

INTERNATIONAL TRAINING ON TOPONYMY

# MODULES

DAY 1

19 - 23 JUNE 2023

BALI, INDONESIA



United Nations  
Group of Experts on  
Geographical Names



BADAN INFORMASI  
GEOSPASIAL



# *Module 1*

# *Introduction*

*Peder Gammeltoft*





# Introduction

## Module 1

- Introduction to the training course
- Introduction to the field of toponymy
- Relationship between toponym, language and cultural heritage
- Significance of geographical names
- Importance of geographical names (Recap.)





# Introduction to the Training Course

## Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage

- 19.-23. June 2023
- Kuta Beach Bali – Indonesia
- Co-organized by:
  - Indonesian Geospatial Information Agency (Badan Informasi Geospasial)
  - UNGEGN Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy
- Supported by UNGEGN Asia South-East Division





# Introduction to the Training Course

## Course Plan:

- 6 Modules (day 1, 2, 3 and 5)
  - Module 1: Introduction
  - Module 2: National Agencies, Models, and Procedures
  - Module 3: Geographical Names in Bali
  - Module 4: Cultural Heritage in Bali
  - Module 5: Geographical Names Collection Systems
  - Module 6: Geographical Names Data Processing and Management
- Field Work Day (day 4)
- Assessments







# *Module 1*

## *A. Introduction to the Field of Toponymy*





# Introduction to the Field of Toponymy

- First a note on terminology

- Toponym
- **Geographical name**
- Place-name



same meaning



- Onomastics = science of name research

- Toponymy = geographical names research
- Anthroponymy = personal names research





# Introduction to the Field of Toponymy

- Why do we have geographical names?
  - Communication
  - Orientation
  - Order
- Why do Geographical names matter?
  - Sense of belonging (personal level)
  - Systematization (administrative level)







# Introduction to the Field of Toponymy

- What do we name?
  - Whatever is important to us (people, places, beliefs, etc.)
- What kind of places do we name?
  - Settlements (cities, towns, villages, farms, houses, etc.)
  - Water bodies (seas, lakes, rivers, waterfalls, etc.)
  - Natural features (Mountains, valleys, islands, bays, slopes, etc.)
  - Man-made features (fields, roads, bridges, etc.)



# Introduction to the Field of Toponymy

- How do we name?
  - Describe the place/locality ('objective' naming)
    - What is special of the place
    - What does the place resemble
    - Who owns/uses the place
    - Beliefs related to a place
  - Commemoration (subjective naming)
    - People (notable persons, explorers, sponsors, etc.)
    - Events (occurrences of national importance)
    - Other places (place of namer's origin, etc.)
    - Staking a claim





# Introduction to the Field of Toponymy

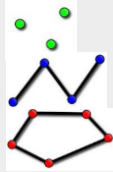
- How do we make a name?
  - Words and phrases from our language at the time of naming
    - Uncompounded - *Hollow*
    - Compounded - *White Hollow*
    - Derived - *Holling* 'place of the hollow(s)'
    - Phrasal - *St Mary's Church in the hollow of the white hazel near the rapid whirlpool of Llandysilio of the red cave*
  - However, importance as pointing to a certain place
    - Original meaning not essential in daily usage, only the expression





# Introduction to the Field of Toponymy

- How do we represent named places?
  - Labels representing:
    - Points
    - Lines
    - Areas



# Introduction to the Field of Toponymy

- What do we do with geographical names?
  - Record
  - Systematize
  - Standardize
- What is important to keep in mind?
  - Geographical names function on multiple levels
    - Personal level
    - Administrative level
    - Achieve functionality from local to national level







# Introduction to the Field of Toponymy

- Usages geographical of names

- Personal
- Administrative
- Scientific



*Standardization*



- Scientific utilization

- Onomastics - *etymology, origins*
- Historical geography - *establishment, origin*
- Folkloristics/Anthropology - *narrative functions*





# Questions?





# Module 1

## *B. Toponym, Language and Cultural Heritage*





# Toponym, Language and Cultural Heritage

## Language:

- Language = a way to communicate within a group
- Languages = result of communication in separated groups
  - Languages may differ in terms of
    - Structure (grammar, morphology)
    - Phonetics (sound, tonality)
    - Conceptualization (words and phrases of importance to the culture of the language)
  - But languages also borrow from each other!



# Toponym, Language and Cultural Heritage

## Language:

- Language and geographical names
  - 'We interpret from what we know', so what we do not know, we probably misunderstand
    - Scientific language research of importance
    - Understanding of culture necessary
    - Correct documentation essential
      - Current pronunciation
      - Current usage
      - Historical documentation

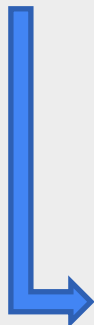




# Toponym, Language and Cultural Heritage

## Language:

- Geographical names must be correct
  - Correct language of use
  - Spelling and grammar
  - Assigned to the correct places



*Relies on correct and sufficient documentation*



# Toponym, Language and Cultural Heritage

## Cultural Heritage:

Cultural heritage can be defined as the legacy of physical artifacts (cultural property) and intangible attributes of a group or society inherited from the past. Cultural Heritage is a concept which offers a bridge between the past and the future with the application of particular approaches in the present.



