



### **Presenter Details**

LSr Saiful Wazlan bin Wahab , Director of Survey, Coordinating and Mapping Policy Division, Department of Survey and Mapping Malaysia (JUPEM).

LSr Saiful is Licensed Land Surveyor (LSr) registered with the Land Surveyors Board Malaysia, with 24 years of experience in the surveying profession. He currently chairs the Working Group on Policy and Geographical Names Updating (KKDPNG), a role he has held for the past two years, focusing on establishing principles, policies, and procedures for updating geographical names in Malaysia

### **Speaking Notes**

Dear distinguished delegates and fellow participants of the 4th Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names.

Im Saiful Wazlan and I will be sharing Writing Systems, Pronunciation, and the Naming of Undersea Features: Ensuring Accuracy and Integrity in Malaysia

Malaysia places strong emphasis on **standardized writing systems** and **clear pronunciation** as vital elements of effective geographical naming. Our national platform, **MyGeoName**, reflects this by providing place names in both **Rumi (Roman script)** and **Jawi (adaptation of Arabic script)**—accompanied by **audio pronunciations**, **location videos**, and **historical insights**. This approach not only helps preserve cultural heritage but also ensures consistent and respectful use of names across education, governance, and tourism sectors.

We believe these efforts are in line with the objectives of **UNGEGN Working Groups on Pronunciation and Romanization**, which advocate for **reversible Romanization systems** and accessible pronunciation through tools **audio recordings**.

In addition to land based naming, Malaysia actively contributes to **undersea feature naming** under the **Sub-Committee on Undersea Feature Names (SCUFN)**. Through the **National Hydrographic Centre**, we have been an active participant since 2013 and have successfully named **17 undersea features** in the **South China Sea**, now recorded in the **GEBCO** database.

However, we recognize that naming in **geopolitically sensitive areas** brings unique challenges. In 2023, SCUFN prudently decided to **pause new naming proposals** in the SCS to allow for regional cooperation. Malaysia has since engaged in dialogues with the concerned parties, though consensus is still in development.

Looking ahead, we will ensure that the content of MyGeoName is always updated and continuously improved, so that we can advocate for and share accurate information with both the Malaysian and international public, while supporting UNGEGN's goals of transparency, consistency, and cultural integrity in geographical naming.