15 February 2019

Original: English

United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names
2019 session
New York, 29 April–3 May 2019
Item 7 (a) of the provisional agenda*
National and international standardization of geographical names: names collection, office treatment, national authorities, features beyond a single sovereignty and international cooperation

Undersea geographical names in the waters of Indonesia

Summary**

The submarine features of Indonesia have unique and complex characteristics. They are classified on the basis of their name, age, bathymetry, geological genetics and basin. The features – such as Hartono Trough, Nautilus Trough, Snellius Ridge, Hamilton Ridge, Weber Trough, Sinta Ridge, Paoli Ridge, Rama Ridge, Kuenen Ridge and Baruna Komba seamount – are usually named after the ships used, or persons involved, in conducting the surveys.

The Marine Geological Institute of Indonesia has organized the collection of data, the writing, determination and collection of new names and the processing of geographical names, including generic and specific elements, to obtain the names of underwater formations in each region. The research material covers all of the morphological features present in the seabed of Indonesia, identified and registered by their original name, accompanied by additional information concerning the formations. The marine morphology toponym programme was a multi-year activity that was carried out from 2006 to 2010.

Submarine features, in particular basins, are the predominant features in the regions of Aceh and North Sumatra, south-western Sumatra, southern Java, northern Bali and the waters of eastern Indonesia. They are formed by a complex tectonic process involving subduction of the oceanic Indo-Australian plate beneath the continental Eurasian plate. The seamount morphology is predominantly found in the Banda Sea and Flores Sea. The seamounts are series of underwater volcanoes that are indicative of active tectonism.

* GEGN.2/2019/1.

** The full report was prepared by Mustafa Hanafi, Marine Geological Institute of Indonesia. The report will be available at https://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/1st_session_UNGEGN.html, in the language of submission only, as document GEGN.2/2019/90/CRP.90.