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Item 4 of the provisional agenda */

REPORTS BY DIVISIONS AND GOVERNMENTS ON THE SITUATION IN THEIR
REGIONS AND COUNTRIES AND ON THE PROGRESS MADE IN THE
STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES SINCE THE FIFTH CONFERENCE

Country Report - Malaysia

(Submitted by Malaysia)**

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Item 4 of the Provisional Agenda.

COUNTRY REPORT - MALAYSIA.

1. INTRODUCTION:

This report covers the period since the 5 th Conference held in 1987 in Montreal, Canada, to date.

2. NATIONAL PROGRAMME

A Permanent Committee comprising of representatives from the Department of Survey and Mapping, the Literary and Language Institute (Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka) , Municipal Councils (or Local Governments where necessary) and the local Universities undertakes the task of the standardisation of the spelling of geographical names within the country, as well as liaising with the neighbouring countries of Indonesia , Singapore and Thailand on the common spelling of geographical names of features straddling beyond a single sovereignty. All maps, plans and charts produced by the Department of Survey and Mapping Malaysia henceforth conform to guidelines produced by this Permanent Committee.

3. NATIONAL GAZETTEERS

As reported at the 5th Meeting of the Division of Asia, South East and Pacific, South West held at Perth, Australia , 27 - 28 August 1990 , Malaysia has embarked upon a programme to computerise of its toponymic data files. Although Malaysia's move into the computerisation of its toponymic data files was slow in the beginning, the introduction of a Computer Assisted Mapping System (CAMS) in 1989 , to augment the production of 1: 50 000 Topographic Maps, provided the necessary impetus to the programme. Although the CAMS project produces a national topographic database for its national series of topographic maps, it also produces a national cartographic data base with various attribute information, including those of geographical names. The technical details of the computerised toponymy data base system was reported upon by Malaysia at the 5th Meeting of the Division of Asia, South East and Pacific, SouthWest held at Perth, Australia 27 - 28 August, 1990.

On the cadastral surveying side, a separate data base for geographical names, defined geometrically by its planimetric co-ordinates, was also created on a state-wide basis only, in the State of Johor beginning with the introduction of a Computer Assisted Land Surveying System (CALS) in the State in 1987. The beginnings of a similar data base in the State of Pahang was established with the introduction of CALS to the Survey and Mapping Department of that State in 1991. It is hoped that the CALS project can be extended to each and every state of Peninsular Malaysia before the end of the current 6th Malaysia Development Plan (1991 - 1996) .

4. PROJECTS OF THE DIVISION OF ASIA, SOUTH EAST AND PACIFIC, SOUTH WEST

Realising that there is a need for an authoritative map depicting the official geographical names for the region , the Division at its 5th Meeting at Perth in 1990, agreed upon the production of a 1: 10 million scale map as a regional project requiring considerable co-operation and consultation between member countries. Currently the 5th Edition of the Political and 3rd. Edition of the Physical Maps of the region as produced by Malaysia , with the consent of member countries of the region, stand as the latest editions. The Department of Survey and Land Information, New Zealand as the current Divisional Representative has compiled the proposed 1: 10 million map and a diazo print of this compilation was received from New Zealand recently for updating by each of the member countries.

The proceedings of the last training course for the region on toponymy which was held in Indonesia in 1989 was reported upon at the 5 th meeting of the division held in 1990 at Perth.

5. FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

The introduction of computer assisted topographic mapping and cadastral surveying systems within the past 5 years has provided the impetus necessary for the development of computerised toponymic and cadastral surveying data files. The systems are still in the process of being further developed. Guidelines based on experiences of member countries , as would be reported upon in this Conference, would be of enormous benefit to Malaysia's efforts.

Submitted by,
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