
**United Nations Group of Experts on
Geographical Names
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Item 10 of the provisional agenda *
Toponymic education**

**Webinars on toponymy in Indonesia: an adaptation of
toponymic education to the corona virus disease pandemic
situation**

Submitted by Indonesia **

Summary

The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has affected multiple activities in Indonesia, among them activities on toponyms. In previous years, the Indonesian Geospatial Information Agency (Badan Informasi Geospasial) as the national authority responsible for geographical names, has periodically provided technical guidance to local governments on the theory and practice of toponymy. That has become impossible to do under the current conditions.

To adapt to the changing situation, some toponymic activities must be conducted online. In 2020, the Agency held three webinars on, respectively, technology, policies and the utilization of toponyms. The webinars featured several speakers with various backgrounds and perspectives. They came from multiple stakeholders, such as practitioners, academics, experts, the private sector and the Government.

Webinars on toponymy have reached more people, and the audience has not been limited to local governments. The webinars received a high and enthusiastic response from participants and from people who follow the Agency on YouTube. Records from the start to the end of the webinar taken from the Agency's YouTube channel indicated that there was a high level of interest. The steps the Agency has taken to educate the broader public through online media, in particular in webinars, will be detailed in the full report.

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Introduction

As Indonesia's national name authority, the Geospatial Information Agency (*Badan Informasi Geospasial* - BIG) is responsible for standardizing geographical names. One of BIG's tasks is to provide toponymic education or training to local governments to implement these activities. Every year, socialization activities and technical guidance for standardizing geographical names are routinely carried out with the local government's main participants. Technical guidance activities are carried out for approximately five days with material regarding the rules and benefits of standardizing geographical names, data collection, field practice, and data processing. On average, BIG holds technical assistance three times in one year with about 100 participants per event.

The COVID-19 pandemic in Indonesia has had a significant impact on the implementation of activities in various sectors. The Indonesian government implements several health protocols to prevent the spread of a virus known as "New Normal." One of the protocols adopted is to minimize physical contact and public activity to ensure public safety and health. This protocol caused face-to-face technical guidance activities on the geographical name cannot be held.

As a form of adaptation, BIG has changed the educational method from face-to-face meetings to an online webinar called the Geospatial Webinar Series (GWS). Three webinars were held on topics related to geographical names. The theme raised at this GWS includes technology, science, and government policies related to geographical names. GWS is broadcast live via the "Zoom Meeting" application and Youtube Live Streaming. During the GWS session, participants can give the speakers questions and answer at the end of the webinar. The video during the webinar was also uploaded to BIG Youtube Channel to reach the participant not able to watch it live.

GWS - Toponym Series 1: Technology and Community's Active Role in Collecting Geographical Names

The first webinar on toponymy raised the theme of technology. The aim is to open up opportunities for collaboration with multiple stakeholders to optimize the use of technology in the geospatial industry, adapted to accelerate the collection of geographical names. Resource persons for this first webinar consisted of representing the higher education sector from the National Institute of Technology and two representatives of the mapping operation division from two online transportation service providers in Indonesia (GOJEK and GRAB representatives). GOJEK and GRAB are the two largest online transportation service providers in Indonesia. The details of the speakers and the presentation material delivered are as follows:

1. Sumarno, Lecturer at the National Institute of Technology (Institut Teknologi Nasional – ITENAS): Research and Development of Technology for Collecting geographical Names;
2. Yantisa Akhadi, Map Ops Manager at GOJEK: Geospatial Data for Easy Travel;
3. Bayu Yanuargi, Head of Regional Map Operation at GRAB: The Role of Geospatial Technology Applications for Grab.

This webinar's main discussion is the research and technology development to accelerate geographical name data collection. Acceleration is essential because of the industry's high need for data, and the old methods used cannot collect data quickly. Speaker from ITENAS discusses their technology research to accelerate collecting data by using a 360-degree camera. The discussion related to this technology inspired BIG to develop the application named "GEGAS" and "@lit" as a breakthrough to accelerate geographical name data collection. Further information regarding "GEGAS" and "@lit" may refer to GEGN.2/2021/34/CRP.34 document.

The emergence of online transportation has made accurate geographical name data the primary service provision requirement from the industry side. GOJEK and GRAB represent a crowd-sourced data collection method where users can actively participate in adding objects as their pick-up point in

their application. Collaboration between service providers, the government, and the community becomes vital in providing geographical data that is fast and accurate.

