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Geographical Names**

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Reports: Divisions of the Group of Experts

Report of the Asia South-East Division

Submitted by Asia South-East Division **

Summary:

This report covers the main activities that have been carried out by the Asia South-East (ASE) Division of the UNGEGN in 2021 and 2022. The division held three divisional meetings during this period.

During the 10th Divisional Meeting of the UNGEGN ASE Division on 19th April 2022, the UNGEGN ASE Division Chairmanship was handed over from Indonesia to Brunei Darussalam. Brunei Darussalam has been appointed Chairperson of the UNGEGN ASE Division for the period 2022-2026.

The report summarises the status of the UNGEGN ASE Division Work Plan 2019-2022 and briefly on the progress of the 2022-2026 Division Work Plan. The Division Work Plan 2022-2026 continues the work from the previous session as continuity is important to maintain the standards of the division and to add values to the current progress.

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** Prepared by the UNGEGN ASE Division Secretariat

Report of UNGEGN, Asia South-East Division

A. INTRODUCTION

This report covers the main activities that have been carried out by the Asia South-East (ASE) Division of the UNGEGN in 2021 and 2022.

B. ACTIVITIES & ACHIEVEMENTS

1. Chairmanship

Brunei Darussalam was elected as the Chair of the UNGEGN ASE Division during the 10th Divisional Meeting, succeeding Indonesia, on 19 April 2022 which was held virtually. The Chairmanship shall be for a period of four years, from April 2022 to April 2026.

2. Divisional Meeting

2.1. The 9th Divisional Meeting of the UNGEGN ASE Division (24 November 2021)

The 9th Divisional Meeting of the UNGEGN ASE Division was held successfully as a virtual meeting on 24 November 2021 hosted by Indonesia. Delegates from Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, and Viet Nam participated in the meeting. The 9th Divisional Meeting provided a forum for ASE Division Member Countries to learn and share the best practices and experiences of each national activity on geographical names standardization. It also delivered new insights for geographical names administration.

2.2. The 10th Divisional Meeting of the UNGEGN ASE Division (19 April 2022)

The 10th Divisional Meeting of the UNGEGN ASE Division was successfully held as a virtual meeting on 19 April 2022, hosted by Indonesia. The meeting was attended by delegates from Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, and Vietnam. The 10th Divisional Meeting adopted three resolutions, including appreciation for Indonesia's chairmanship and activities carried out by the ASE Division Member Countries in 2022, Indonesia's commitment to hold the International Training on Toponymy in Bali in 2023, and the handover of the UNGEGN ASE Division Chairmanship from Indonesia to Brunei Darussalam. Brunei Darussalam has been appointed Chairman of the UNGEGN ASE Division for the period 2022-2026.

2.3. The 11th Divisional Meeting of the UNGEGN ASE Division (09 November 2022)

The 11th Divisional Meeting of the UNGEGN ASE Division was successfully held as a virtual meeting on 09 November 2022, hosted by Brunei Darussalam. The meeting was attended by delegates from Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Vietnam. The 11th Divisional Meeting adopted five resolutions: to revise the UNGEGN ASE Division Work Plan (2022-2026), to form Technical Committees to actively implement and monitor the Work Plan, Sri Lanka will lead the Technical Committee for the Generic Terms, contribution by members to support the Work Plan and densify the database for the regional map, gazetteer, and generic terms, and Indonesia's commitment to hold the International Training on Toponymy in Bali in June 2023.

3. Status of the UNGEGN ASE Division Work Plan 2019-2022

3.1. Regional Database and Gazetteer Standards

- The final ASE Division database and gazetteer standard was finalized and adopted in 2021 and the regional database structure can be accessed at <https://toponim.id/2021/db-standard>.
- This will be reviewed and updated in the new Division Work Plan 2022-2026.

3.2. UNGEGN ASE Division Annual Meetings

- Attended 2nd Session of the UNGEGN on 3 - 7 May 2021 in a virtual format.
- 9th Divisional Meeting of the UNGEGN ASE Division was convened on 24 November 2021 in a virtual format.
- 10th Divisional Meeting of the UNGEGN ASE Division was convened on 19 April 2022 in virtual format.
- The International Seminar and Training on Toponyms was postponed due to the outbreak of COVID-19. The International Training on Toponymy will be held in 2023 in Bali, Indonesia.

3.3. Regional Map of ASE Division Members

- The updated regional map is delivered through the collaborative platform. Currently, the regional map is updated by the following member countries: Indonesia and Malaysia.
- The Indonesian Secretariat organised the webinar with the theme “Recognizing Generic Terms in Geographical Names from Local Languages” on 30 August 2021 as an initial step towards completing the information on the Map of Estimated Distribution Language.
- This will be reviewed and updated in the new Division Work Plan 2022-2026.

3.4. Generic Terms

- The Updated generic terms of ASE region are published on the UNGEGN ASE Division (Indonesia) website (<https://ungegn-ased.big.go.id/#/publications>).
- The generic terms were updated by the following member countries: Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, and Singapore.
- This will be reviewed and updated in the new Division Work Plan 2022-2026.

4. Progress of the UNGEGN ASE Division Work Plan 2022-2026

The Secretariat of the UNGEGN ASE Division for the 2022 – 2026 session has decided to carry forward and continue the Work Plan from the 2019 – 2022 session. Continuity is important to maintain the standards of the division and to ensure that all efforts by the previous Chairmanship are appreciated and at the same time adding values to the current progress.

4.1. Regional Database and Gazetteer Standards

- The objective is to review and enhance the standard of database and gazetteer for the ASE region that has been produced in the previous session.

4.2. UNGEGN ASE Division Annual Meetings

- 11th Divisional Meeting of the UNGEGN ASE Division was held on 09 November 2022 in virtual format.
- The 12th Divisional Meeting of the UNGEGN ASE Division is planned to be held in Bali, Indonesia in June 2023 as a side event for the International Training on Toponymy organized by Indonesia.
- The 13th Divisional Meeting of the UNGEGN ASE Division and Seminar on Geographical Names will be hosted by Brunei Darussalam on 7-8 November 2023.

4.3. Regional Map of ASE Division Members

- The goal of this session is to revise and complete the UNGEGN Regional Map of ASE Division from all member countries.

4.4. Generic Terms of the Asia South-East Region

- The member countries have agreed that Sri Lanka will lead the Technical Committee for the Generic Terms.
- This session will focus on updating and completing generic terms from all member countries.

C. CONCLUSION

Brunei Darussalam is committed to continue the efforts shown by the previous chairmanships and will coordinate and implement the division work plan. Through the formation of technical committees as avenues to discuss matters relating to focused topics such as the regional standards of gazetteer and maps and generic terms, it is hoped that the Asia South-East Division will be able to produce standards and guidelines that can be used as reference for research. In order for the work plan to materialize, the division will look at ways to improve the relationship and communication between member countries.