UNGE GN toponymy course, module 19, toponymical planning

Ferjan Ormeling
For our purpose, **toponymic planning** can be defined as the deliberate effort to influence the spelling of place names, primarily in order to improve communication. There can be other objectives, however, for instance shedding of the toponymic influences regarded as foreign.
Toponymical planning requires concerted action

- Maps
- Telephone directories
- Signposts, name shields
- Stationery

All have to change at the same time, preferably with dual naming during a transition period.
Changes in orthography Bahasa Indonesia

- 1901 Ejaan Van Ophuijsen: oe, j, dj, tj, ch, ra’jat (glottal stop), di-roemah, (plural:) oeboer-oeboer

- 1947 Ejaan Republik: u, j, dj, tj, ch, rakjat, (glottal stop), dirumah, (plural:) ubur²

- 1972 Ejaan yang Disempurnakan: u, y, j, c, kh, rakjat, (glottal stop), dirumah, (plural:) ubur²

- Only very few toponyms remained the same! Semarang, Solo, Malang
Changes in dispensation/political structure

- Commemorative names of former dispensation are exchanged for those of the new dispensation (e.g. Fort de Kock – Bukittingi)
- Linguistic changes in generics: Straat Soenda > Selat Sunda
- Linguistic changes in spelling: P.Raäs > P.Raas
- Some Dutch toponyms for which no Indonesian equivalents existed were translated
- Some politically motivated changes: P.Rosengain > P.Hatta
Colonization of new areas

- Polders (areas drained from the sea)
- New countries opened up for cultivation
- New areas opened up for cultivation: transmigrasi
- Clearances of forests
Extension of towns

- Street network is planned
- Street names are planned as well, so that street names related to similar objects (flowers, poets, statesmen, nobel proze winners) are located together
Restoration of minority names

Decide upon a system for ascertaining local linguistic majorities
Implement it
Stabilize restrictions
National items
Number restrictions

Apply standardized orthography to local names
Have a bilingual, concerted action, transition period
End up with a monolingual representation in the local official language

National language
Bilingual transitory period
Local majority language

Leeuwarden
Ljouwert
Leeuwarden
Ljouwert

Dokkum
Friesland
Leewarden
Bolsward
Heerleneen

>10 years

Concerted action
Des noms chinois modifiés en noms russes

Dans la région située entre l’Oussouri et la Mer du Japon, (un des territoires que la Chine a dû céder à la Russie au siècle dernier), le gouvernement soviétique a modifié les noms de plusieurs villes et remplacé les noms chinois par des noms russes. Nous avons figuré sur notre carte les nouveaux noms russes et mis entre parenthèses les anciens noms chinois.
New names have to be found when mergers of municipalities occur

- New names should preferably be written according to the current orthographic rules
- New names should not have been entered in current lists or indexes of names or brands
- Constructions in which existing names are strung together (with or without hyphens) should be avoided
- New names should reflect the history or historical geography of the region
- New names should not bear negative connotations
Avoid sensibilities by selecting a completely new name instead of promoting existing names for a municipality

Avoid as a new name for the joined municipalities constructions that link parts of existing names

It is only feasible to opt for the name of the largest municipality when a number of smaller municipalities have been joined to one larger one

A new name should not be too similar to an existing geographical name either in the Netherlands or in neighbouring areas