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TOPONYMIC EDUCATION AND PRACTICE:  
REPORT ON PILOT TRAINING COURSES

Report of the Pilot Training Course in Toponymy held  
at Cisarua, Bogor, Indonesia\*\*

(Paper presented by Indonesia)

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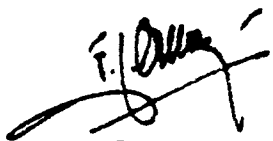
\*\* Prepared by the National Coordination Agency for Surveys and Mapping,  
(Bakosurtanal), Jakarta

PREAMBLE

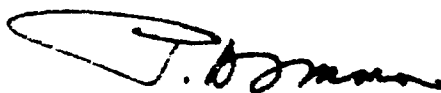
A PRIMARY AIM OF THE UNITED NATIONS GROUP OF EXPERTS ON  
GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES IS TO ACHIEVE ONE SINGLE WRITTEN FORM  
OF EVERY GEOGRAPHICAL NAME ON THE EARTH BY MEANS OF NA -  
TIONAL STANDARDIZATION AND/OR INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT.

PILOT TRAINING COURSE IN TOPONYMY  
CISARUA, INDONESIA  
7 - 18 JUNE, 1982

The attached Report of the Pilot Training Course in Toponymy held at Cisarua, Bogor, Indonesia, 7 - 18 June, 1982, organized in close cooperation with the UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names ( UNGEGN ) by BAKOSURTANAL on behalf of Indonesia, member country of the UNGEGN South-East Asian and South-West Pacific Division, is hereby submitted.



Prof. F.J. Ormeling  
Chairman,  
UNEGN Working Group  
Training Courses.



Ir. Pranoto Asmoro  
Chairman of BAKOSURTANAL.

Cisarua, Bogor, Indonesia.  
June 18<sup>th</sup>, 1982.

## PREFACE

This report concerns the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) Pilot Training Course in Toponymy held at Cisarua, Bogor, Indonesia during the Period 7 - 18 June 1982. As the inclusion of the word "Pilot" signifies, this training course is the first of its kind to held under UNGEGN auspices. Indonesia also is the first nation in the world to host such a course. Because of these two very significant "firsts", the purpose of this report is to provide an account of the Pilot Training Course in Toponymy, and at the same time to cover some aspects of the planning and preparation in Indonesia for the Course. And it is hoped that the report will prove useful for the planning and accomplishment of succeeding training courses in toponymy held in the future by other nations.

It is also appropriate at this time to express the deep and heartfelt appreciation by Indonesia and the participating nations of the UNGEGN South-East Asian and South-West Pacific Division to the UN Cartography Section, UNGEGN, and the UNGEGN Working Group Training Courses for the organization and development of the technical contents of this Pilot Training Course in Toponymy; to the Nations expressing support and encouragement for the project by providing lecturers and training materials; to the lecturers themselves, who so generously gave of their time, effort and expertise; and finally to the nations sending participants and the participants without whom the course would have served no purpose. Therefore the credit for the success, and the course was deemed to be successful by both lecturers and participants, must go to all parties; the UNGEGN, the contributing nations, the committees, and the individuals involved in this undertaking of the Pilot Training Course in Toponymy.

An Organizing Committee was established in Indonesia to make all in-country arrangements for living accommodation, classroom facilities and to select an area for the field collection exercise. Additionally, the Committee was tasked to make all the logistical arrangements for transportation, meeting the incoming participants, food service, preparation and dissemination of the Programme, copying and disseminating lecture and informational material, and ..

many other services necessary to the successful accomplishment of the Pilot Training Course in Toponymy. An interesting problem, which was a mixture of technical and logistical requirement, was to select the locations for the field collection exercise, the living accommodations, and the classroom facilities (each of which presented its own set of constraints) so that as many of the requirements for each could be resolved with a mutually supportive result.

#### A. Field Collection Area.

Professor F.J. Ormeling, Chairman, UNGEGN Working Group Training Courses, suggested that the area should contain a variety of Topographic, hydrographic and cultural features suitable for the names collection exercise. Additionally, the area selected should be small enough to allow worthwhile on-foot collection activity in the time available. Further it should be accessible by auto/bus, and be located within a reasonable distance of the classroom and living accommodations. These requirements then established the minimum criteria for the selection of the area for field collection.

