

10 March 2025

English

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

2025 session

New York, 28 April – 2 May 2025

Item 4 (b) of the provisional agenda *

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

Report of Brunei Darussalam

Submitted by Brunei Darussalam**

* GEGN.2/2025/1

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1. Introduction

The report provides an overview of the activities of and the progress made by the National Geographical Names Committee of Brunei Darussalam (*Jawatankuasa Kebangsaan Nama Geografi – JKNG*) with regard to geographical names, road naming and related matters in the period from **July 2023 to December 2024**. This report also contains information on planned activities and initiatives for 2025.

The ‘Jawatankuasa Kebangsaan Nama Geografi (JKNG)’ is a national committee responsible for the standardisation of geographical names to assist the government and relevant agencies of Brunei Darussalam in understanding geographical names from the aspects of history, culture, meaning, writing, spelling and pronunciation. The responsibility of the chairmanship was mandated to the Surveyor General, Brunei Darussalam and the Director of the Language and Literature Bureau as the Deputy Chairperson.

The members of the committee consist of various Government agencies and educational institution that were specifically curated to ensure that each agency plays a significant role in the activities and tasks of JKNG.

2. Activities on National Standardisation of Geographical Names

2.1. Involvement in the UNGEGN, Asia South-East (ASE) Division

The JKNG Secretariat has been actively involved in the UNGEGN ASE Division activities since Brunei Darussalam was elected as the Chairperson for the UNGEGN ASE Division in 2022 especially in regards to the coordination of meetings and discussions with ASE Division member states.

Brunei Darussalam also assumed the lead role for the technical committee for one of the division’s work plans: Generic Terms of the Asia South-East Region. This involves compiling and receiving proposals generic terms from member states. This work plan has been the division’s on-going project which was first started by Indonesia. The goal of this project is to enrich the glossary of generic terms used in the Asia South-East Region as a tool to engage the connection between countries in the region.

2.2. JKNG Meeting

The JKNG holds their meeting at least two times a year and whenever necessary. During this period, two special meetings and one scheduled meeting were organised. The last committee meeting was held on 26th September 2024.

2.3. Naming of Roads

2.3.1. Four road (‘*jalan*’) names in the Brunei and Muara district were approved by the Ministry of Development in the year 2024:

No.	Road Name	Naming Rational
1.	Jalan Jagus	The naming is based on the history of the area, as shared by the Village Head that there used to be many ‘ <i>jagus</i> ’ (cashew nuts) trees in the area.
2.	Jalan Perusahaan Serasa	The naming is based on the location of the road which is in one of the industrial areas in the Brunei and Muara district. ‘ <i>Perusahaan</i> ’ refers to industry / industrial area and Serasa is the specific name of the area.
3.	Jalan Ambin	‘ <i>Ambin</i> ’ is a sort of game bag for mouse deers and deers used by the Kedayan ethnic group made from rattan. It is also used to carry fish and <i>umbut</i> (a type of vegetable).

No.	Road Name	Naming Rational
		The 'Jalan Ambin' road is located in the Lugu National Housing and the naming was first approved in June 2016. Due to the extension of the housing area including the roads, the naming was forwarded again for approval.
4.	Jalan Ambin Selatan	The 'Jalan Ambin Selatan' road is also located in the Lugu National Housing and adjacent to the 'Jalan Ambin' road. As the roads are linked, ' <i>Selatan</i> ' (South) is added to differentiate the location of the road.

2.3.2. Two new road names were proposed and still waiting for approval from the higher authority.

2.4. Naming of Geographical Features

The committee conducted a field visit on 23 November 2024 on the 1:10,000 Tutong District's map sheet covering Bakiau where 13 geographical names were compiled and investigated. The informants of the field visit comprised of the Village Heads and locals who have knowledge of the villages.

2.5. Reviewing the Geographical Names Record

Over the years, the coordinates of the geographical features have been collected and compiled in a spread sheet. In an effort to publicise the geographical features and to share the history of the names with the public, the Survey Department is currently reviewing and verifying the recorded coordinates to ensure that the location is correct. The geographical features are planned to be uploaded to the Geoportol Ukur web map service in stages in 2025.

2.6. Contribution to the UNGEGN Information Bulletin

The JKNG through the Survey Department had the opportunity to contribute an article for the UNGEGN Information Bulletin No. 67 (June 2024) titled "An Overview: The National Mapping Agency as the Lead for the National Names Authority in Brunei Darussalam".

The article shares Brunei Darussalam's perspective as both the national mapping agency and the national names authority and how this has been highly effective and productive in terms of data integration and quality control; efficiency; standardisation; authority and governance; and accountability.

2.7. Guidelines to Geographical Names and Road Naming of Brunei Darussalam

This project is still actively being worked on by the Survey Department and the Language and Literature Bureau. The goal is to launch the guideline during the Seminar on Geographical Names in September 2025 in Brunei Darussalam.