The participants' statistics for this webinar are as follows:

Registered Participants	1.462 participants
Live Participants on Zoom and Youtube (based on attendance list)	1.282 participants
Viewers on Youtube until 11 March 2021	3.071 views

GWS - Toponym Series 2: Toponym as part of Basic Geospatial Information and Access to Other Information

The second webinar on toponym takes the theme of geographical names from a scientific perspective. This webinar aims to provide knowledge about geographical names and the benefits of having geographical name data. The speakers who participated in this webinar consisted of BIG and academics. Detailed information about the speakers and the material presented is as follows:

1. Ade Komara Mulyana, Head of Topographic Map and Toponym - BIG: Toponym and Urgency of National Gazetteer;
2. Bangun Muljo Sukojo, Professor at Institute Technology of Sepuluh November (ITS): Toponym as a track recorder and reflection on the history of the nation's journey;
3. Heri Sutanta, Lecturer at University of Gadjah Mada (UGM): Toponyms for Address Standardization in Indonesia

The Speakers from BIG explained the meaning of toponyms and toponym conditions comprehensively in Indonesia and examples in the field. This session also explained how topographical names are organized in Indonesia and the benefits of the National Gazetteer. One of the national gazetteers' services is to describe the area's natural characteristics from the naming history. These benefits can be considered when compiling a spatial plan so that the designation of a place is following existing natural conditions.

The speaker from ITS explained the role of toponym as a track record and historical reflection. Geographical names in Indonesia have distinct characteristics and historical significance. As a result, toponymy can be used to preserve a region's culture.

The speaker from UGM explained his research results in the toponymic survey regarding the standardization of Indonesia addresses. Based on research conducted, currently, Indonesia does not have a standardized address system. This condition made it difficult for several business sectors, such as providing shuttle transportation (e.g., taxis, taxi bikes, and other transportation types) and delivering goods.

The participants' statistics for this webinar are as follows:

Registered Participants	1.593 participant
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Live Participants on Zoom and Youtube (based on attendance list)	1.436 participant
Viewers on Youtube until 11 March 2021	2.753 views

GWS - Toponym Series 3: Urgency for Standardization of Geographical Names: Studies, Institutions, and Policies

The third webinar on toponym raises the theme of geographical names from a government policy perspective. This webinar aims to be a medium of socialization to the public and local government regarding regulations related to standardizing geographical names. The speaker participated in this webinar consisting of the national government represented by BIG and the Ministry of Home Affairs and a representative from toponymy experts. Detailed information about the speakers and the material presented is as follows:

1. Mohamad Arief Syafii, Deputy for Basic Geospatial Information at BIG: Urgency of the Draft Government Regulation on the Implementation of Geographical Names;
2. Safrizal, General Director of Regional Administration Development at the Ministry of Home Affairs: Coordination of the Central Government and Local Governments in the Implementation of Geographical Names for Administrative Areas;
3. Multamia R.M.T. Lauder, Toponym Expert: The Role of Expert Groups and Linguistics in Toponymy Journeys in Indonesia

Speaker from BIG explains the importance of the national government in issuing regulations relating to geographical names. It can be used as a reference for the community and local government when naming an object. Also, the regulations issued can serve as a legal basis for local governments when planning budgets.

The second speaker from the Ministry of Home Affairs discusses the importance of collaboration between national and local governments in geographical name activities. The vast area of Indonesia makes local governments play an important role in data collection and verification. The excellent and effective synergy between multiple stakeholders is expected to be the key to Indonesia's geographical names standardization implementation.

The third speaker from the toponym expert discussed the role participation of experts in geographical names activities. One of them is to educate the public to use local languages when naming places. A local language is a form of cultural preservation not to be eroded by globalization. Besides, local languages in geographical naming can also be a characteristic that describes the region's characteristics.

The participants' statistics for this third webinar are as follows:

Registered Participants	1.023 participant
Live Participants on Zoom and Youtube (based on attendance list)	958 participants

Viewers on Youtube until 11 March 2021	1.972 views
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Conclusion

The pandemic that has occurred has changed the pattern of geographical names education carried out so far, from face-to-face meetings to online meetings. This method gives an advantage because it can reach more participants from various backgrounds. Based on the registration form, webinar participants come from local governments, academics, private sectors, and the general public. Enthusiasm for this webinar is very high, where the participation rate is more than 90% compared to the attendance list to the registered list. This enthusiasm is also reinforced by the number of viewers in each webinar video on BIG Youtube Channel, reaching an average of twice the number of live participants for up to March 2021.

The group of experts is invited to express its view on the technical paper.