



Information Sheet on Recent Progress in Geographical Names

Year 2015-2016

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Verification of Geographical Names of Man-made Features

The National Team for the Standardization of Geographical Names has responsibility in verifying, examining and validating geographical names which have already been inventoried. The National Team has been doing this since 2006. The work is being performed for different types of geographical names in stages:

- ◆ 2006-2008: islands
- ◆ 2009-2011: administrative areas
- ◆ 2012-2014: natural features
- ◆ 2015-2017: man-made features
- ◆ 2018-2020: cultural heritages

Although the time frame already passed, inventory, survey, verification and validation for names of islands, administrative areas and natural features are still ongoing.

In 2015, the National Team established a standardized table format for the inventory and verification of geographical names so that the data format at the local or regional levels is in sync with that at the national level, thus reducing the complexity in data management. In 2016, the Geospatial Information Authority of Indonesia has been developing a mobile application that will run on android devices in order to further facilitate the process of inventory and verification of geographical names.

The geospatial element is important during the verification process. When working with large tables of data, those processing the data need to use high levels of concentration and attention to detail. Human limitations mean that it is possible for errors to creep in. For example, the figures for the coordinates of a geographical feature might

be typed incorrectly. However, when the data is being presented on a map background, and the location of the feature is shown spatially, then this kind of error is much less likely. That is why it is very important to verify the geographical names using a Geographic Information System (GIS) application.

Verification is done first at the regency or city level, and then the data collected and passed up to the provincial level. Verification is performed to ensure that the following principles are followed:

- One object has only one official or default name (though other names or designations used in the area may be listed);
- The geographical coordinates for each name are correct;
- The spelling of the name is correct;
- All geographical features in each administrative area – district, town, province – have been documented;
- Geographical features at the regency, city or provincial levels are never entered twice, appearing in more than one administrative area.

In 2015 the National Team verified 27,549 names of roads, buildings, residential areas and other man-made features in 8 provinces. In 2016 the National Team will continue verifying names of man-made features in 12 provinces, and then in the rest 14 provinces in 2017.



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Book Reviews:

- Toponim Jakarta dan Kepulauan Seribu: Kearifan Lokal dalam Penamaan Geografis [Toponyms of Jakarta and the Thousand Islands: Local Wisdom in Geographical Names]
- Toponim Kota Bandung: Keragaman Ekologi, Budaya, Sejarah dalam Penamaan Ruang Kota [Toponyms of the City of Bandung: Diversity of the Ecology, Culture and History in Naming Urban Spaces]

Review of Djaenuderadjat, Endjat, and Gunawan, Restu eds. 2010. *Toponim Jakarta dan Kepulauan Seribu: Kearifan Lokal dalam Penamaan Geografis* [Toponyms of Jakarta and the Thousand Islands: Local Wisdom in Geographical Names]. Jakarta: Direktorat Geografi Sejarah, Direktorat Jenderal Sejarah dan Purbakala, Kementerian Kebudayaan dan Pariwisata. 174 pages. ISBN: 978-979-18278-2-9.



Jakarta, the capital city of Indonesia, was established in 1619 as a Dutch colonial fort and trading post. The present name, Jakarta, has had a long evolution. The site was first known as *Kalapa*, then *Sunda Kelapa*, then *Jayakarta*, and then *Jacatra*. Under Dutch colonial rule, it became known as *Batavia*, finally taking the name *Jakarta* after independence.

This book contains the etymologies of 109 place names in Jakarta and the islands north of Jakarta, known as the Thousand Islands. The names reflect the city's identity as a 'melting pot' as many of the names have their origins in the cultures and languages of the many groups that live in the archipelago.

Technical Manual For Collecting Man-made Geographical Names

On 14th April 2015 the Geospatial Information Authority of Indonesia held a meeting for members of the National Team for the Standardization of Geographical Names to discuss the Technical Manual for collecting geographical names of man-made features (*Pedoman Teknis Inventerisasi Nama Rupabumi Unsur Buatan*). This is part of the development of the National Gazetteer.

Geographical names for man-made features in Indonesia originate in the over seven hundred indigenous lan-

guages, Indonesian, and now are appearing in global or foreign languages which makes for a highly complex situation. The Technical Manual will be invaluable in understanding and systematizing this data. The Committees on geographical names at the provincial, regency or city level throughout the country will be working based on the manual and are receiving training on how to perform inventory and verification of the names for these features in their areas.

