



**20<sup>th</sup> DIVISIONAL MEETING OF UNGEGN  
ASIA SOUTH EAST**

**EMPIRE HOTEL AND COUNTRY CLUB, BRUNEI DARUSSALAM  
14 MAY 2013**

**COUNTRY REPORT – MALAYSIA**

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**1. INTRODUCTION**

This report covers the period from February 2012 to May 2013 since the last meeting which was held on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2012 in Manila, Philippines and includes all activities relating to geographical names, the progress reports on the Working Groups, projects undertaken and other related matters.

**2. BACKGROUND**

The Malaysian National Committee on Geographical Names (MNCGN), established on 11 September 2002 by the Malaysian Cabinet, is responsible to coordinate geographical naming activities in Malaysia. This committee is chair by the Director General of Survey and Mapping Malaysia (JUPEM) with its members consisting of representatives from Federal and State agencies. One (1) Technical Committee and three (3) Working Groups were established to assist the MNCGN as follows:

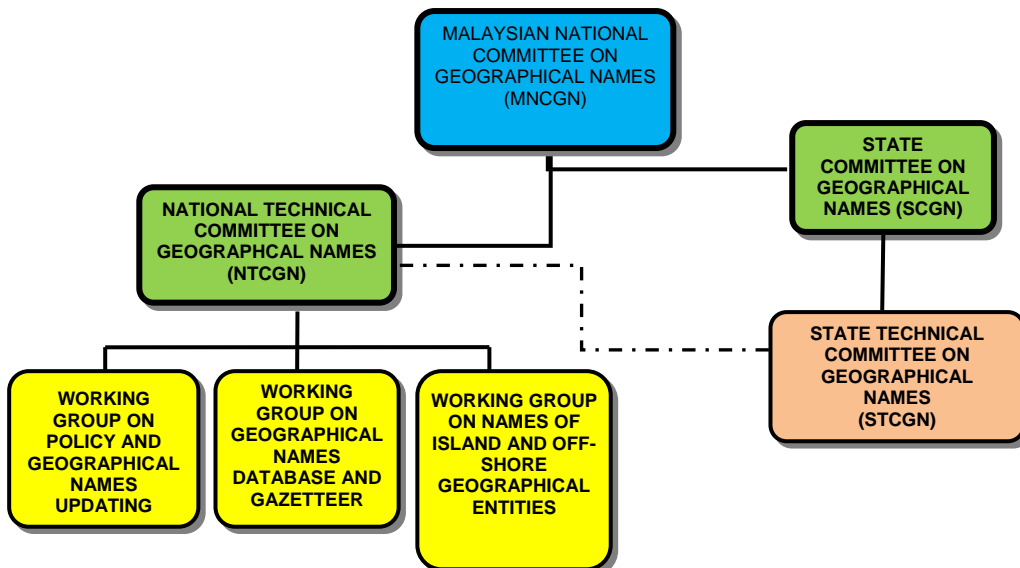
- i. National Technical Committee on Geographical Names (NTCGN);
- ii. Working Group on Policy and Geographical Names Updating (new working group which replaced previous working group, called Working Group on Guidelines for Determination of Geographical Names);
- iii. Working Group on Geographical Names Database and Gazetteer; and
- iv. Working Group on Names of Island and Off-Shore Geographical Entities.

At the State level, the State Committee on Geographical Names (SCGN) was established to coordinate and implement the guidelines and procedures formulated by MNCGN. This committee is chaired by the State Secretary or the Secretary General of the Federal Territories Ministry (for Federal Territories) and its members comprise of representatives from state or federal agencies. At the state level, the State Technical Committee on Geographical Names (STCGN) was also established to assist the SCGN.

The responsibilities of MNCGN encompass the following tasks:

- i. Formulating national guidelines for the determination of geographical names;
- ii. Developing the National Geographical Names Database and Gazetteer;
- iii. Promoting the use of official names; and
- iv. Coordinating the input of national nomenclature activities with those at the international level, including serving as liaison to the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN), particularly with the Regional Grouping.

