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**UNITED NATIONS GROUP OF EXPERTS ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES**

**Eighth Divisional Meeting UNGEGN Asia South-East Division  
27 October 2020**

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**Agenda Item 5 : National Reports**

**Report of Brunei Darussalam \***

## **1. Introduction**

This report covers all activities for the period between 2019 and October 2020 that have been carried out by the **Brunei Darussalam National Geographical Names Committee (JKNG)** including achievements and the progress relating to geographical names, road naming and related matters.

## **2. Activities on National Standardization of Geographical Names**

### **2.1 JKNG Meeting**

In between 2019 and 2020, the committee has held three meetings to discuss geographical features and road names. The last committee meeting was held on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2020. Field visits have been minimised to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **2.2 Road and Parking Lot Naming**

In 2019, a total of six roads and one parking lot within the Belait District Municipal Board have been approved and officially named. Meanwhile, in 2020 saw an achievement of 27 roads that have been named and approved in the Pulau Muara Besar which is a tiny island that is currently being developed into a modern petrochemical complex.

### **2.3 The Sultan Haji Omar Ali Saifuddien Bridge**

The bridge spans 26.3 km across the Brunei Bay and is one of the longest oversea bridges in Southeast Asia. It links Brunei and Muara District with the Temburong District without having to go through the Malaysian border.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam announced in his titah to mark his 74<sup>th</sup> birthday (15 July 2020) that the bridge is named in honour His Majesty's late father, Sultan Haji Omar Ali Saifuddien who is regarded as the Architect of Modern Brunei. His Majesty also said that the bridge is a symbol of modernity for Brunei Darussalam.

The bridge was opened ahead of schedule on the 17<sup>th</sup> March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic after the Government of Brunei Darussalam banned Brunei citizens and residents from leaving the country. This allowed citizens and residents to commute between the districts and shorten travel time while also facilitating flow of goods and supplies to the Temburong District.

### **2.4 Recreational Hills Naming**

Since the COVID-19 pandemic started, Brunei Darussalam has seen an increase in the number of people participating in recreational activities. Hiking has become one of the Brunei favourites and there is a need to publish maps of hiking tracks for public use and for assisting search and rescue missions as well as for the safety and security.

JKNG's future plans will include investigations of the current hill names and then forwarded to the national authority for approval. Currently, the Survey Department is collecting GPS points of the landmarks and features along the hiking tracks. Eventually, Orienteering Maps will be produced.

### **3. Other matters**

JKNG, represented by officers from the Survey Department and the Language and Literature Bureau, attended the 1<sup>st</sup> Session of the UNGEGN and the 7<sup>th</sup> Divisional Meeting UNGEGN in New York in 2019.