Training for Local Government Officers

A key part of the National Team's work in standardizing geographical names is the development of human resources. For that purpose, the Geospatial Information Authority of Indonesia conducted training courses for government officials working in various regional committees at the provincial and regency or city levels throughout Indonesia.

In 2015, a number of courses for inventory and verification of man-made geographical names were run for more than 200 participants at the provincial and district or city levels. The committees attending came from eight provinces: East Java, Bali, East Nusa Tenggara, Lampung, South Sulawesi, Central Sulawesi, North Sulawesi, and Central Kalimantan.

Participants attended technical training sessions on inventorying, verifying and

standardizing geographical names for the man-made or built environment. This category of geographical names includes streets, dams, bridges, reservoirs, housing estates, schools and other buildings. The training sessions were held in the classroom (lectures and computer exercises) and also at the field (surveys).

Similar training is being run in 2016. A total of approximately 300 participants from 12 provinces will receive training in three batches:

1. 4-8 April 2016, in Padang, with participants from West Sumatera, Riau Islands, South Sumatra and Bangka Belitung;
2. 18-22 April 2016, in Pontianak, with participants from West Kalimantan, North Kalimantan, West Sulawesi and Southeast Sulawesi;
3. 23-27 May 2016, in Semarang, with participants from Banten, Yogyakarta, Central Java and North Maluku.



Trainees learnt how to gather information at the field (top) and to build a verified database of geographical names on their computers (right)



UNGEEN's Asia Southeast Division (ASED) is in the process of constructing a database containing generic names from all the member countries.

ASED, in accordance with the adoption of Resolution X/5, now comprises twelve member countries, namely Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam.

The generic names in the database are organized into the following categories: (1) hydrography, (2) topography, (3) ad-

ministrative, (4) settlements, (5) transportation, (6) land use, (7) man-made features, and (8) cultural heritage. So far, three countries, Brunei, Indonesia and Malaysia, have submitted near-full sets of generic names, while the Philippines and Singapore have submitted a partial set. The other countries are in the process of submitting their generic names.

Some examples of the generic names so far submitted are given in the table below:

No	Features	Brunei	Indonesia	Malaysia
1.	Plateau	Mercu	Dataran Tinggi	Dataran Tinggi
2.	Island	Pulau	Pulau	Pulau
3.	District	Daerah	Kecamatan	Daerah
4.	Village	Kampung, Mukim	Kelurahan/Desa	Kampung
5.	Town	Bandar, Pekan	Kota	Pekan
6.	Footpath	Laluan Pejalan Kaki	Jalan Setapak	Laluan Pejalan Kaki
7.	Plantation	Ladang Perhutanan	Perkebunan	Hutan Tanaman
8.	High School	Pengajian Tinggi	Sekolah Menengah Atas	Sekolah Tinggi
9.	Lighthouse	Rumah Api	Mercusuar	Rumah Api
10.	Temple	Tapikong	Candi	Kuil

Community Involvement and Research in Geographical Name Issues

A new community organization called Komunitas Toponimi Indonesia (The Indonesian Toponymy Community) was established on 15 January 2015 to bring together those interested in the study of geographical names in Indonesia and to help develop the scientific field of toponymy there. The organization also works to help publish information on toponymy so the field will be better known by the public, and in the process help conserve the country's cultural heritage. The Indonesian Toponymy Community is also involved in encouraging research involving local higher education institutions. Recent research has been conducted by Universitas Indonesia and Universitas Padjajaran.

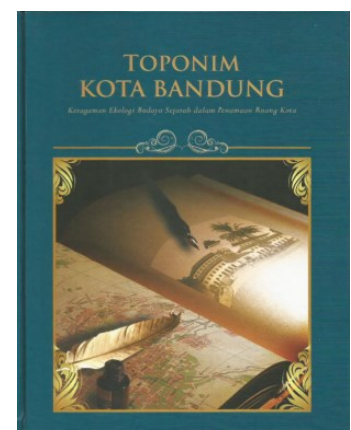
The research at Universitas Indonesia is a multi-disciplinary investigation into the place names of Indonesia's historic ports. The context of this is Indonesia's maritime culture. The data, in different

ancient and modern languages comes from: 1) Chinese historical records from the 1st century A.D. about voyages of the Javanese; 2) 11th century stone inscriptions describing sea ports; 3) 14th century manuscripts in old Javanese and old Balinese which describe ports and their activities; 4) Travel accounts written by Portuguese seafarers journeys to Indonesia; and 5) 17th century Dutch mercantile records and notes during their colonial occupation of Indonesia.

