

## **Status of national geographical names standardization in Vietnam**

### ***Language***

Social Republic of Vietnam is a multilingual country in which Vietnamese is official language. There are 54 ethnic groups, with about 86% of Vietnamese population belongs to ethnic of Kinh. Vietnamese is a mother tongue of ethnic of Kinh and Vietnamese script is based on Roman/Latin alphabet. Ethnic other than ethnic of Kinh have their own languages and even writing scripts.

Names of geographical features in many cases reflect the language and identity of the people of the region and are handed down from generation to generation. In Vietnam, standardization of geographical names are consistent and scientifically-based conversions into the Roman/Latin alphabet.

### ***Organizational issues relating to standardization of geographical names***

Geographical names are a very important element of spatial data and of cartography. Accurate names – their recording, storage, authorization and dissemination – are basic for use in documents, maps, and databases that support humanitarian aid, urban planning, infrastructure development, tourism promotion, preservation of cultural heritage, and so on.

It is stated in Vietnamese government Decree for official organization and functions of Ministry of Natural Resource and Environment, that *Ministry of Natural Resource and Environment is responsible for establishment of geographical names lists for mapping purpose.*

According to Vietnamese government Decree for survey and mapping activity, it is assigned for survey and mapping activity in implementation geographical names database system for mapping.

As commissioned by Ministry of Natural Resource and Environment, that Department of Survey, Mapping and Geoinformation has a function in implementation of geographical names database management system for mapping.

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### ***Technical aspect in geographical names standardization***

National technical regulation on standardization of geographic name for mapping approved by Ministry of Natural Resource and Environment is a guideline for implementation of geographical names standardization

### ***Current status***

Geographic names standardization process carried out for each province base on topographical map scale of 1/25000. Currently, the process is completed for 54/63 provinces. Results are presented as Circulars signed by Ministry of Natural Resource and Environment and are public on official journals. The standardized geographical names are gathered in database managed at Centre of Survey and Mapping which is belongs to Department of Survey, Mapping and Geoinformation.