The existing organizational structure of MNCGN is as shown below:



Terms of reference for MNCGN are as follows:

- i. To study and establish criteria used to determine official geographical names in the national interest;
- ii. To study and formulate the Guidelines for the Formation of the National Geographical Names Database;
- iii. To determine whether the objectives, functions and output of activities are in line with the requirements of the government and country;
- iv. To study and establish the methodologies for the activities of the on-line Geographical Names, National Gazetteer, National Standard Document and other activities related to geographical names; and
- v. To collaborate with the National Mapping and Spatial Data Committee, Technical Committee 2 (TC2) SIRIM and other committees connected with the formation of the national geographical information infrastructure.

### **3. ACTIVITIES**

The MNCGN holds its meeting at least once a year. The last meeting (10<sup>th</sup> Meeting) was held on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2012 in Kuching, Sarawak. Below are the related activities on geographical naming that were conducted in the period under review.

#### **3.1 National Technical Committee on Geographical Names Meeting**

National Technical Committee on Geographical Names holds its 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2013 in Ipoh, Perak. The meeting was chaired by the Deputy Director General of Survey and Mapping Malaysia I. During this meeting, all the Working Groups and State Technical Committee presented their activities and work progress.

#### **3.2 Websites on Geographical Names Activities in Malaysia**

##### **a) MNCGN Website**

The Department of Survey and Mapping Malaysia (JUPEM) has launched the MNCGN Website named "MyGeoName" in July 2006 and the updating of the website is carried out regularly. The latest update was on January 2013 which includes notes during The 4<sup>th</sup> UNGEGN

Training Course on Toponymy and Information Bulletin of UNGEGN, December 2012. This website can be accessed at <http://www.jupem.gov.my/Geonames/splash.aspx> in dual language that is in Malay language and in English language. Through this website, all information related to geographic naming activities could be accessed and is linked to UNGEGN website and other country websites which are related to the geographical naming such as New Zealand, Australia, United States and Canada. This website also include of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ). A list of liaison officers for each agency is also included for communication purpose.



*Interface of MNCGN Website*

## **b) MyGeoName Application**

MyGeoName application has been developed by Malaysian Centre for Geospatial Data Infrastructure (MaCGDI), which chair one of the three (3) Working Groups in MNCGN. This website can be accessed at <http://standard.mygeoportal.gov.my/geoname/>. The development for MyGeoName Application is still ongoing with a few new additional modules being introduced as follows:

- i) Searching Module
- ii) Administrator Module
- iii) Virtual Reality Module
  
- iv) Audio Module

Two (2) versions of “Audio File” have been developed to represent its different way of pronunciations. In this regard, first version represents pronunciation using standard language whilst the second version represents dialect pronunciation of each state of the country.

v) Arabic (Jawi) Character Module

Few states in Malaysia have requested for the use of “Jawi” or Arabic signage for geographic names, apart from the Romanized system. For this purpose, all the geographical names which have been translated to Jawi character will be validate by Institute of Language and Literature Malaysia (Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka - DBP). The audio file will be the additional/support information to help DBP to do the validation.

vi) Gazetteer Publication Module

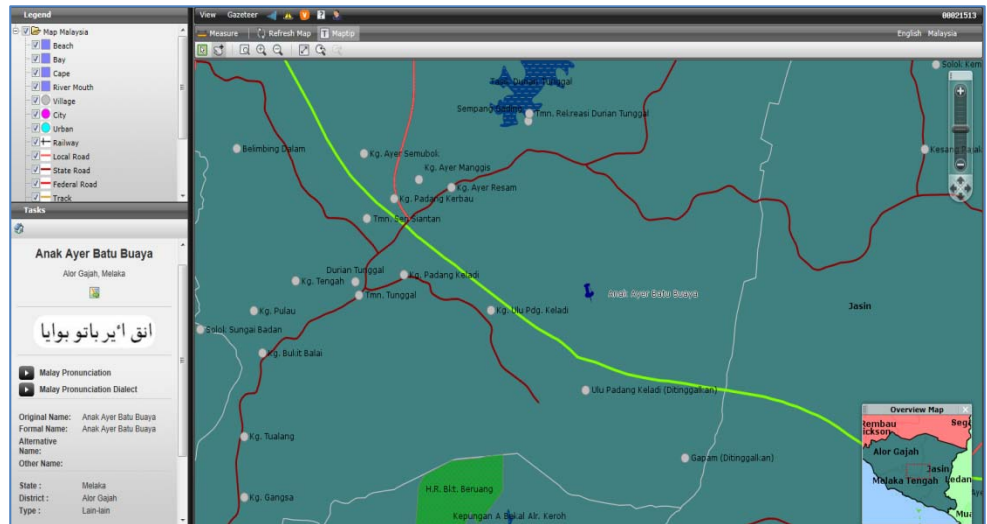
This document contains a list of geographical names, the type and location of each geographical names found in the state. The document will be publish in stages depending on states to complete their verification of geographical names and names of the islands.



