

## CONFIRMATION REPORT

The attached report of the 8<sup>th</sup> Divisional Meeting United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, Asia South-East Division, held virtually on 27 October 2020.

Decision, recommendation and resolutions contained in the report are subject to approval of each representative government:

**MOHAMAD ARIEF SYAFI'I**  
Chair of the Division



**HAJI AREFIN BIN HAJI JAYA**  
Representative of Brunei Darussalam



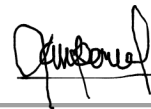
**ADE KOMARA MULYANA**  
Representative of Indonesia



**AMMALA KEONUCHAN**  
Representative of Lao PDR



**SR MOHD LATIF BIN ZAINAL**  
Representative of Malaysia



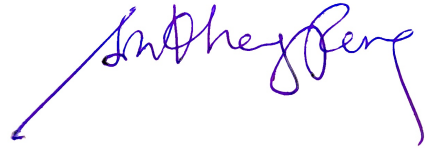
**SEIN MIN**  
Representative of Myanmar



**RUEL DM. BELEN**  
Representative of Philippines



**SOH KHENG PENG**  
Representative of Singapore



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**DO THI THU THUY**  
Representative of Viet Nam



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**8<sup>th</sup> Divisional Meeting**  
**United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN)**  
**Asia South-East Division (ASE Division)**

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<b>Attending Member Countries:</b>	Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, and Viet Nam. The list of participants appears as <b><u>ANNEX A</u></b> .
<b>Opening Remarks:</b>	Mohamad Arief Syafi'i, Chair of UNGEGN ASE Division, delivered the opening remarks.
<b>Adoption of Agenda</b>	The agenda was tabled by the Chair and adopted in the meeting.

## **I. Chairman's Report**

The Chair addressed three main subjects in the report, namely (i) Chairmanship, (ii) Activities from 2019 to September 2020, and (iii) Actions on resolutions during the 7<sup>th</sup> Divisional Meeting UNGEGN ASE Division.

On the chairmanship, the Chair conveyed that Indonesia has been selected as the Chair of UNGEGN ASE Division during the 6<sup>th</sup> Divisional Meeting in Manila, Philippines, on 26 March 2018. Indonesia will hold the Chairmanship from April 2018 to April 2022.

On the activities from 2019 to September 2020, the Chair presented that the delegates from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Singapore, and Thailand have participated in the 7<sup>th</sup> Divisional Meeting in UN Headquarters, New York on 1 May 2019.

The Chair also elaborated ASE Division Secretariat's measures to overcome the COVID-19 outbreak's impact by rearranging the work plan. Initially, the 8<sup>th</sup> UNGEGN ASE Divisional Meeting will be held in conjunction with the International Seminar and Training on Toponyms in July 2020. Following the COVID-19 outbreak's development, ASE Division Secretariat decided to postpone the divisional meeting, and then change the face-to-face format divisional meeting to the online meeting, as for the International Seminar and Training on Toponyms will be postponed to the second quarter next year.

In addition, the Chair reported the plan to transform the division website into a collaborative platform by providing interactive WebGIS to enable ASE Division Member Countries to update their spatial data voluntarily. The development of the new website is expected to begin in the first quarter of 2021.

On the actions on resolutions during the 7<sup>th</sup> Divisional Meeting, the Chair conveyed the progress of the work plan adopted in the 7<sup>th</sup> Divisional Meeting, as follows:

1. ASE Division Secretariat has established a draft regional database and gazetteer standards by identifying and compiling an existing database. The draft standard for regional database and gazetteer will be discussed with ASE Division Member Countries.
2. The 8<sup>th</sup> Divisional Meeting UNGEGN ASE Division is prepared for an online meeting on 27 October 2020.
3. Indonesia has prepared a draft version of a regional map comprising major island names, geographical names, and administrative boundary to the provincial level. ASE Division Secretariat has also requested support data from ASE Division Member Countries.
4. ASE Division Secretariat has requested support data from ASE Division Member Countries to complete the generic terms. The glossary of Generic Terms has been filled by six countries, namely Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei Darussalam, Philippines and the Viet Nam.

