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Toponymic Education

Strengthening toponymic capacity-building in Indonesia

Submitted by Indonesia**

Summary:

Following Government Regulation No. 2 of 2021 on the Standardization of Geographical Names, the Geospatial Information Agency (Badan Informasi Geospasial) held 19 toponymic capacity-building activities in 7 of 34 provinces in Indonesia throughout 2021. In 2022, in order to further strengthen capacity and support local government participation in the standardization of geographical names, the Agency increased its toponymic capacity-building to include 75 activities in over 28 of 38 provinces.

The Agency holds toponymic capacity-building sessions for various stakeholders in geographical name standardization. By improving the capability of the stakeholders, it expects that stakeholders will be able to thoroughly fulfil their roles in the standardization of geographical names. However, the impact of toponymic capacity-building differs for every stakeholder, especially for local governments. Specific or distinct toponymic capacity-building strategies need to be employed in order to have an efficient geographical names standardization process.

The full report provides a description of the four types of toponymic capacity-building strategies in Indonesia: (a) dissemination of General Regulation No. 2 of 2021 and toponymic guidelines; (b) technical assistance; (c) toponymic consultation; and (d) coordination between stakeholders. The report focuses on the five provinces that invested the most in toponymic capacity-building in 2021 and 2022, as well as their efforts to standardize geographical names in the Indonesian geographical names information system (SINAR).

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** Prepared by Faqih Rohmatulloh, Irfan Tri Anggoro, Nafisa Andika Putri, and Lulus Hidayatno of the Geospatial Information Agency.

Strengthening toponymic capacity-building in Indonesia

Introduction

Government Regulation Number 2 of 2021 on the Standardization of Geographical Names (hereinafter referred to as GR 2/2021) emphasizes the importance of standardizing names of places across the country to ensure the sovereignty of Indonesia, to preserve cultural, historical, and customary, as well as to achieve good administration of governance. Chapter 6 of the regulation establishes the Geospatial Information Agency (Badan Informasi Geospasial - BIG) as Indonesia's National Names Authority (NNA).

As the NNA, BIG is responsible for developing and implementing rules, regulations, and procedures regarding geographical names standardization. These responsibilities include collecting and verifying toponym data and collaborating with various stakeholders, such as ministries, local governments, academics, and communities. The regulation also requires BIG to provide guidance and technical support to stakeholders in implementing geographical names standardization programs and establishing Indonesian Geographical Names Information System (*Sistem Informasi Nama Rupabumi*-SINAR).

In 2020, there are 150,757 toponym data from 3,747 users in Sistem Informasi Nama Rupabumi (SINAR). There is a big gap with the estimated 8,335,372 geographical features[1] all over Indonesia. This highlights the urgency for stakeholders to accelerate their activity in the geographical names standardization.

As the standardization process took a start, in 2021 BIG conducted a survey for local governments to assess the standardization process in their respective areas. The survey as seen in Figure 1 revealed that more than 50% of respondents expressed the need for toponymic capacity building. Therefore, the toponymic capacity building becomes even more pressing as a means of strengthening their capacity to manage geographical names effectively.
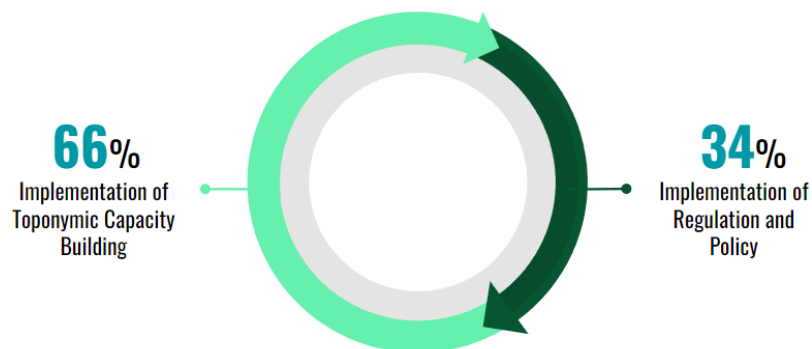

Figure 1. The result of survey conducted by BIG on stakeholders' feedback and suggestion regarding the standardization of geographical names in 2021