***Gazetteer Document***

vii) Online Updating Module

This module will allow the updating process of textual data and geospatial data to be fully automated. The 'Google Map' also will be included in this module to help the Naming Authority in identifying the location of geographical names. Besides that, this module will also facilitate and accelerate the process of generating a report on updating of geographical names.



*Interface of MyGeoName Application*

### 3.3 Geographical Names Database and Production of Web Gazetteer

The Malaysian Geographical Names Database consists of amongst others local names, location, historical background, arabic character, audio file and gazette notification that have authoritative records available for government and public use.

The Working Group on Geographical Names Database and Gazetteer, chair by MaCGDI was given the responsibility to develop the Malaysian Geographical Names Database and Web Gazetteer. The development of the database and gazetteer and other activities are as follows:

PHASE	ACTIVITIES	YEAR	REMARKS
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PHASE	ACTIVITIES	YEAR	REMARKS
<b>One (1)</b>	Development of Geographical Names Database and Gazetteer (PDNG) (Phase 1 - Scale 1:100 000) <b>a)</b> Data collection / compilation from the State Maps of Peninsular Malaysia	July 2004 – July 2005	Cooperate with JUPEM for the geographical names coordinates.
	<b>b)</b> Validation of Data	August 2005 – September 2006	The data was send to the state with the template for validation and updating.
	<b>c)</b> Test of the Data	October 2006 – December 2006	To ensure the data fulfilled the specification.
<b>Two (2)</b>	Development of PDNG (Phase 2 - Scale 1:25 000) <b>a)</b> Data colletion	January – June 2008	Development of MyGeoName Application (Phase II) based on topographical maps of Peninsular Malaysia (Scale of 1:25 000 – 700 sheets)
	<b>b)</b> Validation of Data	July – December 2008	Validation of data for Peninsular Malaysia (Scale of 1:25 000)
	<b>c)</b> Test of the Data	July – December 2008	Test of the data for Peninsular Malaysia (Scale of 1:25 000)
	<b>d)</b> Development of the geographical names database offline for every state.	January – March 2009	Geographical names database offline has been develop
	<b>e)</b> Delivered PDNG Offline System to each of the state.	April 2009 – December 2010	PDNG Offline System has been delivered to the states for updating process.
	<b>f)</b> Data collection, validation, data tested and Developing PDNG System for the state of Sabah and Sarawak (Scale of 1:25 000 and	September 2009 - December 2009	Development of MyGeoName Application (Phase II) based on topographical maps of Sabah and Sarawak (Scale of 1:25 000 and 1:50 000 – 218 sheets-

PHASE	ACTIVITIES	YEAR	REMARKS
	1:50 000)		Sabah and 271 sheets of Sarawak)
	g) Data collection, validation and data tested for naming of an island and offshore geographical entities.	September - December 2009	Data for islands and offshore geographical entities downloaded into MyGeoName Application based on Working Group on Names of Island and Off-Shore Geographical Entities planning.
	h) Development of PDNG System for islands and offshore geographical entities.	September - December 2009	Data from National Hydrographic Centre
	i) Validation of geographical names from State Committee on Geographical Names (SCGN) before being publish into MyGeoName	December 2008 - June 2010	SCGN will validate within 3 months after geographical names database and gazetteer offline being delivered to the state.
	j) Development of Arabic ( <i>Jawi</i> ) Module	Jan 2010 - December 2012	Development of Arabic Module completed.
	k) Preparation of Audio Module	May2010 - December 2010	Development of audio module for Malay Language and related dialect for geographical names in Malaysia.
	l) Validation of Audio Module	January 2011 - December 2012	Detailed Validation Meeting for Audio Module had been done to all states except Sarawak and part of Sabah.