#### B. Classroom and Lecture facilities.

The minimum selection criteria for the classroom and lecture facilities for the course required that the facilities be adequate for approximately forty persons, be available for day and evening use for the duration of the course, be located within easy walking distance from the living accommodations, and within a reasonable distance of the field collection area.

#### C. Living Accommodations.

In addition to the normal concerns regarding sanitation, modern plumbing and lighting, access to eating, sundry shopping and medical facilities, the selection criteria for living accommodations included the requirements that they be located within easy walking distance from the classroom facilities, and be available at reasonable cost to the course participants.

So the selection of the combined living and classroom facilities in Cisarua, which was within a reasonable distance of the field collection area, which in turn satisfied its requirements is an example

of the excellent support work by the Committee.

The National Coordination Agency for Surveys and Mapping (BAKO  
SURTANAL) prepared a special map 1 : 50,000 of the field collection  
area for use in the Pilot Training Course in Toponymy.

## Introduction

1. For almost 20 years the U.N. have urged its member states to support and participate in the standardization of geographical names. One of the important means toward the achievement of this objective is, the holding of training courses. The wish to organize a pilot course to gather experience was explicitly expressed at the Second UN conference on the standardization of geographical names in London 1972. The Chairman of the UNGEGN Working Group on Training Courses was invited to organize such a course, in the seventies. Since then various attempts were made to realise these aims. Twice the realization seemed to be within reach, but both times, funds were inadequate to hold the course. The spell was broken by Indonesia, a country involved in a huge mapping programme. The course was organized by the National Coordination Agency for Surveys and Mapping ( BAKOSURTANAL ), at Cisarua, Indonesia, 7 - 18 June, 1982.

Official invitations to attend the Pilot Training Course in Toponymy were sent to member countries of the Asia, South-East and Pacific, South-West Division, and also to Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Prof. Ormeling, Chairman of the UNGEGN Working Group on Training Courses, arranged for the services of volunteer lecturers from nations with established geographic names activities and in close coordination with the BAKOSURTANAL organizing committee, established the content and schedule for the training course.

## Attendance

2. Five nations namely, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, Thailand and Indonesia sent participants. The total number of students were 29.

The countries providing lecturers, training materials and information in support of the training course, were Australia, Mr. Pearce; the Federal Republic of Germany, Ir. Böhme, who also represented the UN; Hungary, Dr. Földi; the Netherlands, Prof. Ormeling and Prof. Blok; the United Kingdom, Mr. Lewis; the United States, Mr. Taylor and from Indonesia, Prof. Rais and Dr. I Made Sandy.

### Opening of the course

3. The course was opened on 7 June, 1982 on behalf of the Indonesian Government by Ir. Pranoto Asmoro, Chairman of BAKOSURTANAL and he also welcomed the lecturers and the participants and wished them a pleasant and memorable stay in Indonesia.

Ir. Bohme on behalf of Dr. Max de Henseler, Chief Cartography Section, thanked the Government of Indonesia and the Chairman of BAKOSURTANAL for hosting this first Training Course in Toponymy.

Mr. Shuib bin Fadzil on behalf of the Division Chairman, Asia, South-East and Pacific, South-West, delivered a speech conveying his heartiest congratulation to BAKOSURTANAL for organizing this first Course in Toponymy and also to Prof. Ormeling for his enthusiastic and vigorous support for this course.

Prof. Ormeling, Chairman UNGEGN Working Group on Training Courses in his speech gave a short explanation of his various attempts to realise the aims to hold a training course in toponymy and stated that Indonesia had made the aim a reality at the 1979 UNGEGN meeting through its offer to host the pilot course. Prof. Ormeling introduced the lecturers and expressed his appreciation to them for giving freely of their time to attend this course.



Programme of the course

4. The course was divided into two parts. The first part involved lecturers and discussions dealing with Toponymy theory and functions; linguistics, global distribution of languages and scripts, exonyms, general and specific problems of geographical names collection, processing and standardization and the promulgation and applications of geographical names on maps and in gazetteers.

The course then switched to a field environment to provide practical exercises in the collection and verification of geographical names for a variety of cultural, topographical and hydrographical features followed by an evaluation of field work.

The final training course session was the formal evaluation of the course by the participants and the lecturers.