Toponymic capacity-building in Indonesia

BIG plays a vital role in geographical names standardization in Indonesia. To achieve this objective, BIG provides a range of services and activities aimed at strengthening the capacity of stakeholders and ensuring effective coordination among stakeholders. Through this activity, BIG aims to strengthen the rules and regulations comprehension, institutional resources, and individual technical skills and abilities. Toponymic capacity building in Indonesia consists of the dissemination of GR/2021

[1] Pujianto, A.K., Saputri, T. D., Rohmatulloh, F., & Ferdiansyah, H. (2022) Embracing Participatory Geographical Names Collection and Standardization in Indonesia

and toponymic guidelines, technical guidance, toponymic consultation, and coordination between stakeholders. Below are the details of the types of toponymic capacity building activities that are being conducted in Indonesia:

- Dissemination of GR 2/2021 and Toponymic Guidelines
  BIG delivers GR 2/2021 and other guidelines related to geographical names standardization in Indonesia. This activity aims to strengthen the awareness and understanding of the rules of all participants.
- Technical Guidance
  In technical guidance, BIG presented modules that covered rules and regulations related to geographical names standardization, the process of geographical names standardization, and the use of the SINAR for data collection and verification. There are two types of technical guidance:
  (1) Technical guidance initiated by BIG. BIG targets participants from provincial governments who will be trained to become trainers in their respective areas.
  (2) Technical guidance requested by the local government. The participants are either provincial or regency/city governments who need technical guidance directly from BIG.
- Toponymic Consultation
  Stakeholders visit BIG for consultation regarding issues that are of concern of them, such as team management, budgeting, or technical issues regarding SINAR. During these meetings, BIG provides guidance and expertise to assist stakeholders in resolving the issues.
- Coordination Between Stakeholders
  BIG has the role in coordinating activities related to geographical names standardization with stakeholders. The coordination referred to is related to the data sharing and synchronization of related tasks and activities. By facilitating the coordination, BIG helps to ensure that stakeholders are working together effectively and efficiently.

By holding this capacity building, the writer can see the increase in two of the parameters of geographical names standardization advancement, which are the number of users and the data. In 2020, there were only 150,757 toponym data from 3,747 users. As shown in Figure 2, the consistent process of toponymic capacity building in 2021 and 2022 took effect in the escalation of data and users respectively to 402,775 and 13,557.
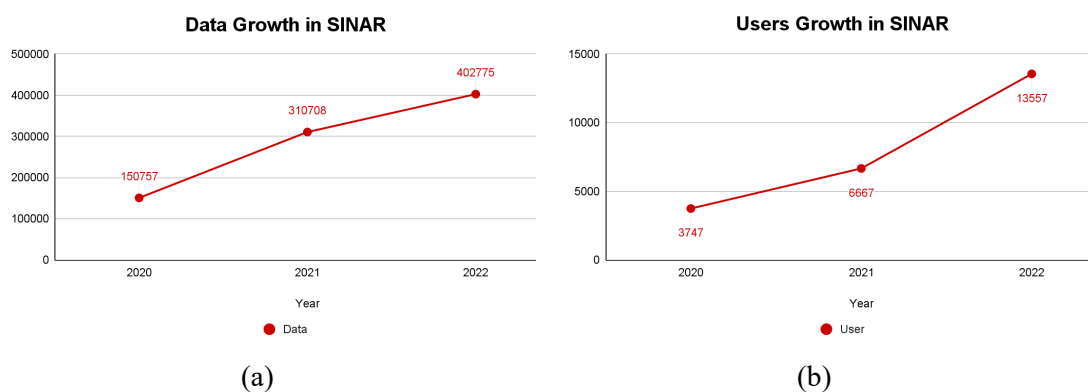

