

**Report of the Asia South East – Pacific South West Division,
United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names.**

1. The 10th Divisional Meeting

10th meeting of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names : Asia South East and Pacific South West Division was held on the 16 – 17th October 2003 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Summary of the Meeting is as follows;

The meeting was attended by the following member countries: Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand and Vietnam. Ms Helen Kerfoot, Chairperson of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names [UNGEGN] was in attendance at the meeting.

The following country reports were presented at the meeting:

Australia	presented by Mr. Brian Goodchild
Brunei Darussalam	presented by Ms. Mas Suriaia Hamid
Indonesia	presented by Mr. Klaas J Villanueva
Malaysia	presented by Dato Hamid bin Ali
New Zealand	presented by Mrs. Wendy Shaw

Issues brought up at the Meeting :

- Indigenous and minority group geographical names
A Working Group to be known as the UNGEGN Working Group on the promotion of Minority Group and Indigenous Names was established. The Indonesian delegation expressed its reservation in accepting the formulation of the resolution, in particular in the use of the term “minority groups and indigenous”, as it is against its national concept of nation building and that every citizen or group is equal under its national law.
- Use of commemorative names
- Regional gazetteers
Mrs. Wendy Shaw of New Zealand reported that the regional map was produced in 1992 in hardcopy form. At the moment the digital data of the map is not available. Therefore all the countries involved are invited to review their portion of the map and gazetteer; and update the information as required. New Zealand agreed to act as a project coordinator in compiling digital data to produce the update of the regional map and the gazetteer.
- Geographical names as a cultural heritage.
Mrs. Wendy Shaw of New Zealand presented this paper, which discusses the extent to which the indigenous place naming was originated from the early immigrants to New Zealand

Invitation to Toponymic Training

A course will be conducted at the centre for Professional Development, Charles Stuart University, Bathurst, Australia between 12 October and 24 October 2004. All prospective participants for the October 2004 training course were invited to put forward their ideas by the end of December 2003 on additional issues to be covered in the training course. Relevant issues to the training course were discussed,

- Need to be registered by 31 October 2003, on the understanding that all registrations are subject to funding availability.
- Some financial support is available for airfares
- No charge will be made for the training
- Other funding support is being sought to cover the costs of accommodation and meals for one or two participants per country – advice in relation to the level of this support will be made available to possible participants by March 2004.
- Any additional participants can attend on the basis of available spaces in the training course and at the cost of their own country.

Appointment of New Chairman

Mr. Brian Goodchild noted that Australia has chaired the Division since 1996 and advised that should be a rotation of Chairperson amongst member countries. He called upon delegates to nominate a new Chairperson of the Division for the incoming period 2003 to 2007. Pengiran Haji Matusin Matasan from Brunei Darussalam was nominated by Malaysia and seconded by New Zealand and elected by acclamation

Date of Next Meeting

April/May 2005 in Brunei Darussalam

Other Matters

Acknowledging the benefits arising for the diversity of experiences of its members, The Division welcomes the admission of Bhutan as a member of the Division.

All countries shall be invited in the future to submit their reports to the Divisional Meeting even if they are unable to attend and are not represented in the meeting.

The Meeting acknowledged the contribution of Mr Brian Goodchild as the chairman of the Division since 1996.

2. Regional Gazetteer and Map

At Divisional meeting held in Kuala Lumpur, it was agreed that the regional map prepared in 1996 by New Zealand should be updated, since it is now over 7 years old and out of date. The Meeting considered that the production of a 2nd printed edition was not economical or practical, but rather an updated or enhanced map should be made available digitally to all Divisional members.

Each member country was asked to review the names in both their portion of the map and the gazetteer and then provide any necessary updates back to New Zealand. The task of updating the image of the map and the compilation of the gazetteer would be carried out by New Zealand. Reports via e-mail to all member states would be sent on a 6 monthly basis.

3. Training

The toponymic training course in October in Australia is supported by United Nations. The content of the course will include lectures, group exercise, hands-on experience on data processing and practical fieldwork exercise. Correspondences on the training have been made by Ms Flavia Hodges, Director of Asia Pacific Institute for Toponymy. Nominees has been selected by member countries and awaiting further details on the training.

Pengiran Haji Matusin Matasan
Chairman
Asia South East and Pacific South West Division
United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names
March 2004