## **II. Country Reports**

### **Brunei Darussalam**

Brunei Darussalam National Geographical Names Committee (JKNG) presented their country report covering all activities for the period between 2019 and October 2020. Several activities conducted by JKNG: JKNG Meeting, Road and Parking Lot Naming, opening the Sultan Haji Omar Ali Saifuddien Bridge, and Recreational Hills Naming. During 2019-October 2020, Brunei has succeeded to name their 33 roads and open the Sultan Haji Omar Ali Saifuddien Bridge as one of the longest oversea bridges in Southeast Asia. Brunei reported that during COVID-19, there was an increase in hiking activities therefore, there is a need to publish maps of hiking tracks.

Further, JKNG reported that JKNG as the delegation from Brunei Darussalam attended the 1<sup>st</sup> Session of the UNGEGN and the 7<sup>th</sup> Divisional Meeting UNGEGN in New York in 2019.

### **Indonesia**

Indonesia reported its activities that have been carried out during the year 2019-2020. The activities are divided into 2 (two) groups: involvement Indonesia as the Chair of UNGEGN ASE Division and activities on National Standardization of Geographical Names.

Regarding the involvement as the Chair of UNGEGN ASE Division, Indonesia reported the work plan adopted in the 7<sup>th</sup> Divisional Meeting in 2019, organized by Indonesia (ASE Division Secretariat), is currently in progress.

In 2019-2020, Indonesia conducted nine (9) national activities in connection with the standardization of geographical names:

1. BIG and other Ministries are waiting for the enactment of government regulation on the implementation of standardization of geographical names by the President of the Republic of Indonesia. BIG is currently preparing a derivative regulation as a technical guideline for the implementation of government regulation.
2. The Ministry of Home Affairs published the List of Unique Code for Government Administration Areas (stipulated by Minister of Home Affairs Regulation Number 72 of 2019).
3. The Ministry of Home Affairs assisted local governments in the process of renaming the Toba Samosir Regency to Toba Regency in West Sumatra Province (stipulated by Government Regulation Number 14 of 2020).
4. The Indonesian Navy's Hydrography and Oceanography Center collected marine geographical names for electronic navigation charts. BIG also conducted field survey validation of island names.
5. BIG conducted toponymic surveys using SAKTI (*Sistem Akuisisi Data Toponim Indonesia*) application and a 360° camera in some regions supporting mapping activities for Detailed Spatial Plan Maps and the new capital city in Kalimantan Timur.
6. BIG with other Ministries, a group of experts on geographical names, and Local Governments conducted verification of geographical names.
7. BIG has held three online seminars on geographical names. These activities are part of the Geospatial Webinar Series (GWS).
8. BIG regularly publishes a bulletin every month on the BIG website.
9. *Komunitas Toponimi Indonesia* (The Indonesian Toponymy Community) or KOTISIA conducted several researches and seminars on toponymy from 2015 until 2018.

In addition, Indonesia is currently exploring technology and strategy for accelerating the spatial data acquisition, including geographical names to complete large-scale topographic maps in 2024. Indonesia welcomes any sharing experience and discussion on that matter from the ASE Division Member Countries.

### **Malaysia**

The Malaysian National Committee on Geographical Names (MNCGN) is responsible for coordinating the geographical naming activities in Malaysia. This committee is chaired by the Director-General of Survey and Mapping Malaysia (JUPEM). MNCGN reported their country activities relating to geographical names, the progress reports on the Working Groups, projects undertaken, and other related matters.

