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**Item 5
of the Provisional Agenda**

REPORTS OF THE DIVISIONS

Country Report – Malaysia

UNITED NATION DIVISIONAL GROUP OF EXPERTS ON
GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES (UNGEGN)

COUNTRY REPORT – MALAYSIA*

Abdul Majid Mohamed
Director General
Department of Survey and Mapping, Malaysia

1. Introduction

This report is an update on activities currently being undertaken in matters relating to geographical names in Malaysia.

2. State Geographical Names Authority

2.1 The State Geographical Names Committee was established to look into the standardization of the spelling system of geographical names of places as well as the approval of new names at the State level. This committee is headed by the State Secretary, with the State Survey Department as Secretary. Decisions made in the committee will be channeled to the Language and Literacy Agency and The Department of Survey and Mapping Malaysia for implementation.

2.2 The committee's task is to provide guidelines of naming geographical features and to adopt the correct ways of application of names, including the spelling. The aim is to ensure official publications of geographical names, including maps, are consistent.

3. National Gazetteer

3.1 A component of the Computer Assisted Mapping System (CAMS), a digital mapping system introduced in 1990, is the National Gazetteer, an updated Digital Gazetteer in support of the standard mapping programme. The location of each geographical name is given in latitude, longitude and map coordinates in metres. In addition, a code

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is given to indicate the type of feature to which the name refers, as well as the state of origin. The objective is to facilitate the auto emplacement of geographical names onto the various types of maps and is GIS ready and can be SQL searched.

3.2 The digital database of the National Gazetteer is based on the national topographic map series L7030 (Peninsular Malaysia) and T738 (Sabah/Sarawak), 1 : 50,000 scales. Entries are updated after being verified against existing archives of names approved by the state geographical names committee. To date, 7,000 entries for the states of Selangor, Negri Sembilan and Kelantan have been completed. At current rate of progress, it is expected that this task would be completed in five years time.

4. New Names for the Millenium

In line with current emphasis on the development of Information Technology, the Government has gazetted a new area neighbouring the Kuala Lumpur International Airport area as a growth area for the development of IT-based industries. The official names given to these areas reflect such an emphasis, and has been entered into the official gazetteer eg, : Multi Media Super Corridor, and Cyberjaya.

5. Regional Gazetteer

A Regional Gazetteer containing geographical names of areas 50 Km on either side of Malaysia's international boundaries with neighbouring countries is being continually updated and is facilitated by existing protocols such as the Map Exchange Agreement with Thailand that allows, with prior permission, selected mapping activities on either side of the international boundary.

6. Map of Asia, South East and Pacific, South West

The above map, which is a project undertaken by the Division of Asia, South East and Pacific, South West is now being updated by the

Chairman of the Division, Australia, to include more geographical names from the Australasia region.

7. National Spatial Data Infrastructure

The National Mapping and Spatial Data Committee (formerly the National Mapping Committee) has formed several working groups in support of the development of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure. One of the working groups is tasked with the development of policy in standards and guidelines in geographical names, data collection and automation, and procedures and training. As many of its members are new, the working group looks forward to participating in the toponymic training workshops to be organised within the Division of Asia, South East and Pacific, South West.

Prepared by:
Department of Survey and Mapping Malaysia
<http://www.jupem.gov.my>
email: dg@jupem.gov.my