PHASE	ACTIVITIES	YEAR	REMARKS
	m) Publishing the Draft of State Gazetteer	January 2012 – December 2013	Publishing the Draft of State Gazetteer for each state (depend on the returning of the geographical names and names of island)
	n) Delivered PDNG data to the Working Group on Policy and Geographical Names Updating	June 2012 – December 2012	PDNG data has been delivered
<b>Three (3)</b>	Development of PDNG Phase III <b>(Stage 1)</b> base on map series MY 701A & MY 711A (scale 1:5 000 & 1:10 000 – Town Map, estimation of 53 towns)	July 2012 – December 2013	JUPEM will provide the seamless data on March 2013
	a) Data seamless process	March 2013	Data provided by JUPEM
	b) Validation of Data	March 2013	Validation process by JUPEM and MaCGDI
	c) Data Collection	April 2013	The process will be done by MaCGDI
	d) Extraction and Determination of the data	May 2013 – December 2013	Process will be done by JUPEM and MaCGDI

PHASE	ACTIVITIES	YEAR	REMARKS
	e) Uploading the data to PDNG System	June 2013	PDNG Online System has been develop and will be delivered to the states for updating process
	f) Validation by State	June 2013 – December 2013	Validation Workshop for State to validate and updating
	g) Publishing the draft of State Gazetteer	January 2012 - December 2013	Publishing the Draft of State Gazetteer for each state (depend on the returning of the geographical names that has been updated)
	h) Delivered PDNG data to the Working Group on Policy and Geographical Names Updating	November 2013 – December 2013	PDNG data (big scale) will be delivered
<b>Four (4)</b>	Development PDNG Phase III ( <b>Stage 2</b> ) base on map series MY 701A & MY 711A (scale 1:5 000 & 1:10 000 – Town Map for the whole of Malaysia)	January 2014 – December 2014	JUPEM will provide the seamless data
<b>Five (5)</b>	Development of PDNG Phase IV (scale 1:500)  Collection of data, Validation and Data Tested from Map of Klang Valley, Malaysia	January 2015 – December 2015	Phase IV based on map scale 1:500 for Klang Valley (depending on the availability of data provider)

The Working Group on Geographical Names Database and Gazetteer has appointed a Liaison Officer from each state to verify existing or propose any new names. In conducting this task, reference has to be made to gazettes, gazette plans, and circulars issued by all State Secretaries concerned, as

they are the authorities for the naming of the geographic entities within their jurisdictions. In addition, those names will also need to be referred to the Language and Literature Malaysia (DBP) for approval. Finally, geographic names that are proposed to be used must be tabled at the SCGN meeting before being officially approved and adopted.

### **3.4 Naming of Islands and Off-Shore Geographical Entities**

The Working Group on Names of Islands and Off-Shore Geographical Entities was established on 20 June 2006 and is chair by the National Hydrographic Centre (NHC).

The tasks of this Working Group are as follows:

- i) Carrying out surveys and researches as well as identifying and proposing the naming of islands and off-shore geographic entities which has no names. The proposed names will have to relate to the characteristics of hydrographic entities.
- ii) Identify and collect all related information of islands and off-shore geographic entities including from charts, gazettes, maps, agreements and related documents;
- iii) Documenting and updating the list of islands and geographical entities; and
- iv) Propose new names for existing islands and off-shore geographic entities related to the characteristic of geographical entities in accordance with the guidelines for the Standardization of Undersea Feature Names produced by the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO).

The activities of the Working Group for the period of 2012 - 2013 are as follows:

No.	Activity	Date
1.	Working Group Meeting	18 June 2012 21 February 2013
2.	Site Survey at Limbang, Sarawak	19 - 23 June 2012
3.	Validation Meeting for Names of Islands for the state of Selangor	23 September 2012
4.	Discussion of the title status between Pulau Intan and Pulau Masjid	25 October 2012
5.	Validation of Entities Under Water for the state of Sabah	7 November 2012
6.	State Committee of Geographical Names Meeting of Perak	29 November 2012

The status on documentation of Names of Islands and Off-Shore Geographical Entities for each state is as follows:

Status	Document	State
Published	Volume I (2 <sup>nd</sup> Edition)	Kedah, Johor, Kelantan, Pahang, Terengganu, Labuan and Penang
	Volume II (2 <sup>nd</sup> Edition)	Selangor, Perak, Melaka, Perlis and Negeri Sembilan
	Volume III (1 <sup>st</sup> Edition)	Sabah
Waiting for State authorities actions	Volume IV	Sarawak



***Names of Islands and Off-Shore Geographical Entities Document***

### **3.5 Workshop and Briefing**

The objectives of the workshops and briefings were to disseminate information on the Guideline on Naming of Geographical Names and to understand the procedure to use Geographical Names Database. The workshops and briefings were also intended to help participants understand the importance of coordinated geographical naming and to populate the Geographical Names Database. These efforts were expected to support the implementation of the Malaysian Geospatial Data Infrastructure (MyGDI) initiatives which is undertaken by MaCGDI.