There are eight (8) activities that have been done during the period from September 2019 to September 2020. Below are the related activities on geographical naming that were conducted during the period under review:

1. MNCGN Meeting: The 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of MNCGN was held on 10 December 2019 in Kuala Lumpur, and the next 16<sup>th</sup> MNCGN meeting will be conducted on 3 November 2020 through virtual meeting.
2. National Technical Committee on Geographical Names held its 22<sup>th</sup> Meeting on 10 September 2020 in Kuala Lumpur. During this meeting, the Working Groups and States Technical Committee presented their activities.
3. Working Group on Policy and Geographical Names. There are seven (7) meetings were held to address issues on policy and updating matters including the matter on the notification of geographical names of places in the government gazetteer were also deliberated. The Working Group has published the Guidelines for Determination of Geographical Names Second Edition to be used as a reference to coordinate and standardize the determination of geographic name activities.
4. Working Group on Geographical Names Database and Production of Web Gazetteer is established as a website. This website displays the geographical names, locations, histories and state magazines contained in the Malaysian Geographical Names Database. Currently, it has been developed with a new feature called visualization video module. Moreover, Malaysia also held verification of geographical names databases using various data sources. Based on the National Geographical Names Database development, the Working Group has finalized the State Gazetteer Document for eight (8) states in Malaysia, while six (6) states are still in processing stages.
5. Working Group on Naming of Islands and Geographical Entities has identified 1,518 of 1,698 the naming of islands and geographic entities, while 180 islands and geographic entities have no name. For the International Level, the Working Group has successfully identified seven (7) geographical entities in the South China Sea from the year 2014 till 2019. The entities have been presented and accepted by the Sub Committee on Undersea Feature Names (SCUFN). The Working Group also has republished a new format for the Listing Naming of Islands and Geographical Entities Book I covered Perlis, Kedah, Penang, Perak, Selangor, Negeri Sembilan. Other versions will be published in 2021.
6. There are several workshops and briefings: Geographical Names Database Workshop; Briefing on National Geographical Names and Gazetteer Database for Town Map for Kuantan and Cyberjaya; Updating Islands and Geographical Entities Names Book II; and Discussion on Determination of Naming Islands and Geographical Entities exceeding three (3) nautical miles from the shoreline.

7. JUPEM has managed to produce the SOP in updating the geographical names database for urban areas. The SOP has been distributed to all the related states under phase III of Updating the Geographical Names Database for Urban Area.
8. Malaysia has presented 'Toponymic Guidelines for Map and Other Editors for International Use' during the 11<sup>th</sup> United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names held in New York, USA, on 8 - 17 August 2017. The guideline has been used as the reference in MyGeoname Application in Malaysia.

### **Myanmar**

The Survey Department of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment presented the geographical area of Myanmar and described the organizational chart of their institution. Further, they elaborated on their responsibilities for topographic mapping throughout the country and jointly carried out boundary demarcation and verification of the geographical names.

### **Philippines**

National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA) presented 3 (three) main subjects:

1. Past Geographical Names activities  
The Philippines has successfully conducted the Philippines Islands Inventory project and integrated the geographical names in topographic maps.
2. Past and Most Recent Activities  
For the UNGEGN activities, the Philippines succeeded in hosting the 1<sup>st</sup> Regional Training in Toponymy and served as the Chair of ASE Division from 2014-2018. The Philippines also submitted the updated generic terms to the ASE Division in October 2020. For national activities, the Philippines has started to update the Philippines Standard Geographic Code (PSGC) this year.
3. Future Projects  
For future projects, the Philippines plans to update the Philippines Gazetteer project. The Philippines will update the regional database.

### **Singapore**

Singapore had no major naming activities because all parts of the country have been mapped and names have been placed. Separately, Singapore conducted its second national level aerial photogrammetry and LiDAR data capture exercise in 2019 to update our national 3D mapping data. Currently Singapore are in the data processing stage since the completion of the data capturing. The COVID-19 situation has resulted in delays in the processes and we are expecting the data products to be available later than our original schedule. Singapore will be updating the Singapore map in the draft UNGEGN ASED Regional Map provided by Indonesia in the next few months.

## **Viet Nam**

Department of Surveying, Mapping and Geo-information of Viet Nam (DOSMVN), Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment presented their activities related to geographical names in 2019-2020 and achievements in 2016. In 2019-2020, DOSMVN had completed and published a geographical names database for 8 (eight) provinces: Hai Phong, Vinh Phuc, Nam Dinh, Thai Binh, Hai Duong, Hung Yen, Ninh Binh, Dak Nong. The delegation of Viet Nam also participated in the UNGEGN ASE by reviewing the ASE regional database scheme, verifying the printed version of the regional maps and completing the generic terms on toponymy.

