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**FIFTEENTH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GROUP  
OF EXPERTS ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES, GENEVA,  
SWITZERLAND, 11-19 NOVEMBER 1991**

**REPORT FROM THE DIVISION OF  
ASIA, SOUTH, EAST AND PACIFIC, SOUTH-WEST**

**FIFTEENTH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GROUP**  
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**Report from the Division of  
Asia, South - East and Pacific, South - West**

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The Fifth Meeting of the enlarged United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names for Asia, South-East and Pacific, South-West Division was held in Perth, Australia from 27 - 28 August 1990.
- 1.2 The Meeting was attended by member countries of Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand.
- 1.3 New Zealand which attended the Meeting as an observer, was formally accepted and admitted as a member of the Division.

**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 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.
- 2.1.4 Commensurate with the inclusion of Australia and New Zealand in the Division, it was agreed that the Divisional Representative study the possibility of enlarging the scope or scale of this map so as to include Australia and New Zealand.

**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.
- 2.2.3 Commensurate with the inclusion of Australia and New Zealand in the Division, it was agreed that the Divisional Representative study the possibility of enlarging the scope or scale of this map so as to include Australia and New Zealand.

### **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.

### **2.4 Regional Atlas**

- 2.4.1 A report of a list of regional maps and atlases available of the region that may meet the divisional requirements was presented by Thailand in the 5th Regional Meeting.
- 2.4.2 The Meeting agreed that the project be postponed and be revived, if necessary, at a later stage.
- 2.4.3 The Meeting took note of the Indonesian suggestion to publish an Atlas of Language Distribution. Australia also informed the Meeting that it would soon complete a project on the recording of Aboriginal Languages.

### **2.5 Training Course in Toponymy**

- 2.5.1 As mentioned in para 7.3.1 in the Report of the Fourth Meeting 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 course 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.
- 2.5.2 Australia presented a paper on Aboriginal Toponyms. The paper raised several questions on dual naming of features - Aboriginal/European. Various comments were given by the Australian Delegates dealing with this issue. The Meeting took note of the contents of this paper.

### **2.6 Geonames Newsletter**

- 2.6.1 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.

**3. Divisional Reperesentative**

- 3.1** At the 12th United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific, 20 - 28 Februari 1991, held in Bangkok, a Resolution was passed that New Zealand would assume the role of Chairman of the Division, and that appreciation was recorded to Malaysia as the outgoing Chairman.
- 3.2** It was also proposed that the next meeting of the Division be held in New Zealand sometime in 1992.

**Director General of Survey and Mapping  
Malaysia  
on behalf of the Divisional Representative**

**1 November 1991**