Heritage is the cultural legacy which we receive from the past, which we live in the present and which we will pass on to future generations. [...].

Nonetheless, cultural heritage is not limited to monuments and collections of objects. It is also comprised of living expressions inherited from our ancestors, such as oral traditions, performing arts, social manners, rituals, festive events, knowledge and practices related to nature and the universe, and knowledge and techniques linked to traditional crafts. Despite its fragility, intangible cultural heritage or living heritage is an important factor in maintaining cultural diversity.

UNESCO Santiago

**Cultural heritage** is the heritage of tangible and intangible **heritage assets** of a group or **society** that is inherited from past generations. Not all heritages of past generations are "heritage"; rather, heritage is a product of selection by society.<sup>[1]</sup>

Cultural heritage includes **tangible culture** (such as buildings, **monuments**, landscapes, archive materials, books, works of art, and artifacts), **intangible culture** (such as folklore, traditions, language, and knowledge), and **natural heritage** (including culturally significant landscapes, and **biodiversity**).<sup>[2]</sup> The term is often used in connection with issues relating to the protection of **Indigenous intellectual property**.<sup>[3]</sup>



# Toponym, Language and Cultural Heritage

Intangible Cultural Heritage:



## Intangible heritage

Intangible cultural heritage is the practices, expressions, knowledge and skills that communities, groups and sometimes individuals recognise as part of their cultural heritage. Also called living cultural heritage, it is usually expressed in one of the following forms: oral traditions; performing arts; social practices, rituals and festive events; knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe; and traditional craftsmanship.

For more details, please consult the [Intangible Cultural Heritage Convention website](#).





# Toponym, Language and Cultural Heritage

## Cultural Heritage, *general*:

- Legacy received from the past
- Recognized by the community
- Usually seen as a living tradition
- Product of a selection process



## Cultural Heritage, **geographical names**

- Legacy connecting past and present
- Used by a community
- Usually in living tradition, but can be extinct
- Product of a selection process
  - Local use
  - Administrative use/national use



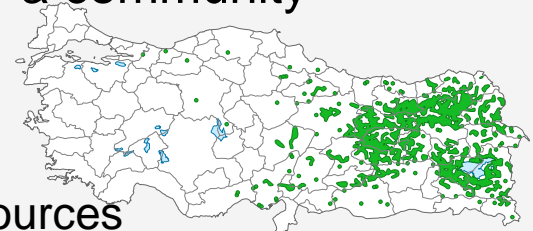


# Toponym, Language and Cultural Heritage



## Cultural Heritage, **geographical names**

- Legacy *connecting* past and present, and *representing* our past and present
- *Used* by a community, but can also be *discarded* by a community
- Usually in living tradition and in daily use
- Can also be extinct
  - Either now lost geographical name known through sources
  - A geographical name actively removed for political/sensitivity reasons
- Product of a selection process. **An important inclusion manifestation also**



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# Toponym, Language and Cultural Heritage

## Cultural Heritage, a tool for inclusion

- Whose cultural heritage – which cultural heritage and what traditions?
- Cultural Heritage can be a way to include, but also a tool to exclude
- Inclusion in geographical names
  - Include name forms of all cultures
  - Include feature types of all cultures
  - Recognize diversity in geographical name management
  - Enable everyone's full inclusion and participation in naming matters





# Questions?



# *Module 1*

## *C. Significance of Geographical Names*





# Significance of Geographical Names

- Significance to who?
  - The individual?
  - The culture?
  - The state?



# Significance of Geographical Names

## Significance to the individual

- Emotional bond – positive or negative
  - Part of one's identity
  - Memorial connection
- Relational bond
  - Lives or lived there
  - Place of activity (school, work, shopping, etc.)





# Significance of Geographical Names

## Cultural significance

- Empowerment
  - A way to acknowledge existence
  - Means to include the 'unseen'
- Memory
  - Ensure knowledge
- Survival
  - Bring status to 'otherness' of a culture
  - Avoid non-significance!







# Significance of Geographical Names

## National significance

- Manifestation of national stance
  - Whether inclusive or not
- Administration
  - Taxation, health care, development, etc.
  - SDGs
- **Control!**
  - Internally
  - Externally





# Questions?





# Module 1

## *D. Importance of Geographical Names (recapitulation)*





# Importance of Geographical Names

## Naming:

- Why do we have geographical names?
- How are they made?
  - Bottom up
  - Top down
- What do we name?
- How do we represent them?
- What do we do with them?



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# Importance of Geographical Names

## Cultural heritage and geographical names

- Cultural heritage is a powerful tool
- Representation
  - Inclusion
  - Empowerment
- Documentation
  - To make right decisions
  - To make right wrongs
  - To keep memory of past to our future



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# Importance of Geographical Names

## Significance of geographical names

- Significance varies dependingly
  - Individual
  - Cultural
  - National
- Geographical names management to embrace all types of significance
  - Way to avoid conflict
  - Way to create sustainability



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# Questions?

