Ninth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names
New York, 21 - 30 August 2007
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 Eighth Conference

Brunei Darussalam Country Report

Submitted by Brunei Darussalam**

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** Prepared by the Survey Department, Brunei Darussalam.
Background

• Formation of Committee on Geographical names in 1976
• New Committee Members in 2006
  – Director of Language and Literature
  – Surveyor General
  – Others
    • Historical
    • Museum
    • Land
    • Town and Country Planning
    • District Offices
    • Municipal
    • Education
    • PWD
Procedures

- Maps and information prepared
- Sources persons contacted
- Fieldwork / Interview
- Data Entry in Database
- Committee Meeting
- Names approved by National Committee on Geographical Names
principles and practices

- current local usage
- historical background
- avoiding repetition of names
- avoiding of more than one name for the same feature
- clarification of the precise extent of each individual geographical name
- Avoiding unsuitable names
Meetings

• Held 5 meetings since May 2006
• Names approved 377
• Web Site Launched in July 2007
• http://www.survey.gov.bn/namageo/
• Frequency of meeting once in two months
Problems

- Attendance of members
- Manually written maps for distribution
- Lack of facts and sources
- Spelling and Pronunciation
Field Research

- The local spoken form of the name recorded on tape and, as far as possible, written in the Phonetic notation approved by the National Geographic Names Committee.

- The character, extent the position of the feature named are determined and recorded as accurate as possible, and the meaning of the generic terms used locally are clearly defined.

- Written and spoken form of the name and its meaning according to local inhabitants.

- Historical background and the evolution of the names as known to the elders in the areas.
Future Directions

• Training
• Membership review
• Circulation of proposal instead of meeting  
  – Electronically
• Use of digital maps
• Linking the database to geo database
• Spelling and pronunciation dictionary
• Benchmarking with other agencies
THANK YOU