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Geographical Names

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REPORTS OF THE DIVISIONS

Report from Pakistan on activities in the
Standardization of Geographical Names

Asia South-West Division (other than Arabic)

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INTRODUCTION

Pakistan is attending the Eighteenth Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names after a long time. However, a regional meeting of South West Asian Countries was attended from 24-26 October 1994 in Tehran.

NATIONAL STANDARDIZATION AUTHORITIES

In Pakistan we do not have any National Geographical Names Authority. It falls under the authority of the Surveyor General to print the names on maps. Now we are thinking of constituting an Authority for the standardization of geographical names.

COLLECTION OF NAMES IN THE FIELD

The names are recorded in the field by the surveyor in vernacular on form "22 topo" - List of Names. A specimen of this form is attached as an Annex. These Names are verified by the local officials and corrected where necessary. They are then transliterated into the Roman script by the officer in charge of the survey in accordance with the "Hunterian System". This translation is thoroughly checked and corrected in the office before these names are printed on the map.

NATIONAL GAZETTEERS

The National Gazetteer of Geographical Names has been published. It contains the names from the maps at the 1,000,000 scale and the names are compiled from material described above in Para "Collection of names in the field".

NAMES IN MULTILINGUAL AREAS

There is no problem in reading and understanding the names appearing on maps covering multilingual and border areas. There is Punjab in both India and in Pakistan. Similarly, we have Baluchistan, and in Iran is also a Baluchistan, where the spoken language is the same, i.e. Baluchi. We have a greater number of common geographical names, because Pakistan is using the English language, and therefore, we do not face any problem on international level.

REGIONAL MEETINGS OF THE ASIA SOUTH-WEST DIVISION

It was agreed in the meeting between Pakistan and Iran held in 1994 at Tehran that there is no difference in the transliteration of 23 letters of both the Urdu and the Persian languages.

Three Urdu letters and eleven aspirated consonants do not exist in the Persian alphabets. They will continue to be transliterated in Pakistan System.

It was in the regional meeting between Pakistan, Iran and Afghanistan that these three countries have the same system of transliteration for most of the letters, although there are some differences between them in some cases. This is due to the reason that they are pronounced differently in different countries. Efforts are being made by the respective countries to minimize the differences in the transliteration of names as fast as practicable.

TRAINING

Considering the importance of the standardization of geographical names at the national and international levels, the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names might assist Pakistan in its effort to receive training of staff for systematic name collection.

PAKISTAN'S FUTURE PROGRAMME

Pakistan plans to do the following:

1. Constitute an Authority for the standardization of geographical names;
2. Print the Gazetteer of Pakistan containing the names from the 1:50,000 map series;
3. Prepare a list of country names and capitals in both Urdu and the English language.

SURVEY OF PAKISTAN

NO. 3 PARTY (FIELD SURVEYS) Sheet No. 43 P/2

LIST OF NAMES.

Plane Table Section No. 2 between

Lat. { 34° - 30' }
Long. { 73° - 05' }

Surveyed by Muhammad Nazir, Surveyor Grade I. Season 19 73-74.

Sl. No.	Vernacular written by the Surveyor.	Vernacular as written by a local official	Names		Description	Number of		Tahsil, Taluk, &c.	Districts.	REMARKS
			Spelling in English by the camp officer	Corrected spelling in English		7	8			
1	ہاگڑیاں	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1	ہاگڑیاں	ہاگڑیاں	Bagrian	Bagrian	Village	100	500	Manachra	Hazira	
2	اکروادر	اکروادر	Agror	Agror	Locality	—	—	"	"	
3	ہٹ کس	ہٹ کس	Batkas	Bat Kas	Stream	—	—	"	"	
4	سواتی	سواتی	Sawati	Swati	Tribe	—	—	"	"	
5	شنگر دانہ	شنگر دانہ	Shingar Danna	Shingar Danna	Hill	—	—	"	"	

Annex A

NOTE: In column 5, names, the spelling of which has been taken from the Imperial Gazetteer, should be underlined. In column 6, it should be stated whether a name refers to a town, village, temple, hill, lake, &c. Column 7 and 8 only refer to towns, villages &c.; this information is required to determine their relative importance. In column 11, it should be stated whether, in a town, village, &c., there is a market, hospital, P.O., T.O., P.S., D.B., &c.