Lecture Programme

5. All lectures were presented in English. The lecture programme was well planned in relation to the course study. Copies of most of the lectures were handouts to participants for their use before and during the lectures and for later reference. This is an important provision where some participants may have an inadequate command of English, and hesitate to ask questions and join in discussions. However participants showed a high degree of interest and discussions were lively and relevant. It was agreed that some of the lectures were too long and could have been presented in two parts.

### Fieldwork

6. The idea and organization of fieldwork was right. The collection of names of geographical entities acquainted the participants as well as the lecturers with the practical aspects of the collection and standardization of geographical names and the need for verifying them carefully before the names are processed in final form.

The exposure of the participants to actual fieldwork and office treatment of names after the theoretical lecturers, made this course in toponymy very effective and useful to those who have had little or no field experience.

Some participants suggested that the 1 : 50,000 scale map used for the collection of names was too small due to the large number of village names in the area of the field programme, and recommended that scale of 1 : 25,000 be used.

### Technical Visits

7. The visits to the Hydro-Oceanographic Office, the Army Topographic Office in Jakarta, and finally to BAKOSURTANAL in Cibinong were worthwhile, inspiring and informative. Exposure to the various mapping organizations and the cartographic processes in map production, especially at BAKOSURTANAL, has provided a better insight into the increasing usage of sophisticated equipment in map production. These visits also helped to acquaint the participants with the status of progress in hydrographic and oceanographic charting of Indonesia. It helped to give an idea of the application of remote sensing techniques and automatic data processing and the advantage of introducing this for National Planning and Development.

Location of the course and accomodation

8. Cisarua, located in a low mountainous area 80 km South of Jakarta, was considered as a location with an ideal natural climate.

Lecturers and participants were accomodated in bungalows in close proximity to the classroom, a situation which provided interaction between them at any time. Evening discussion sessions were easily organized, and well attended.

Recommendation for the creation of a Central authority  
for Geographical Names in Indonesia

9. At the final session the collective participants handed in, written recommendation to create a Central Authority for Geographical Names in Indonesia, in accordance with Resolution 4 of the Geneva Conference, 1967.

Map display

10. Maps, charts, gazetteers and other publications related to toponymy were displayed during the period of the course. Countries and institutions who participated were :
- a. The Federal Republic of Germany
  - b. The United States Defense Mapping Agency
  - c. Indonesia, consisting of:
    - 1) BAKOSURTANAL
    - 2) Army Topographic Office
    - 3) Hydro-Oceanographic Office
    - 4) Air Force Aerial Photographic Office
    - 5) Directorate of Land-use
    - 6) School for Photogrammetry and Cartography.

At the opening session, Mr. Lewis presented to Ir. Pranoto Asmoro a copy of the internationally known Times Atlas of the World for the BAKOSURTANAL Library.

#### Future courses

11. A second UN Training Course in Toponymy was recommended to be held Preferably in a developing country such as Kenya, Nigeria, Philippines etc.

#### Evaluation of the Course

Prof. Ormeling, in his opening address said that, as the course was experimental, the results could be fruitful for both participants and lecturers. In their evaluation of the course by both categories suggestions/recommendations were given for future toponymy courses, includes practical exercises. Two comments are mentioned here. One suggests that some form of UN subsidy for travel assistance would achieve more participants from nations not having sufficient funds to send representatives. The other suggests inviting participants/lecturers from agencies/activities dealing with geographical names as related to history, archeology, geology anthropology and so on.

Considered as a whole, the Pilot Course in Toponymy was rated as very successful and well worth the time and efforts of all participants and lecturers.

Closing session

13. Certificates of Achievement were awarded to all 29 participants and Certificates of Appreciation were presented to the lecturers by the Chairman of BAKOSURTANAL Ir. Pranoto Asmoro.

Closing addresses were presented by:

- a. Col. Oemarjoto on behalf of the Organizing Committee(Annex J)
- b. Prof. Dr. F.J. Ormeling on behalf of the UNGEGN Working Group on Training Courses.
- c. Ir. R. Böhme on behalf of the UN.
- d. Dr. Panuti Sudjiman on behalf of the participants.
- e. Ir. Pranoto Asmoro as Chairman of BAKOSURTANAL.

The course was officially closed on 18 June 1982.