Figure 2. Activities growth in SINAR (a) data growth (b) users growth

Case study

Out of 34 provinces in Indonesia, seven provinces had toponymic capacity building by BIG in 2021. The seven provinces are West Java, Central Java, East Java, Central Kalimantan, Lampung, North Sulawesi, and South Sumatera. The toponymic capacity buildings by BIG increased tremendously in 2022 to 75 activities in over 28 of 34 provinces. The full recap of toponymic capacity building in Indonesia is shown in Figure 3.
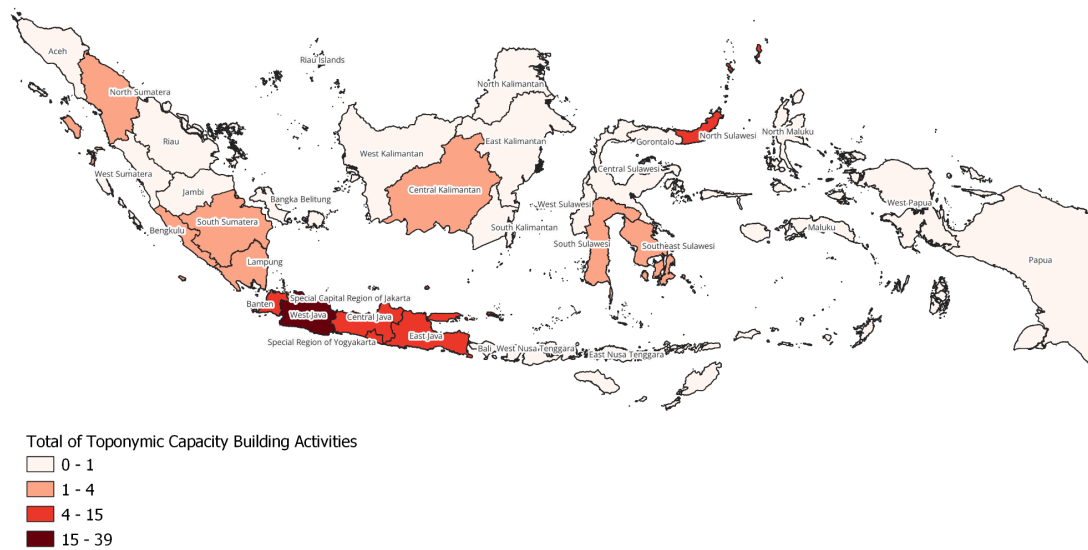
Figure 3. Toponymic capacity-building activities in Indonesia between 2021 and 2022

There are six provinces that never had toponymic capacity building either in 2021 or 2022. The six provinces are Riau, Riau Islands, Central Sulawesi, Gorontalo, North Maluku, Papua. Meanwhile, West Java has the highest number to have toponymic capacity buildings with nine activities in 2021 and 30 activities in 2022. East Java comes in second place with two activities in 2021 and a huge leap at 13 activities in 2022. The Special Region of Yogyakarta, Central Java, and Banten follow closely at 3rd, 4th, and 5th place to participate in toponymic capacity buildings. These five provinces' activities in toponymic capacity buildings are detailed further in Figure 4.
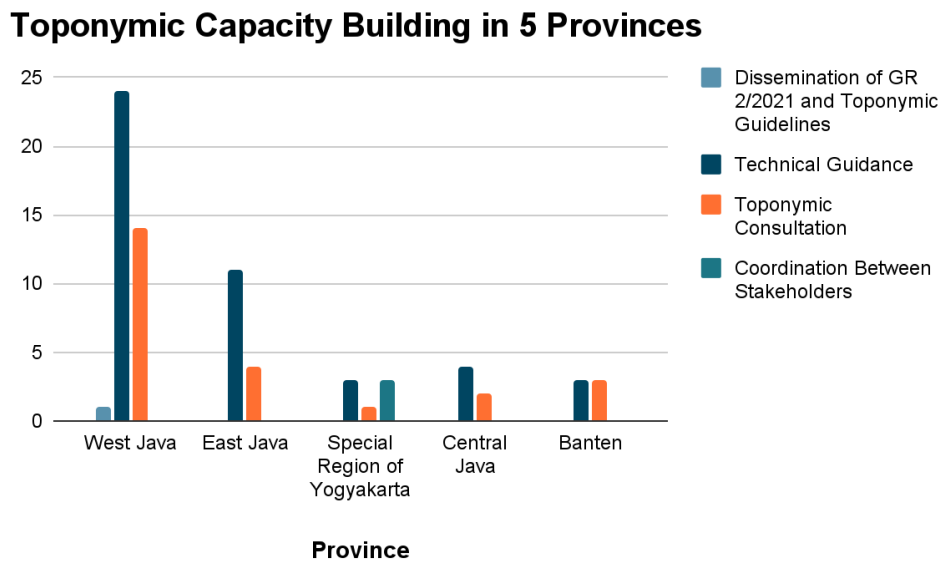

