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Item 4 (a) of the provisional agenda *

**Reports: Governments on the situation in their countries and on the progress
made in standardization of geographical names**

Report of Malaysia

Submitted by Malaysia**

Summary:

The full report of Malaysia prepared by the Malaysia National Geographical Names Committee (JKNG), covers the summaries of activities of geographical naming in Malaysia from 2021 until 2022. JKNG has been responsible for participating in geographical naming activities and forums at the regional and international level, particularly with the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN).

Throughout the years, the Geographical Name Database (PDNG) has been successfully updated once the data has been reviewed and verified. The updating of island names and marine geographical entities in the PDNG has been underway since January 2022 and is expected to be completed in the year 2024. Besides that, JKNG took actions to educate on the significance of geographical naming and the standards in geographical names. They also took actions to review and verify the name and location of the islands and other entities through workshops and briefings from time to time, such as Technical Workshop on Coordination of Island and Geographical Entity Names in Malaysia. Last but not least, information about geographical name governance in Malaysia can be accessed via the official portal of the Department of Survey and Mapping (JUPEM) as the page is updated regularly.

JKNG is committed to coordinating the geographical naming activities in Malaysia. The main goal of JKNG is to implement a standard and uniform geographical naming procedure for the whole country. In addition, JKNG also aims to have a comprehensive and efficient database for geographical names that can contribute to the development of the country.

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** The report was prepared by Malaysia National Geographical Names Committee (JKNG).

A. INTRODUCTION

This report covers the activities of geographical naming in Malaysia from 24 November 2021 until 8 November 2022 and activities planned to be held until the end of 2023. The activities include projects, meetings, publications and other programs related to geographical naming in Malaysia conducted by committees and working groups under the Malaysia National Committee of Geographical Names (JKNG). JKNG has been established on 11 September 2002 and entrusted by the cabinet of Malaysia to coordinate the geographical naming activities. This committee is chaired by the Director General of Survey and Mapping Malaysia. The committee members consist of the head of departments/agencies related to this activity at the federal and state levels. For the record, Malaysia consists of thirteen (13) states under the jurisdiction of the state government and three (3) federal territories. To ensure geographical naming activities are active and adhere to the guidelines in Malaysia, several committees have been established at national and state levels. At the national level, National Technical Committee on Geographical Names (JTNGK) has established three (3) working groups reporting to it, which are:

- i. Working Group on Policy and Geographical Names Updating (KKDPNG);
- ii. Working Group on National Geographical Names Database and Gazetteer (KKPDNG); and
- iii. Working Group on Name of Islands and Geographical Entities (KKNPEG).

At the state level, there are two (2) committee groups have been established which are:

- i. State Committee on Geographical Names (JNNG); and
- ii. State Technical Committee on Geographical Names (JTNGN).

B. ACTIVITIES ON NATIONAL GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

1. National Committee and Working Groups Meeting

There are five (5) meetings have been conducted that involve KKPDNG, KKDPNG, KKNPEG, JTNGK and JKNG.

2. Geographical Name Database (PDNG) Update

Updating of PDNG has divided into three (3) phases which are:

- i. Phase I - Development of PDNG and MyGeoName application which have been completed in 2019 and upgraded in 2016 by KKPDNG;
- ii. Phase II - Development of PDNG at a scale of 1:50,000 by KKPDNG; and
- iii. Phase III - Development of PDNG for urban areas at a scale of 1:5,000 and 1:10,000 by KKDPNG.

2.1 Phase II of PDNG (Scale of 1:50,000)

Until November 2022, 69,629 geographical names have been verified and updated in PDNG by KKPDNG. KKPDNG has also developed PDNG Editor Module to ease the state and local authorities in online data checking and

updating. The demonstration and hands-on module have been conducted in 11 series of workshops from 2021 until 2022 with the participation of representatives from state and local authorities. From the workshops, 3,454 out of 11,586 reviewed geographical names have been amended involving amendments to existing names, coordinates and entity types as well as adding new geographical names to the database. KKPDNG plans to conduct the same workshops in other states/federal territories to update the PDNG effectively.

2.2 Phase III of PDNG (Urban areas - scale of 1:5,000 and 1:10,000)

There are 22 cities throughout Malaysia have been identified to be included in this phase of PDNG updating. 1,626 geographical names of three (3) cities have been successfully updated in the PDNG in 2020. The rest 19 cities are still in the process of review & verification.

3. Workshops and Briefings

3.1 Technical Workshop on Coordination of Island and Geographical Entity Names in Johor (the southernmost state in Malaysia)

The Technical Workshop on Coordination of Island and Geographical Entity Names was held on 14 to 15 March 2022 at Ramada Meridin Hotel, Johor Bahru, Johor. The Johor State Technical Committee of Geographical Names (JTNGN) in collaboration with KKNPEG organized it. The objectives of this workshop were to educate the significance of geographical naming as well as to review and verify the name and location of the islands as well as other entities in the state waters of Johor state before for gazetting purposes.

A Series of talks has been given by representatives from JKNG, KKDPNG and KKNPEG on the Governance of Geographical Naming in Malaysia, Updating the Geographical Names Database, and The Current Status of Island and Geographical Entity Names in the State of Johor respectively. The workshop then continued with the discussion session on the naming issues faced by local authority offices. This workshop has shown a positive impact and KKNPEG intends to hold similar workshops in other states/federal territories as well.