For future activities, DOSMVN will undertake several activities namely:

1. Complete and publish geographical names database for 4 provinces in the center highland and Hanoi in 2021.
2. Update the geographical names database.
3. Set up the website which could provide data of geographical name.

## **Lao PDR**

National Geographic Department is responsible for mapping, especially geographical mapping. During 2019-2020, the committee reviewed and updated the standard for technical standard document Geographical Name, they already circulated the standard to all the ministries that related. For future plan, they will revise the standard and submit it to UNGEGN.

### **III. Matters arising from 7<sup>th</sup> Divisional Meeting of UNGEGN ASE Division**

No discussion

### **IV. Other Matters**

The Chair invited members of the meeting to raise any other matters to the floor. There are no other matters raised by the ASE Division Member Countries. Following this, the Chair tabled 4 (four) matters to be discussed:

1. UNGEGN Secretariat endorsed each ASE Division Member Countries to review the draft UNGEGN's Strategic Plan and Programme of Work

UNGEGN Secretariat has sent the documents in June 2020 and requested feedback from the member states of UNGEGN. UNGEGN Secretariat encouraged member states, particularly ASE Division Member Countries, to provide their feedback and stressed out that this opportunity is important. This will be the means to exchange ideas between countries and identify their needs and what activities are suitable for member states.



2. Special presentation on Introduction of Map of Estimated Distribution Language in Asia South-East by Prof. Multamia Lauder as Indonesia Linguistic expert.

Prof. Multamia explained the importance and the function of the Estimated Language Distribution Map. She highlighted that the said map will serve as the basis to perceive distribution and similarity of the generic terms usage for toponym in ASE region.

3. Initiation to convene Webinar on the Local Language in the ASE Division region.

The speakers will comprise the toponym experts from ASE Division Member Countries. It aims to complete the information on the Map of Estimated Distribution Language in Asia South-East. All attending ASE Division Member Countries supported the proposal.

In this regard, NAMRIA expressed that this issue is an academic exercise since, as the national mapping agency, NAMRIA is more focused on producing topographic maps. Consequently, NAMRIA proposed to connect the ASE Division Secretariat to relevant universities in the Philippines for further discussion on this matter.

4. Collaborative Platform Concept: ASE Division Member Countries' contribution to the regional website's content.

The development of the system will be started in 2021.

## **V. Summary of Discussion**

1. The primary data source for the regional map ASE Division is derived from the previous regional map (UNGEGN Asia South-East and Pacific South-West Division map). To expedite the completion of the regional map, the ASE Division Secretariat encourages ASE Division Member Countries to submit the required data.
2. Based on Viet Nam's review of the generic terms table structure, Viet Nam proposed to add a definition and picture column to give a comprehensive understanding.
3. The delegations from Singapore and Viet Nam proposed that all maps should only be published after obtaining the approval from ASE Division Member Countries.
4. On the collaborative platform mechanism, ASE Division Secretariat ensures that the system will only be accessible for the ASE Division Member Countries, and that no map will be published until it has been approved by all ASE Division Member Countries.
5. In response to Singapore's inquiry, the Chair set 30 April 2021 as the ASE Division Member countries' deadline to submit the updated regional map and generic terms

## VI. Resolutions

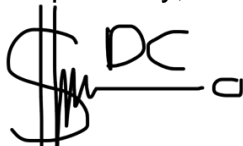
There are 8 (eight) resolutions approved during the meeting, as follows:

