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REPORTS OF THE DIVISIONS

Divisional Report of the
Asia South-East and Pacific South-West Division

**UNITED NATIONS GROUP OF EXPERTS ON
GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES
SEVENTEENTH SESSION
NEW YORK, 13-24 JUNE 1994**

**DIVISIONAL REPORT
OF THE UNITED NATIONS GROUP OF EXPERTS ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES
FOR THE DIVISION OF ASIA, SOUTH-EAST AND PACIFIC, SOUTH-WEST**

Paper Submitted by New Zealand

Summary

This paper was prepared for the Thirteenth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific, Beijing, 9-18 May 1994.

This report deals with the activities of the on-going work programme on geographical names standardisation of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) Asia, South-East and Pacific, South-West Division. It notes that New Zealand has taken over the responsibilities of Divisional Representative and reports on the collaborative projects undertaken by the division such as the compilation of a new divisional place names map and associated gazetteer, toponymic training courses and discussions of a possible Regional Atlas of Language Distribution.

1. SCOPE OF THE REPORT

This report covers the activities of the Division during the period between the Twelfth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific in February 1991, and February 1994.

2. DIVISIONAL MEETINGS

- 2.1 Taking advantage of the presence of many members at the Twelfth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific held in Bangkok in February 1991, the division held an ad hoc meeting at which member countries elected New Zealand as the Divisional Representative and Chairman of the Asia, South-East and Pacific, South-West Division.

As incoming chairman I was very pleased to acknowledge the previous efforts of the division and particularly those of the past chairman of eight years, Mr Abdul Majid Bin Mohamed of Malaysia. The division recognises the important role that standardisation of geographic names has to play in supporting the global communications infrastructure. In the field of cartography and information technology place names are a necessary layer in land information systems. It is therefore essential that the standardisation and systemisation of geographical names parallel other developments in the fields of land and geographical information.

- 2.2 During the period under review one further divisional meeting was held. The Sixth Divisional Meeting was hosted by New Zealand in Wellington, New Zealand on 29-30 September 1992. Experts from Australia, Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand and Thailand attended. Other member countries of Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Lao Peoples Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Singapore and Viet Nam were unable to send delegates to this meeting. However, as is always the case, the Divisional Chairman welcomes contributions by correspondence when member countries are unable to send delegates to divisional meetings.

- 2.2.1 Invitations were extended to Pacific Island nations to attend the Sixth Divisional Meeting as observers, with the view to encouraging them to take up membership within the division. The Republic of Palau was to attend as an observer but unfortunately had to withdraw. The Solomon Islands sent a report of their activities and apologies for their non-attendance as an observer.

2.2.2 In addition to the country reports and reports on divisional projects a number of other papers were presented on toponymic matters. These included:

- Applying the Donor Principle to Map Names: A practical experience from New Zealand
- Maori and Pacific Place Names (Oral presentation only)
- Aboriginal Place Names
- The Gazetteer of New Zealand Place Names
- The Australian Gazetteer of Undersea Feature Names in the Pacific and Indian Oceans

2.2.3 In reporting to the Sixth Divisional Meeting on my attendance at the Sixth United Nations Conference on Standardisation of Geographical Names held in New York in August 1992 I was pleased to note the interest in the "Nations of the World" map produced by New Zealand using the donor names principle.

2.2.4 Mr Vern O'Brien of Australia has proposed changing the name of the division to "Austronesia". Other suggestions were also put forward, and members were asked to give the proposals consideration. The matter will be discussed again at the next divisional meeting.

2.2.5 Mr O'Brien also explained a proposal by Australia to prepare a regional bibliography listing works and articles relating to toponymy, etymology and place names. Member countries supported the proposal in principle. Australia will coordinate and compile the bibliography and members are encouraged to supply individual country data.

3. PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN BY THE DIVISION

3.1 1:10,000,000 Divisional Place Names Map

3.1.1 At the Fifth Divisional Meeting held in Perth, Western Australia in August 1990, and in subsequent discussion with members, agreement was reached that the scale of the new map of the Asia, South-East and Pacific, South-West Division incorporating New Zealand and Australia should be 1:10,000,000. The new map is being produced by the Department of Survey and Land Information, New Zealand. The 1:10,000,000 Divisional Place Names map will supersede the 1:7,000,000 physical and political division maps previously produced by Malaysia.

3.1.2 New Zealand will produce the map in a computer mapping environment rather than by conventional methods. The methodology, timetable and other related matters were discussed by members at the Sixth Divisional Meeting in Wellington. High quality inkjet proofs of the map will be made available to members at the next divisional meeting and copies will also be distributed to member countries unable to attend.

3.1.3 To date, place names information has been received from Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam. The remaining member countries are being urged to contribute similar information.

3.2 Gazetteers

The Second Edition of the Concise Gazetteer and the First Edition of the Regional Gazetteer are the current editions of these publications. Updated gazetteers will be produced as a by-product of the computer-generated place names map.

3.3 Toponymic Training

At the Sixth Divisional Meeting members discussed the matter of future toponymic training and endorsed the proposal by New Zealand to include a short toponymic session in the proposed United Nations Regional Cartographic Technical Meeting for Asia and the Pacific. Members noted the need to build on the good work that has been done in the past on toponymic training, and in particular that there was a need for another toponymic workshop similar to that held in Indonesia in 1989.

3.4 Regional Atlas of Language Distribution

At the Fifth Divisional Meeting held in Perth in 1990 Indonesia had suggested that the Division publish an atlas of language distribution. Gathering information on all the Australian Aboriginal languages was identified as being one of the more difficult aspects of such a project. Australia reported that the project being prepared on aboriginal languages by the Australian National University would not be published until the end of 1993. Dr Atchison of Australia is to make contact with the Australian National University to establish how progress could be made on the divisional project.

4. DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT DIVISIONAL MEETING

The Seventh Divisional Meeting of the UNGEGN Asia, South-East and Pacific, South-West Division is scheduled to be held on 7-8 May 1994 in Beijing, China, immediately prior to the Thirteenth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific which is also to be held in Beijing.



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**7th MEETING OF THE UNITED NATIONS GROUP OF EXPERTS ON
GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES FOR ASIA, SOUTH-EAST AND PACIFIC
SOUTH-WEST DIVISION**

7 & 8 MAY 1994, BEIJING, CHINA

COUNTRY REPORT - NEW ZEALAND

1. INTRODUCTION

This report covers the period since the 6th meeting of the United Nations Divisional Group of Experts on Geographical Names for Asia South-East and Pacific South-West Division held in Wellington, New Zealand 29-30 September 1992.

2. NEW ZEALAND GEOGRAPHIC BOARD

In 1992 the 3 yearly review of the board's membership took place. A number of new members have consequently joined the Board. They are Prof. Wharehuia Milroy, Mr Brian McLay and Ms Syliva Allen.

Prof. Milroy is the new North Island Maori representative and Mr McLay and Ms Allen are the new Ministerial appointments. Mr McLay is the current Chief Executive of the Local Government Association and has extensive experience as a senior manager in central government, specifically with the Departments of Internal Affairs and Justice. Ms Allen is a private sector planner.

Commander Peter Usher also joins the team as the new New Zealand Hydrographer. The New Zealand Hydrographer acts in an advisory capacity to the Board on nautical issues.

Since the last UNGEGN divisional meeting the New Zealand Geographic Board has met twice.

3. ORIGINAL PLACE NAMES PROJECT

The Original Place Names Project being undertaken by Mrs Te Aue Davis is still continuing. This is a long term project and is expected to take many years to complete. The purpose of the project is to collect original Maori place names in order to fulfil the New Zealand Geographic Board's statutory obligation to collect Maori names for recording on official maps.

