengthened with a stronger regulation such as the Presidential Instruction or Government Regulation.

In order to accelerate collection of toponym data, participatory mapping in toponym survey may be integrated into the toponym acquisition system, through mobile phones or webgis application. The role of Regional Governments in verification of submitted data by the community will be very important. Therefore, it is necessary to continue providing proper trainings to personnel of Regional Governments.

Dissemination of the standardized geographical names and socialization on the importance of toponyms need to be intensified. Involvements of mass media and the use of information technology are expected to disseminate information more quickly.