1. Appreciation towards activities carried out by the ASE Division Member Countries during the year 2019-2020;
2. The contribution of ASE Division Member Countries in the division website is facilitated by ASE Division Secretariat through collaborative platform concept. ASE Division member Countries will check and verify their country database and gazetteer as published in the regional database and gazetteer;
3. Convene the Webinar on the Local Language in the ASE Division and International Training and Seminar on Toponymy in 2021;
4. ASE Division Member Countries are affirming the importance of sharing geographical names;
5. ASE Division Member Countries are encouraged to collaborate in creating the Estimated Distribution Language Map;
6. All ASE Division Member Countries shall submit the updated regional map and generic terms by 30 April 2021;
7. Singapore and Viet Nam proposed to the Chairman and the Meeting agreed that no updated regional map should be published until it has been approved by all ASE Division Member Countries; and
8. ASE Division Member Countries are encouraged to participate in the consultation exercise on the preparation of the draft of the UNGEGN Strategic Plan and the Programme of Work that will be presented in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Session of UNGEGN Meeting.

## VII. Date and Venue of Next Meeting

Indonesia will host the 9<sup>th</sup> ASE Divisional Meeting in conjunction with the International Training and Seminar on Toponymy in Bali in 2021, subject to the situation of the COVID-19 outbreak.

Prepared by,



Septian Dewi Cahyani

Secretary

27 October 2020



Sashia Diandra Anindita

Rapporteur

27 October 2020

## LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

No.	Name	Country
1	Ms. Cecille Blake	United States
2	Mr. Azaman bin Haji Sulaiman	Brunei Darussalam
3	Mr. Bahrin bin Haji Ahad	Brunei Darussalam
4	Mr. Haji Arefin bin Haji Jaya	Brunei Darussalam
5	Mr. Rafidah Haji Berudin	Brunei Darussalam
6	Ms. Hajah Norati binti Bakar	Brunei Darussalam
7	Ms. Hajah Roseidah Kamis	Brunei Darussalam
8	Ms. Hajah Siti Aminah binti Haji Jumaat	Brunei Darussalam
9	Ms. Pg Hajah Mahani binti Pg Haji Ahmad	Brunei Darussalam
10	Ms. Saihalina Ibrahim	Brunei Darussalam
11	Mr. Ade Komara Mulyana	Indonesia
12	Mr. Aji Putra Perdana	Indonesia
13	Mr. Aldila Pradhana	Indonesia
14	Ms. Dini Nuraeni	Indonesia
15	Mr. Edi Nursantosa	Indonesia
16	Mr. Harry Ferdiansyah	Indonesia
17	Mr. Heri Rasdiana	Indonesia
18	Mr. Irfan Kurniawan Danuwidjaja	Indonesia
19	Ms. Laniy Meitia Putri	Indonesia
20	Ms. Mega Ratri Adiela Sari	Indonesia
21	Mr. Mohamad Arief Syafi'i	Indonesia
22	Mr. Mustafa Hanafi	Indonesia
23	Ms. Multamia RMT Lauder	Indonesia

**ANNEX A**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Country</b>
24	Ms. Sashia Diandra Anindita	Indonesia
25	Ms. Septian Dewi Cahyani	Indonesia
26	Mr. Sugiarto	Indonesia
27	Mr. Wahyu Eko Hapsoro	Indonesia
28	Mr. Yori Alief Darmansyah	Indonesia
29	Mr. Yosef Dwi Sigit Purnomo	Indonesia
30	Ms. Yulaefah	Indonesia
31	Ms. Ammala Keonuchan	Lao People's Democratic Republic
32	Mr. Dato' Sr Dr. Azhari bin Mohamed	Malaysia
33	Mr. Sr Hazri bin Hassan	Malaysia
34	Mr. Sr Mohd Latif bin Zainal	Malaysia
35	Mr. Sein Min	Myanmar
36	Ms. Gliceria Y. Yarre	Philippines
37	Ms. Imelda P. Cabatay	Philippines
38	Mr. Leo B. Grafil	Philippines
39	Mr. Jane Roque	Philippines
40	Mr. Ruel DM. Belen	Philippines
41	Ms. Sheila P. Eugenio	Philippines
42	Mr. Soh Kheng Peng	Singapore
43	Mr. Tan Hua Seng Jimmy	Singapore
44	Ms. Do Thi Thu Thuy	Viet Nam
45	Mr. Tran Minh Hang	Viet Nam