3.2 Geomatics and Land Surveying (GLS) Speaker's Hub

The JKNG has been invited as a speaker in the Geomatics and Land Surveying (GLS) Speaker's Hub session organized by the GLS Division, Royal Institution of Surveyors Malaysia (RISM). The Chairman of KKDPNG presented the session from JUPEM on 7 April 2022 via a virtual platform. The topic presented about mapping standard activities in Malaysia including the standards in geographical names.

3.3 PDNG Updating and MyGeoName Workshops

There were six (6) workshops on PDNG Updating and five (5) workshops on MyGeoName have been conducted by KKPDNG from 2021 until 2022.

4. Portal of Geographical Names Updates

Information about the geographical names' governance in Malaysia can be accessed via the official portal Department of Survey and Mapping Malaysia (JUPEM) using the following link <https://www.jupem.gov.my/en/warga-jupem>. The page has been updated regularly. The recent update was on 9 January 2023.

C. ACTIVITIES ON NATIONAL GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

1. Meetings

1.1. Malaysia National Committee on Geographical Names (JKNG) Meeting

The JKNG holds its meeting at least once a year. The 19th JKNG Meeting chaired by the Director General of Survey and Mapping Malaysia will be scheduled to be carried out physically on June 2023. The meeting focuses on the determination of policy and coordination of activities related to geographical naming in Malaysia.

1.2. National Technical Committee on Geographical Names (JTNGK) Meeting

The 25th JTNGK meeting is tentative to be carried out on May 2023. Among the main agenda of this meeting are the presentations of geographical naming activities by the three (3) working groups; KKDPNG, KKPDNG and KKNPEG and fourteen (14) states/federal territory technical committees. This meeting is also a medium for the states and the agencies to address the issues to be brought in the JKNG meeting for solutions.

1.3. Working Group's Meetings

Working group meetings are usually held before the JTNGK meeting. The purpose of the meeting is to gather the activities and the issues to be reported in the JTNGK meeting. Tentatively, KKDPNG, KKPDNG and KKNPEG meetings will be held on April 2023.

1.4. State Geographical Names Committee (JNNG) and State Technical Geographical Names Committee (JTNGN) Meetings

JTNGN will hold a meeting after receiving the new geographical names for verification. After being verified by JTNGN, these geographical names will be proposed to the JNNG meeting for approval. Normally, JTNGN and JNNG hold their meeting at least once a year before the JTNGK meeting.

2. Geographical Name Database (PDNG) Update

2.1. Phase II PDNG (Scale of 1:50,000)

KKPDNG targets to complete the update of the geographical name for three (3) state/federal territories by December 2022.

2.2. Phase III PDNG (Scale of 1:5,000 and 1:10,000)

KKPDNG is in the process of updating the verified geographical names of six (6) cities in the PDNG and MyGeoName application. The update that started in January 2022 is expected to be completed in December 2023.

2.3. Island and Hydrographic Entity's Names

The updating of the names of islands and marine geographical entities in the PDNG has been underway since January 2022 and is expected to be completed in the year 2024. KKPDNG will refer to Book 1 and Book 2 of the list of islands and geographical entities' names (NPEG) published jointly by KKNPEG and KKDPNG.

3. Application Expansion

The expansion of the MyGeoName application using the Visual Video Module will be carried out by KKPDNG. The visual videos of point of interest (POI) in Klang Valley (involving the state of Selangor and federal territories of Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya) will be updated gradually start from May until December 2022.

4. Workshops and Briefings

4.1 Technical Workshop on Coordination of Island and Geographical Entity Names

KKNPEG plans to carry out a series of a technical workshops this year for several states that have many islands and hydrographic entities to coordinate and provide guidance to local authorities on the geographical naming procedures.

4.2 Revision of Guidelines for Determination of Geographical Names Second Edition PDNG and MyGeoName Application's User Requirements Workshops

KKDPNG plans to organize Revision on Guidelines for Determination Geographical Names for Book 1 and Book 2 of NPEG in February 2023. The objective of the workshop is to revise the existing guidelines with the latest information from the local authorities and the latest guidance on the geographical naming procedure.

5. Publications

5.1 Book 3 of NPEG

Book 3 of NPEG which covers the state of Sabah and the Federal Territory of Labuan is being updated by KKNPEG using the verified islands and geographical entities' names from the state authorities. The list of names is

expected to be completed in early 2023 whilst the book that covers Sarawak is expected to be completed by early 2024. Then, books will be reviewed by KKDPNG before being published and distributed to the related states/federal territories.

5.2 State Gazetteer Mock-up Documents

From 2017 until 2022, twelve (12) documents of twelve (12) states/federal territories have been published leaving four (4) documents of the state of Pahang, Johor, Sabah and Sarawak that are still in progress. The plan for this year is to complete the gazetteer mock-up document for the state of Pahang. After completion, the draft will be sent to the Institute of Language and Literature (DBP) for review before the document is finalized for publication.

D. CONCLUSION

JKNG is committed to coordinating the geographical naming activities in Malaysia because accurate and standardized geographical naming is significant as a fundamental means of communication to help cooperation among local, national as well as international organizations.