The research at Universitas Padjajaran is another multidisciplinary study into the place names of ecotourist areas in West Java. It shows the links between place names and local wisdom on the environment. Names are also shown to be involved in branding in ecotourism. Data for the study comes from oral traditions, folklore, and local wisdom.

Review of Djaenuderadjat, Endjat, and Abdurakhman eds. 2010. *Toponim Kota Bandung: Keragaman Ekologi, Budaya, Sejarah dalam Penamaan Ruang Kota* [Toponyms of the City of Bandung: Diversity of the Ecology, Culture and History in Naming Urban Spaces]. Jakarta: Direktorat Sejarah dan Nilai Budaya, Direktorat Jenderal Kebudayaan, Kementerian Pendidikan dan Kebudayaan. 182 pages. ISBN: 978-979-18033-8-0.

Bandung is the capital of West Java province in Indonesia and the third largest city by population in the country. The city has been shaped by its elevated location, and is surrounded by mountains. The climate is cool, and pleasant. The place was favored by the Dutch as a place to stay and to visit for recreation and was developed as a resort town. During colonial times, the city was known as *Parijs van Java* because of its luxury hotels, restaurants, cafes and boutiques. Immediately after independence, Bandung became famous as the site of the first Asian-African Conference. The city is known as a university city. It has experienced rapid urbanization in recent times but is still popular as a getaway place for people from the capital.. Many of the place names in and around Bandung reflect its topography and are connected with water and vegetation. This book gives the etymologies of 30 district names, and 151 village names.





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The National Team for Standardization of Geographical Names in Indonesia was established in 2006 based on the Presidential Rule Number 112 Year 2006. It is chaired by the Minister of Home Affairs, and its technical operation is led by the Head of Geospatial Information Authority. It consists of senior officials and technical experts from a number of ministries, national agencies, and universities, including: the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Geospatial Information Authority, the Ministry of Marine and Coastal Affairs, the Ministry of Defense, the Topographic Directorate of the Army, the Hydro-Oceanographic Directorate of the Navy, Universitas Indonesia, and Institut Teknologi Bandung.

Awards for Local Government Initiatives in Standardization of Geographical Names

The Indonesian Minister of Home Affairs as the Chairperson of the National Team for the Standardization of Geographical Names in Indonesia oversees and is responsible for getting local governments to identify, verify, register and report their findings on local geographical names and heritages.

The Ministry of Home Affairs, to achieve these goals, has put together a number of competitions that recognize and

award best practices for geographical name management by local governments. These awards give recognition for the establishment of local committees on standardization of geographical names; progress in capacity building; good practice in supervision and coordination; and promotion of newly verified islands.

The most recent awards event was taken place on 14-16 December 2015,

during the Toponymy Fiesta, held in Bandung, West Java. The event was attended by representatives of local governments.

The awards presented were Best Performance of Provincial Government on Geographical Names Standardization; and Best Initiative in Promoting Islands.



Validating Names of Small Islands

Indonesia is an archipelagic state. Its small islands are important strategically, economically, and environmentally. The Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries has been visiting these small islands to validate toponym data during 2013-2015.

The goals of validating small islands are: to verify work done so far so that the gazetteer can be updated; to systematically collect detailed data on the

small islands including: name of the island and the province it is in, administrative area it is in, geographical location and coordinates, size of the island, population, history, topography, and other information such as culture.

The surveys were conducted in different provinces. In 2013, which were Riau Islands, North Kalimantan, and Central Sulawesi. In 2014, they were done in Aceh, and South Kalimantan. In 2015, the

provinces visited were West Papua, East Java, South Sulawesi, East Kalimantan, West Java, Bangka Belitung, Southeast Sulawesi, and East Nusa Tenggara. The total number of small islands validated in these periods was 1,364 islands.

There is a strong commitment to continue the work, overcome all obstacles and to complete the verification of all small islands in Indonesia by 2017.



Challenging conditions during a survey



Photo documentation during a site survey in Aceh (top) and South-east Sulawesi (right)



Aceh, and South Kalimantan. In 2015, the



Gazetteer data corrections based on the results of verification