

UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL



Distr.
LIMITED

E/CONF.53/L.19
19 July 1967

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE
STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL
NAMES
Geneva, 4-22 September 1967
Item 9 (d) of the provisional agenda

NATIONAL STANDARDIZATION

NATIONAL GAZETTEERS

Submitted by the Government of Thailand

Historical background

In 1933 a project to compile geographical names in Thailand was initiated by the Ministry of Education. The Ministry ordered its officials in various parts of the country to contribute information on important geographical and historical features located in the area under their respective responsibilities. In 1935 this project was transferred to the Royal Institute. Four volumes of the Thai Geographic Gazetteer have been published - one in 1963, two in 1964, and one in 1966.

During 1963, the Royal Thai Survey Department started to compile a map gazetteer consisting of geographical names which appeared on the basic maps of Thailand at the scale of 1:50,000. The listing was completed in 1966 and the project is at present in the publication phase. It is expected that it will be finished in 1967.

In addition to these two major projects, some other government departments of Thailand and some foreign organizations working in Thailand have also compiled, or are compiling, directories listing geographical names of populated places.

Thai Geographic Gazetteer

Volume I of the Thai Geographic Gazetteer contains general information given in eight chapters on the following subjects: geography, including landscape,

mountains and rivers; climate; vegetation; fauna; natural resources, including minerals, forestry and aquatic animals; communications; the people; and the traditions. Each section is compiled by an expert in his particular field.

Volumes II and III contain information on administrative divisions, other cultural features, and physical features arranged in Thai alphabetical order. One-page black and white maps provide readers with supplementary visual information.

The major part of volume IV contains revised one-page maps of the seventy-one changwats with one page of recent statistical information for each. An alphabetized section contains new and revised entries in addition to those found in volumes II and III. A final section contains a listing of the highways of Thailand.

These four volumes are published in the Thai language and the accompanying maps are also in Thai.

The Thai spellings of each geographical name given in this set of volumes have been carefully reviewed and revised by the special committee of the Royal Institute so that they conform with modern Thai spelling rules.

Along with each name entry there are valuable explanatory notes consisting of the generic term, location by administrative division,^{1/} relative location by description, places of interest, communication facilities, history, former and other variant names, and legends.

Entries in the Gazetteer are put in a specified order whenever there is duplication of names. When the same specific names occur, entries are put in this order: administrative centres, other cultural features, hydrographic features, land-forms. Should there be a duplication of names with the same generic term, the order would be alphabetical according to the changwat in which that entity is located.^{2/}

Map Gazetteer of Thailand

The Map Gazetteer of Thailand was compiled by the Royal Thai Survey Department. It lists every geographical name as shown on the basic map sheets

^{1/} Administrative divisions of Thailand consist of changwats (provinces), amphoes and king amphoes, tambons, and mubans (communes or villages).

^{2/} The basic rules which were followed for the preparation of the Gazetteer are annexed to this paper.

of Thailand at the scale of 1:50,000 which were published before July 1966. But since the 1:50,000-scale map sheets do not cover all of the Kingdom, name-lists were collected for temporary use from map series of other scales, such as 1:250,000 and 1:63,360. Names from approximately 5 per cent of the whole area of the country came from sources other than the 1:50,000-scale maps. This gazetteer lists only the romanized names even though the maps are bilingual, having both Thai characters and Roman forms of each geographical name shown.

In producing this gazetteer, the United States Army Map Service is rendering assistance to the Royal Thai Survey Department in alphabetizing, by means of computers, all the name-lists. These name-lists were compiled by map sheet. The publication of the gazetteer will presumably be accomplished by December 1967.

Information given along with each geographical name in this gazetteer consists of the following items: generic term, location by military grid and geographical co-ordinates and sheet number. In addition, for names taken from maps of medium scale, the sheet number is also given.

Geographical names of Thai nautical charts

This gazetteer was compiled by the Hydrographic Department of the Royal Thai Navy in 1963. All names appear in both Thai and Roman characters and are based upon rules adopted by the Royal Institute. Thus, uniformity of writing geographical names is one of the chief objectives. This publication contains all geographical names which appear on the forty charts which have been produced by the Hydrographic Department. The generic terms, positions and chart numbers are given.

