

**Twenty-third Session
Vienna, 28 March – 4 April 2006**

**Item 8 of the Provisional Agenda:
Activities relating to the Working Group on Toponymic
Data Files and Gazetteers**

**Report on the Production of the South East Asia South West Pacific Division
Map**

Prepared by Bill Watt (Australia).

Report on the Production of the South East Asia South West Pacific Division Map

The production of the regional gazetteer and updated map is an initiative of the South East Asia and South West Pacific Division of UNGEGN. The production is unique in as much as it is a product that shows the name of places as used within the contributing countries, romanised as necessary using the approved script from the contributing country and including any diacritical marks. No exonyms are used.

New Zealand undertook the initial task of compiling a regional gazetteer from the contributions of the member countries. Australia was involved in the production of a new version of the divisional map from the data contained in the regional gazetteer. The first version of the Divisional map was produced in hard copy form by New Zealand in 1996.

Two mapping products have been prepared to draft form, being:

- Hard copy map in PDF format – produced at a scale of 1:13 000 000 and covering the area between 90°E to 18°E and 30°N to 58°S. Insert maps are shown for the smaller countries (Singapore & Brunei Darussalam) and for those countries not covered by the extent of the map (Sri Lanka and Western Samoa). Because of scale considerations, this product is using a subset of the regional gazetteer data, generally as nominated by the contributing countries.
- ArcReader format (ArcReader being a free data viewing software produced by ESRI) – this product is more comprehensive in scope in relation to the amount of data available. Unlike the printed map, there are no scale constraints as additional names and topographic and cultural data can become visible users zoom into the areas being viewed.

Before the final products are available, there are still some steps that need to be taken, including the following:

- If possible, a better base map should be obtained to provide increased detail for the physical geography of the countries.
- More internal geography can be added as it becomes available, including relief data if possible.
- Some questions have been asked of member countries to clarify aspects of the data to ensure correct representation of locations and feature types.
- Some of the countries within the division are not yet represented in the data and they will continue to be encouraged to contribute.

Improvements to the products will be implemented incrementally, particularly in the Arc Reader format where there is no real limit of the amount of information that can be shown. Alterations to the PDF format can also be made in relation to the replacement of existing text for the countries already represented or the addition of text for those countries not yet represented.