

22 August 2002

Original: English

Eighth United Nations Conference on the
Standardization of Geographical Names
Berlin, 27 August-5 September 2002
Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

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

Report of Thailand

(Submitted by Thailand)

Report of Thailand
Submitted to the Eighth United Nations conference on the Standardization
of Geographical Names
Berlin, Germany, 27 August - 5 September 2002

1. INTRODUCTION

Due to the absence of Thai delegation at the seventh conference, this report includes activities and progress on standardization of geographical names of Thailand since the sixth conference. Most achievements have been made on behalf of the National Committee on Geographical Names and its sub-committees. Also, this report includes the status of the romanization system for Thai and geographical names gazetteers of Thailand,

2. THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

During the reporting period, the National Committee on Geographical Names had approved 318 geographical names proposed by the National Sub-Committee on Geographical Names Standardization. These names will be submitted to the government for approval and declared as the official names,

3. THE NATIONAL SUB-COMMITTEE ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAME STANDARDIZATION

The members of the sub-committee increased from 16 to 21 including representatives from the related government agencies and experts. During the reporting period, the sub-committee had investigated and determined 318 geographical names including 233 mountains, 5 border passes, 57 water resources, 1 island and 22 names of tambon (sub-district). The determined names have been approved by the National Committee on Geographical Names as stated in item 2.

4. THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON TOPONYMIC GUIDELINES FOR MAP EDITORS AND OTHER EDITORS

The Sub-Committee on Toponymic Guidelines for Map Editors and other Editors of which the members increased from 11 to 12 had finalized the Toponymic Guidelines of Thailand to be submitted to this conference.

5. THAI GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES GAZETTEER

5.1 Geographical Names Gazetteer Produced by the Royal Thai Survey Department (RTSD)

As reported at the Eighteenth Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names in 1996, the gazetteer from 114 of 830 L 7017 map sheets had been completed. Since the commencement of the L 7018 Recompilation Project in 1998 to produce 1:50,000 digital topographical line maps of Thailand, the production of the gazetteer from L 7017 maps has been replaced by the 5 year project of the gazetteer of geographical names from L 7018 (2001-2006). At the reporting period, geographical names from 180 map sheets had been entered into the name data base.

5.2 Gazetteers Produced by the Royal Institute

At the reporting period, the work on geographical names revision had reached the forty-first Characters of Thai alphabet (of the total of 44 characters). The fourth edition of Thai geographical names gazetteer will be published in 2002 in 5 volumes.

6. ROMANIZATION SYSTEM FOR THAI

Based on the revised romanization system for Thai approved by the Thai government in 1999, the Royal Thai Survey Department (RTSD) as the responsible institute, had prepared the revision of romanization system for Thai as *Principles of Romanization for Thai Script by Transcription Method* and forwarded to the UNGEGN Working Group on Romanizations in October 1997, prior to the Seventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (New York, 1998). However, the revision was not presented to the seventh conference because of the absence of the Thai delegation.

To present to the Eighth UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Name, the revision of the romanization system for Thai includes some additional notes to clarify the remarks made by the working group.
