

Agenda Item 5

Country Report - Malaysia

Presented by Mr. K.K. Mohamed (Malaysia)



**3**rd MEETING  
*of the*

UNITED NATIONS  
DIVISIONAL GROUP OF EXPERTS  
ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

*for*  
ASIA, SOUTH-EAST AND PACIFIC,  
SOUTH-WEST DIVISION

---

KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA ..... 2 & 3 SEPTEMBER, 1986.

---

**COUNTRY REPORT — MALAYSIA**

**3RD MEETING**  
of the

**UNITED NATIONS DIVISIONAL GROUP OF EXPERTS  
ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES**

for

**ASIA, SOUTH-EAST AND PACIFIC,  
SOUTH-WEST DIVISION**



KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA ————— 2 & 3 SEPTEMBER, 1986

**Country Report - MALAYSIA**

**1. Introduction**

This report covers the period since the Second Divisional Meeting of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names for The Asia, South-East and Pacific, South-West Division held at Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia, from 2nd to 4th October, 1984.

**2. National Gazetteer**

2.1. The Directorate of National Mapping, Malaysia is now in the process of finalising the compilation of a comprehensive National Gazetteer based on the standard topographical map Series L7010 (Peninsular Malaysia) & T735 (Sabah & Sarawak). The preliminary issue of this gazetteer comprising of approximately 19,000 place names will be published as soon as the comments and approval of all the states are submitted to the Directorate.

2.2. The Directorate is also taking steps to store this gazetteer in the Department's computer system to ensure easy duplication and revision when the need arises. The format of this gazetteer is as follows:

- a. The names are collected state by state and arranged in alphabetical order.
- b. Every page of the gazetteer is divided into columns of: Name, Designation, Geographical coordinates, District/Division and Data Source.

Name	Designation	Geographical Coordinates	District/Division	Data Source

3. Changes of place and road names in Malaysia

3.1. It is the policy of the Malaysian Government to review and rename the names of towns, villages and roads which carry colonial toponyms. The "localising" of these names, wherever possible and appropriate, is with the intention of creating a national identity. In replacement for such names it is normally the practice to adopt names of outstanding Malaysian personalities in honour of their contributions to the nation. Changes are also affected by introducing new names with a touch of local flavour and importance.

Examples of these changes are as follows:

Jesselton	changed to	Kota Kinabalu
Telok Anson	" "	Telok Intan
Bukit Maxwell	" "	Bukit Larut
Port Swettenham	" "	Pelabuhan Klang
Jalan Mountbatten	" "	Jalan Tun Perak

3.2. The Directorate of National Mapping, Malaysia is taking steps to incorporate these changes into the National Gazetteer which will be published as soon as all information are received from the authorities concerned.

3.3. Regarding changes in road names the Directorate is also taking steps to revise affected town maps with close cooperation from the city/town councils and the State Survey Departments.

4. Implementation of Geographical Names

The Directorate of National Mapping, Malaysia has already implemented the usage of standard spelling of geographical names in all its recently published maps. This will also apply to all maps to be printed in the future.

5. Progress Report of the Divisional Projects undertaken by Malaysia

5.1. Political Map of Asia South-East and Pacific, South-West

5.1.1. Pursuant to the approval to the member countries on the 2 colour edition of the enlarged map and the submission of map information from Singapore and Negara Brunei Darussalam, the fully coloured 5th edition of the political map for Asia, South-East and Pacific, South-West was printed and distributed to all member countries concerned.

5.1.2. Areas covering the map face of Burma, Kampuchea, Laos, Vietnam and Papua New Guinea is left blank since no information is received from these member countries.

5.1.3. The Directorate has sent 20 copies of this map to each member countries of Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand for their perusal.

5.2. Physical map of Asia-South-East and Pacific, South-West Division.

The Directorate is in the process of preparing this map using the same basemap as the political edition. This map is scheduled for publication by the end of 1986 or early 1987.

5.3. Concise Gazetteer

5.3.1. The second edition of this gazetteer has been printed by the Directorate of National Mapping, Malaysia, with additional lists of names from Singapore, Negara Brunei Darussalam and new ammended lists from Indonesia and Philippines.

5.3.2. The Directorate has also sent 20 copies of this gazetteer to member countries of Negara Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand for their perusal.

5.4. Regional Gazetteer

5.4.1. There is no progress on this gazetteer since there is no additional lists of Geographical names received from member countries of Burma, Kampuchea, Laos, Vietnam, Negara Brunei Darussalam, Singapore and Papua New Guinea.

5.5. Data Base for Concise, Regional and National Gazetteers

The Directorate is in the process of creating a data base of the contents of the Concise, Regional and National Gazetteers. This would enhanced future undertaking for updating and revision.

5.6. Other Matters

The Directorate has just received ammendments to the Political Map and the Concise Gazetteer. These ammendments will be attended to for the next editions of both the Map and the Gazetteer.