3. National and international meetings, conferences, symposiums, publicity and publications

3.1. National Committee Meeting

a) JKNG Special Meeting

Date: 9th January 2024

Venue: Survey Department, Brunei Darussalam

Brief: The meeting was held to discuss urgent and outstanding matters:

- To discuss the proposed road names ‘Jalan Perusahaan Serasa’ and ‘Jalan Jagus’.
- To discuss the road name ‘Jalan Seri Begawan’.

b) JKNG Meeting: Geographical Names

Date: 22nd February 2024

Venue: Survey Department, Brunei Darussalam

Brief: • The meeting was held to discuss the naming of roads in the National Housing Scheme in Kampung Lugu (Phase 2).

- The meeting agreed to propose ‘Jalan Ambin’ and ‘Jalan Ambin Selatan’.

c) JKNG Meeting: Geographical Names

Date: 26th September 2024

Venue: Survey Department, Brunei Darussalam

Brief: The meeting discussed outstanding matters from the previous meetings.

Among the decisions made during the meeting were:

- To appoint retired officers who were very active in the committee as resource persons;
- Field visit to be held on 23 November 2024 for the Kampung Birau area in the Tutong district;
- Proposed two road names for the industrial areas (‘Jalan Industri Salar’ and ‘Jalan Industri Lambak’).

4. Activities towards the implementation of the UNGEGN ASE Division Work Plan

4.1. Regional Database and Gazetteer Standards

The updating of the gazetteer is an on-going task in line with whenever the geographical names are verified and approved by the JKNG.

4.2. UNGEGN ASE Division Annual Meetings

Brunei Darussalam will be organising a one-day seminar on geographical names, back-to-back with the 15th Divisional Meeting of the UNGEGN ASE Division in September 2025, Brunei Darussalam.

4.3. Regional Map of ASSED Members

Brunei Darussalam is ready to contribute data to produce this map, based on the specification of the map that will be agreed by the UNGEGN ASSED members.

4.4. Generic Terms of the Asia South-East Region

Brunei Darussalam is the currently the technical committee lead for the work plan. The generic terms for Brunei Darussalam have been recently reviewed by the Language and Literature Bureau and reported to UNGEGN ASE.

5. Measures taken and proposed to implement United Nations resolutions on the standardisation of geographical names, including the economic and social benefits

a) Strategy 1: Technical expertise

Reaching out to Groups of Experts in other countries to seek guidance in geographical names standardisation and best practices data collection and management.

b) Strategy 2: Relationships, links and connections

Maintaining a good network and communication with agencies under the JKNG and UNGEGN ASE Division members and consistent technical meetings to ensure goals are aligned and focused.

c) Strategy 3: Effective work programmes

Acknowledging that agencies under the JKNG have different daily priorities, it is important to ensure that any work or activities planned is practical and achievable within the given timeframe.

d) Strategy 4: Culture, heritage and language recognition

- Encouraging the use of names and languages that have cultural, historical and ethnic significance to promote and recognise the impact of identity, equality and language revitalisation and preservation. The key players are the Language and Literature Bureau, Museums Department and Brunei History Centre.
- Promoting approved geographical and road names to the public through awareness programs, social media and educational institutions through the Ministry of Education.

e) Strategy 5: Promotion and capacity building

- Encouraging JKNG members to attend training organised by UNGEGN.
- Knowledge sharing by JKNG members according to their respective fields in relation to the responsibilities of JKNG.

6. Future / Planned Activities

a) Seminar on Geographical Names back-to-back with the 15th Divisional Meeting of the UNGEGN, Asia South-East (ASE) Division

The JKNG is currently preparing to organise a Seminar on Geographical Names in September 2025 which aims to spread awareness to the local agencies of the importance and activities that relates to the standardisation of geographical names. The seminar will gather experts from the ASE Division member states as well as from local agencies and institutions.

Brunei Darussalam will also be hosting the 15th Divisional Meeting of the UNGEGN, Asia South-East (ASE) Division.

b) Launching of the Guidelines to Geographical Names and Road Naming of Brunei Darussalam

One of the highlights of the seminar is the launch of the Guidelines to Geographical Names and Road Naming of Brunei Darussalam. The guideline will serve as a reference for the relevant agencies apart from it being a guide to standardising geographical and road names.

c) Naming Activities

- With the developments of new national housing, it is expected that new roads will be built which will require road naming.
- Pro-actively identifying roads in the industrial areas that are eligible to be considered for road naming.
- Making continuous improvements to the field visit / investigation procedure especially in terms of the selection of informants and the number of committee members required for the field visit.

7. Conclusion

The focus in 2025 will be on emphasising collaboration and capacity-building, in order to encourage active participation from various government agencies through the Asia South-East divisional platform, as well as to enhance the importance of the standardisation of geographical names.