Figure 4. Most active provinces in toponymic capacity-building between 2021-2022

The data in Figure 4 revealed interesting data. West Java, for instance, despite having 80 toponymic capacity building activities throughout 2021 to 2022, prefers to have toponymic technical guidance and consultation. The other three most active provinces in the toponymic capacity building also seemed to prefer toponymic technical guidance and some consultation more than dissemination or coordination. This preference may indicate that they prioritized improvement in their technical skills and abilities. The Special Region of Yogyakarta, on the other hand, focused more on coordination. The contrasting preference may pinpoint their need for collaboration in the geographical names standardization. The improvement in their capacity may be reflected through their activities in SINAR as shown in Figure 5.

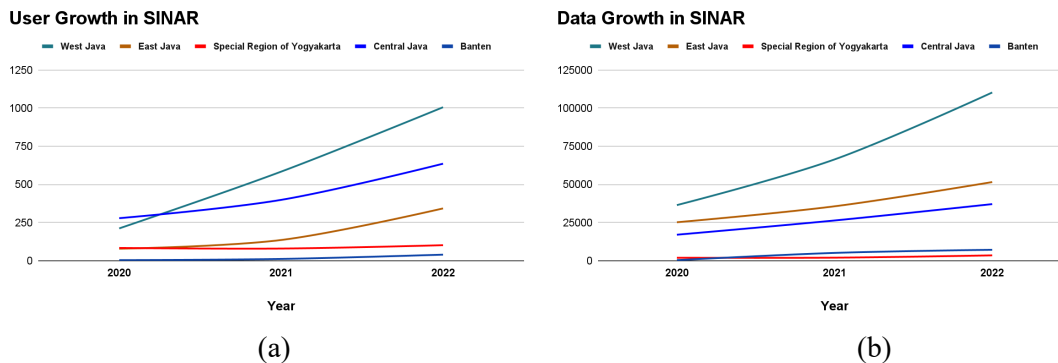(a)   (b)

Figure 5. (a) User growth in SINAR between 2020 to 2022 in 5 provinces (b) Data Growth in SINAR between 2020 to 2022 in 5 provinces

The data above shows the number of toponym data and users registered in SINAR for the 5 provinces from 2020 to 2022. Throughout the years 2020 to 2022, there was continuous growth in both users and data in all five provinces. The continuous growth suggests the effort to strengthen the capacity through toponymic capacity building has been successful. West Java had the highest leap in both users and data in just 2 years. West Java had an increase from 36,466 toponym data in 2020 to 110,258 toponym data in 2022, and an additional 794 users from 2020 to 2022. The second place followed by Central Java in data growth and East Java in user growth. Meanwhile, The Special Region of Yogyakarta and Banten had relatively lower numbers of toponymic data and registered users in SINAR compared to the other three provinces. West Java with their strong commitment to improving and contributing more to geographical names standardization in Indonesia was given the Bhumandala Nama Rupabumi Award in 2022.

Conclusions

BIG as the leading actor in geographical names standardization is fully responsible for overseeing the geographical names standardization in Indonesia as mandated by the regulation. The implementation of geographical names standardization in Indonesia involves ministries, agencies, local governments, and other parties. BIG provides various services and activities to achieve the objectives of geographical names standardization. One of the activities is toponymic capacity building. Toponymic capacity building is intended to strengthen the capacity of actors, which covers aspects of strengthening: (a) rules and regulations comprehension, (b)institutional resources, and (c) individual skills and abilities. Toponymic capacity building by BIG is carried out through the dissemination of GR 2/2021 and toponymic guidelines, technical assistance, toponymic consultation, and coordination between stakeholders with technical guidance becomes the preferred ones for many provinces.

The success of toponymic capacity building can be reflected through the continuous growth use of SINAR application. The increasing use of the SINAR application can be shown through the increasing number of the registered users and toponym data. Further research and evaluation are necessary to determine the factor contributing to the varying levels of growth for each province. Through continuous efforts to strengthen the capacity of stakeholders, the standardization of

geographical names in Indonesia can be implemented effectively and efficiently to achieve its objectives.

Points for discussion

The Group of Experts is invited to:
1. Take note of the effort made to encourage national standardization of geographical names and express its view on the technical paper.