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Toponymic data files and gazetteers

The development of a geographical name information system to accelerate geographical name standardization in Indonesia

Summary**

SAKTI (Sistem Akuisisi Data Toponim Indonesia), an application developed for the Android operating platform, was initially developed by the Geospatial Information Agency (Badan Informasi Geospasial) in 2016 for the acquisition of geographical names data in Indonesia. The need to accelerate the processing and verification of geographical names led to the development of a web-based version of the application in 2017. In the following year, the Agency developed SINAR (Sistem Informasi Nama Rupabumi), a web-based application to facilitate the publication of geographical names and the information related to the standardization of geographical names. Since then, SAKTI has been used by ministries, agencies and local governments for the standardization of geographical names. In addition, SINAR has been the main platform that the public can use to access geographical name data, including the gazetteer.

A new regulation on geographical name standardization (government regulation Nr. 2 of 2021), encourages the integration of SAKTI into SINAR to become a single system. The regulation endorses that the system supports the active involvement of local governments and encourages citizen participation by giving access to all entities so that they can contribute, collaborate and engage in geographical name data acquisition, verification and publication. SINAR has been developed according to a new business process set out in the new regulation. It has led to new modules, changes in the system flow and the introduction of new actors into the system.

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Recently, the Geospatial Information Agency developed the Gegas and @lit mobile applications. Gegas integrates a 360-degree camera, which it uses for data acquisition on a moving vehicle or a platform. The @lit application is a light-weight and simpler version of SINAR. The two applications could encourage more citizens to participate by contributing to geographical names data acquisition.

The development of SINAR as the primary instrument of geographical name standardization in Indonesia will be discussed in more detail in the full report, together with the challenges of increasing the system's efficiency and capacity to overcome the lack of data in Indonesia.

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