Statistical directories

Statistical directories are bilingual and are compiled with the co-operation of the Ministry of the Interior, the National Statistical Office and the United States Operations Mission to Thailand. One publication (1965) contains lists of changwats and amphoes for the whole country, the other (1967) contains lists of amphoes and tambons for the fourteen north-eastern changwats. Both of them show the numerical code for all administrative names and municipalities, and in addition, they give statistical data and maps, approximately scaled at 1:1,000,000, with a map index attached.

Village information system - Thailand Administrative Directory

At present the Thai Government in co-operation with foreign organizations working in Thailand are compiling directories of all the various administrative levels throughout the country. The minimum amount of information for each muban (lowest administrative level) is as follows:

- (a) Official name of the muban, in Thai and Roman characters;
- (b) Selected variant names by which the muban popularly or locally is known;
- (c) The designation of the higher order administrative levels responsible for the muban;
- (d) The location of the muban by latitude and longitude;
- (e) The location of the muban by Universal Transverse Mercator grid system co-ordinates;
- (f) The location of the muban by a map sheet at 1:50,000 scale, if possible.

It is expected that the file containing this minimum set of information which will be computer-based and controlled by computer programme procedures will be completed in 1970, and that the file will be capable of generating a directory.

ANNEX

CONTENT AND ORGANIZATION OF THE THAI GEOGRAPHIC GAZETTEER

Entries in the Gazetteer consist of five different types of items. Information for each is given in the order listed below.

1. A CHANGWAT (highest order administrative unit of the country)
 - (a) Descriptive location within the phak (region), and identification on the map
 - (b) Adjoining administrative units given in clockwise direction starting with north
 - (c) Transportation facilities from Bangkok, the capital of Thailand, i.e. railways, highways, waterways and airways
 - (d) Distances in kilometres from Bangkok along the indicated routes
 - (e) Landscape
 - (f) Population based on the latest census, the number being rounded to thousands of persons, i.e. the population of 225,761 persons is indicated simply 226
 - (g) Occupations
 - (h) Origin of the names and their legends
 - (i) Important geographical and historical places and objects
 - (j) Names of the amphoes within the changwat
2. An AMPHOE (unit of the changwat)
 - (a) Location within the changwat
 - (b) Adjoining units reckoned in clockwise direction
 - (c) Transportation facilities from Sala Klang Changwat (Changwat Government Office)
 - (d) Landscape
 - (e) Population, indicated in the same way as that of the changwat
 - (f) Occupations
 - (g) Origin and legends of the words
 - (h) Names of the tambons within the amphoe

3. A TAMBON (unit of the amphoe)
 - (a) Location within the amphoe and the changwat
 - (b) Origin and the legend of the name
 - (c) Important geographical and historical objects (only their names are given)
4. RIVERS, MOUNTAINS, ISLANDS AND OTHER GEOGRAPHICAL FEATURES
 - (a) A river has information about its length, its source, its mouth, the changwats located on its banks, its tributaries and the brief history of its name
 - (b) A canal, small stream, lake, pond, estuary, bay, narrow passage on land or water has information about its location, size and name history
 - (c) A mountain has information about its location, the height of its highest peak and the important features located on the mountain
 - (d) Islands are given in the same detailed description as the changwat, the amphoe or the tambon depending upon its size and status
 - (e) Other important features, i.e. a monastery, a historical place or structure, and a natural feature of interest, have information about their location, general description, size and history
5. Traditions and customs are described by region, north, north-east, central, and south, in order to avoid repetition of information.

The description of the amphoe boundary, the changwat boundary or the national boundary is based on the data read from the maps of the Royal Thai Survey Department, or from information given by the Ministry of the Interior. Location by means of latitude and longitude is sometimes given.

Some well-known places which are not classified as geographical features, but have historical, economic and transportational importance are also recorded.

The spelling of the changwat, amphoe and tambon names is in accordance with the rules given in the Thai Dictionary issued by the Royal Institute.

Pronunciation of all names is based on the rules of pronunciation given by the same dictionary. If popular pronunciation of a name differs from the official pronunciation remarks concerning this difference are given.