The content of the workshops includes presentation from the committees, working groups and agencies related to geographical names as follows:

- i) Briefing on National Geographical Names Database and Gazetteer by MaCGDI;
- ii) Briefing on Guideline for the Determination of Geographical Names by JUPEM;
- iii) Briefing on Names of Island and Off-Shore Geographic Entities by NHC;
- iv) Briefing on role of National Archives of Malaysia in development of National Geographical Names Database and Gazetteer by National Archives of Malaysia;

- v) Briefing of procedures on collection of geographical names in the publication of Topographic map by JUPEM ;
- vi) Demonstration on MyGeoName application; and
- vii) Hands-on training on updating of geographical names using Module on Verification of Geographical Names.

All of the topics that were presented during the workshop are also included in the Computer Based Training (CBT) for geographic naming. The purpose of this CBT is to educate and illustrates the significance of geographic naming in the country for officers from Federal Agencies, State Agencies and Local Authority.



**Interface of CBT**

### **3.6 Toponymic Guidelines for Map and Other Editors for International Use**

During The 10<sup>th</sup> UNCSGN (United Nations Conference on the Standardisation of Geographical Names) and 27<sup>th</sup> Session of UNGEGN, Malaysia was requested to prepare the Toponymic Guidelines for Map and Other Editors for International Use.

This document which will be in both English and Malay language will include several topics as follows:

- a. National Language

- b. Spelling and Pronunciation
- c. Dialect / accent
- d. Naming Authority and Standardization of Geographical Names
- e. Level of Administration
- f. Administrative Map
- g. Resource Materials
- h. Glossary of Generic Terms, Adjectives and Other Words Appearing on Maps
- i. Abbreviations of Geographical Terms and Other Words Used in Map

### **3.7 Paper presented during 10<sup>th</sup> UNCSGN**

Four (4) papers were presented by Malaysia as below:

- i. Proposal to Split Asia South East and Pacific South West Division into Asia South East Division and Pacific South West Division
- ii. Asia South East and Pacific South West Divisional Report
- iii. MS2256: 2009: Geographic Information - Guidelines for the Determination of Geographical Names
- iv. The Development of Malaysian Geographical Names Database

Apart from that, Malaysia also submits report on National Activities on Standardization of Geographical Names for distribution and information to member countries of UNGEGN and UNCSGN.

### **3.8 4<sup>th</sup> UNGEGN Training Course on Toponymy**

Malaysia sent five (5) officers to attend the 4<sup>th</sup> UNGEGN Training Course on Toponymy which was held in Jogjakarta, Indonesia on 17 – 21 September 2012. The officers are from several departments as below:

- i. Department of Survey and Mapping Malaysia (2 officers)
- ii. National Hydrographic Centre (1 officer)
- iii. Sabah Lands and Surveys Department (1 officer)
- iv. Land and Survey Department Sarawak (1 officer)

### **3.9 UNGEGN World Geographical Names**

Currently on the UNGEGN World Geographical Names website, there are 22 towns in Malaysia with a population of over 100 000 people. Malaysia has recently sent an additional 59 towns with the population of over 100 000 people together with an audio file for the pronunciation of the towns to the UNGEGN secretariat.

## **4. CONCLUSION**

It has been widely acknowledged that consistent use of accurate place names is an important element in effective communication worldwide, apart from supporting socio-economic development, conservation and national infrastructure. Standard geographical names can also identify and reflect culture, heritage and landscape. There is an imperative need to develop a comprehensive database containing names of official places that would benefit trade and commerce, population census and national statistics, property right and cadastre, urban and regional planning, environmental management, natural disaster relief, security strategy and peace-keeping operations, maps and atlas production, automatic navigation, tourism, and communication including postal and news services. MNCGN represent Malaysia's effort to meet such needs.

*Department of Survey and Mapping Malaysia  
May 2013*