Recently Mrs Davis has embarked on a pilot study of the Whanganui River area. With the assistance of Department of Survey and Land Information staff, research is being undertaken into the department's historical records, including place names of villages, pa sites and physical features in the vicinity of the river. The local people will also be consulted on the correctness of the names and the stories associated with them.

4. MAORI PLACE NAME MAPS CIRCA 1840

The New Zealand Geographic Board has been able to find sufficient sponsorship money to publish historical Maori place name maps of Te Ika a Maui (North Island) and Te Wai Pounamu (South Island) of New Zealand. The maps are to be published at a scale of 1:1,000,000 and will show Maori place names, fortified village and settlement sites (pa & kaianga) circa 1840. Publication is expected to occur later this year.

A separate paper has been prepared detailing the project more fully.

5. TOPONYMIC GUIDELINES

A meeting of interested parties was convened in late 1993 to discuss matters of Maori Orthography. A further meeting is to be held to finalise matters relating to the correct expression of adjectives in Maori place names.

6. MAORI GENERIC ELEMENTS IN NEW ZEALAND PLACE NAMES

A paper discussing the use of Maori Generic Elements in New Zealand place names was presented to the Board at its meeting of 20 August 1993. Prepared by Ms Jenny Drew of the Department of Survey and Land Information, the paper included an analysis of Maori generic terms as used in the New Zealand Geographic Names Database. The paper provides a background of knowledge on which to base further policy.

7. SUBURBS AND LOCALITIES

A discussion paper on Suburb and Locality definition prepared by Ms Jenny Drew, Department of Survey and Land Information was also presented to the New Zealand Geographic Board meeting of 20 August 1993. Unlike the situation in many of the states of Australia, suburbs and localities in New Zealand do not have a precise boundary definition.

The Board is giving consideration to the possibility of developing suburb and locality boundaries based on community usage, in conjunction with Territorial Authorities.

8. REGIONAL DENOMINATION SYSTEM

The New Zealand Cabinet has recently given approval for legalisation to be drafted to set up a generic denomination system for the wine and other product industries.

The Regional Denomination System is to be established for the purposes of:

- (a) Protecting geographical names or geographical indications, used in relation to wine and other products from false or misleading use; and
- (b) Allowing New Zealand to meet its obligations under the GATT: TRIPS agreement and under bilateral agreements on wine including a proposed NZ/European Community wine agreement.

It is intended that the names and boundaries of the geographic indications will be determined by a sub-committee of the New Zealand

Geographic Board with representatives of the appropriate industry group using the usual public consultation process the Board uses to assign place names.

The boundaries are to be generic in nature i.e. they are to identify regions and localities which are locally recognised and will not be based on any criteria relating to the quality of the product.

9. TOPONYMIC WORKSHOP

On 20-23 May 1993 the Otago University's Spatial Information Research Centre held a Toponymic Workshop at Otakau Marae, Dunedin. Mr Tony Bevin Deputy Director-General/ Deputy Surveyor-General DOSLI, Mrs Te Aue Davis and Board member Mr Tipene O'Regan gave presentations on behalf of the New Zealand Geographic Board.

10. NEW ZEALAND GEOGRAPHIC NAMES DATABASE

Work on upgrading the New Zealand Geographic Names Database is currently concentrated on bringing the database in line with the principles of the Department of Survey and Land Information's Geo-Information Integrated Data Environment. This principle ensures that each element of data, for example, a geographic name, comes from a single authoritative source and is used in a standard way in all DOSLI's databases. DOSLI is also looking at upgrading the database to a spatial system.

A separate paper has been prepared on the New Zealand Geographic Database which provides more detail.

11. UNGEGN DIVISIONAL PLACE NAMES MAP PROJECT

The New Zealand Department of Survey and Land Information is also undertaking the production of the 1: 10, 000, 000 UNGEGN Asia, South-East and Pacific, South-West Divisional Place Names map.

A separate paper has been prepared to provide an update on the progress of this publication.