

30 January 2023

English

---

**United Nations Group of Experts on  
Geographical Names  
2023 session**

New York, 1 – 5 May 2023

Item 4(a) of the provisional agenda \*

**Reports: Governments on the situation in their countries and on the progress  
made in the standardization of geographical names**

## **Report of Cambodia**

### **Summary \*\***

Report for the 3rd Meeting of the United Nations Geographical Expert Group to be held from 1 to 5 May 2023. This report covers situations and activities related to geographical standardization in the Kingdom of Cambodia.

This report focuses on the main activities that have taken place during 2019-2022 and are being implemented in the work of geographical names, institutions and related regulations.

---

\* GEGN.2/2023/1

\*\* Prepared by General Department of Cadastre and Geography/Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction.

## **Background Information**

In the Kingdom of Cambodia, surveying and mapping works has been defined in 1999 and revised in 2016 by a sub-decree on Management and on the businesses of surveying and mapping. According to the sub-decree, the surveying and producing of base map is the responsibility of the General Department of Cadastral and Geography of the Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction.

The preservation and development of the Khmer language and script is the responsibility of the National Council for the Khmer Language of the Royal Academy of Cambodia.

The study of the creation, abolition, adjustment of administrative boundaries and the naming of sub-national administrations is the responsibility of the Ministry of Interior.

Today in Cambodia, Romanized writing system is based on the 1997 transcription system, instead of the 1972 transliteration system.

On August 28, 2000, according to the decision of the Royal Government, the National Commission for Geography was established with members from 13 relevant ministries and institutions, including representatives from the Royal Academy and the Ministry of Interior. This commission has a secretariat in the Department of Geography of the General Department of Cadastral and Geography.

### **1. Activities on Standardization of Geographical Names**

On 27 June 2019, the National Council for the Khmer Language of the Royal Academy of Cambodia organized a workshop on the problem of translating foreign languages into Khmer and translating Khmer into Khmer Latin with 205 participants. The purpose of the workshop was to discuss the use of Khmer and foreign languages in recording geographical names.

A workshop on "Geographical Names and Uses in Cambodia" was held in October 2019 with 200 participants. Topics discussed during the period focused on the use of geographical names, geographical names collecting, registration and geographical names maintenance.

On 13 August 2020, the National Council for the Khmer Language of the Royal Academy of Cambodia organized a roundtable discussion on the experience and principles of the use of the Latin alphabet for transcribing the Khmer language in public cases with 108 participants. The purpose of the discussion was to find out about the experience and principles in using the Latin alphabet for recording the Khmer language in the case of anonymity that has been used in the past in each ministry.

### **2. Publishing a list of geographical names**

In February 2019, the General Department of Cadastre and Geography published the gazetteer listing the geographical names of the Kingdom of Cambodia in Khmer and Latin (with Transcription system 1997). The names of 25 Capital and provinces, 203 districts, 1646 communes and 14256 villages were recorded in the gazetteer.

In 2020, the Ministry of Interior published another separate gazetteer of the Kingdom of Cambodia. The names of 25 Capital and provinces, 214 districts, 1652 communes and 14444 villages in Khmer and English are recorded in the gazetteer. Unlike the gazetteer of the General Department of Cadastral and Geography, this gazetteer does not specify the code and location of each name. This gazetteer can be accessed online: <http://db.ncdd.gov.kh/gazetteer/view/index.castle>

### 3. Regulations on Standardization of Geographical Nomenclature

The Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction is reviewing the draft sub-decree on the establishment of the National Committee for Geographical Names to replace the Royal Government's decision on the establishment of the National Commission for Geographical Names in 2000.