COUNTRY REPORT MALAYSIA

**8th Divisional Meeting of UNGEGN,
Asia South East**

**27th October 2020
Virtual Meeting**

**Malaysian National Committee
on Geographical Names**

OUTLINE

01 INTRODUCTION

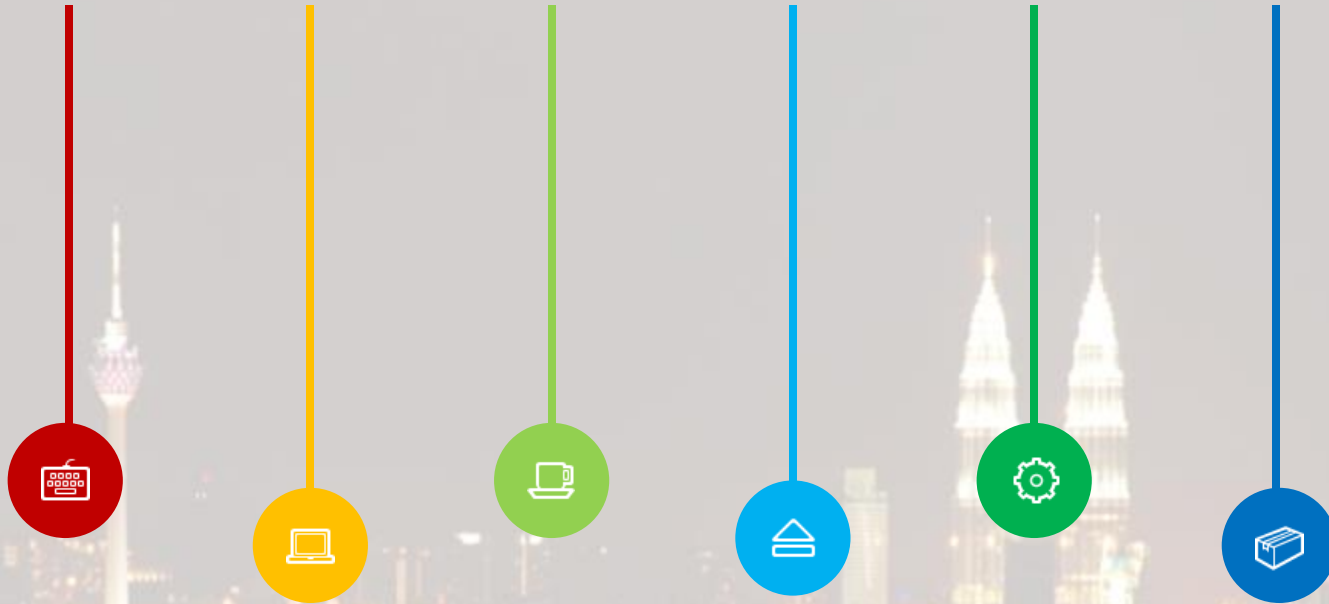**02** BACKGROUND

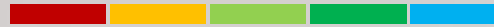**03** ACTIVITIES

04 ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

05 CONCLUSION

INTRODUCTION

This report covers the period from September 2019 to September 2020 since the last meeting in New York on 9 August 2017.
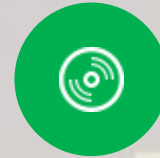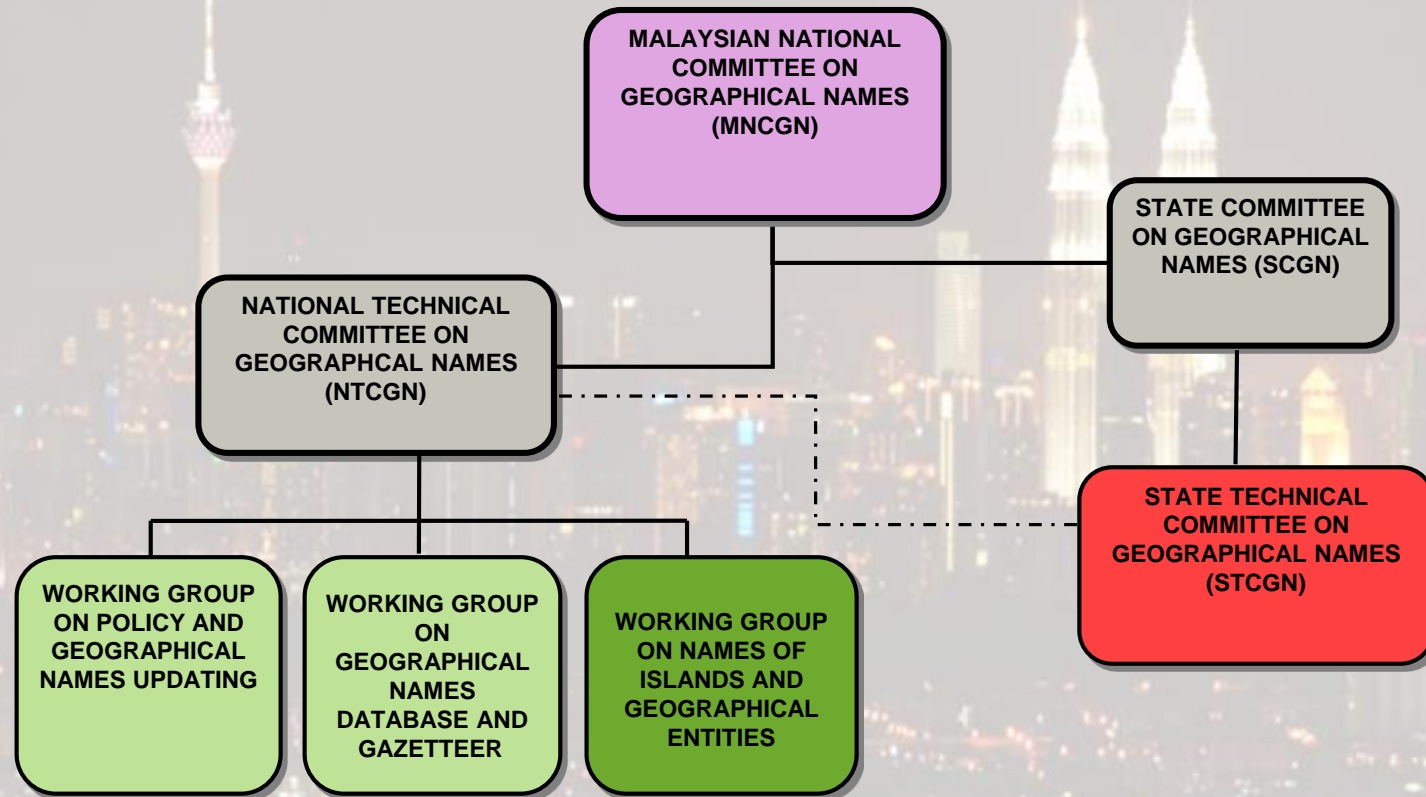
BACKGROUND

Malaysian National Committee on Geographical Names (MNCGN) is responsible to coordinate all geographical naming activities and established on 11 September 2002.
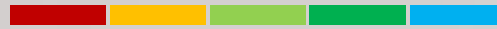
State Committee on Geographical Names (SCGN) coordinates the activities as regards to decision made in MNCGN at State level.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF
MALAYSIAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

MALAYSIAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES (MNCGN)

STATE COMMITTEE ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES (SCGN)

NATIONAL TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON GEOGRAPHCAL NAMES (NTCGN)

STATE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES (STCGN)

WORKING GROUP ON POLICY AND GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES UPDATING

WORKING GROUP ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES DATABASE AND GAZETTEER

WORKING GROUP ON NAMES OF ISLANDS AND GEOGRAPHICAL ENTITIES

THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COMMITTEE

Establishing national guideline for nomenclature of places and geographic entities;

Developing the National Geographical Names Database and the National Gazetteer;

Promoting the use of official names for places; and

Participating in geographical naming activities and forum in the regional and international level, particularly UNGEGN.

TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR)

Establishing criteria to determine official geographic names;

Determine the objectives, functions and output of activities;

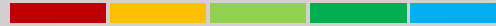Collaborate with the National Mapping and Spatial Data Committee, TC2 SIRIM and other related committee.

Formulate guideline for the formation of National Geographical Names Database;

Establish methodologies for the activities of the on-line geographical Names, National Gazetteer, National Standard Document and other activities; and

ACTIVITIES

01 Malaysian National Committee on Geographical Names Meeting (MNCGN)

02 National Technical Committee on Geographical Names Meeting (NTCGN)

03 Working Group on Policy and Geographical Names Updating

04 Geographical Names Database and Production of Web Gazetteer

05 Naming of Islands and Geographical Entities

06 Workshop and Briefing

07 SOP in Updating the Geographical Names Database for Urban Area

08 Toponymic Guidelines

Malaysian National Committee on Geographical Names Meeting (MNCGN)

- The last meeting of **15th MNCGN** was held in Kuala Lumpur on **10 December 2019** and chaired by Director General of Survey and Mapping.

01

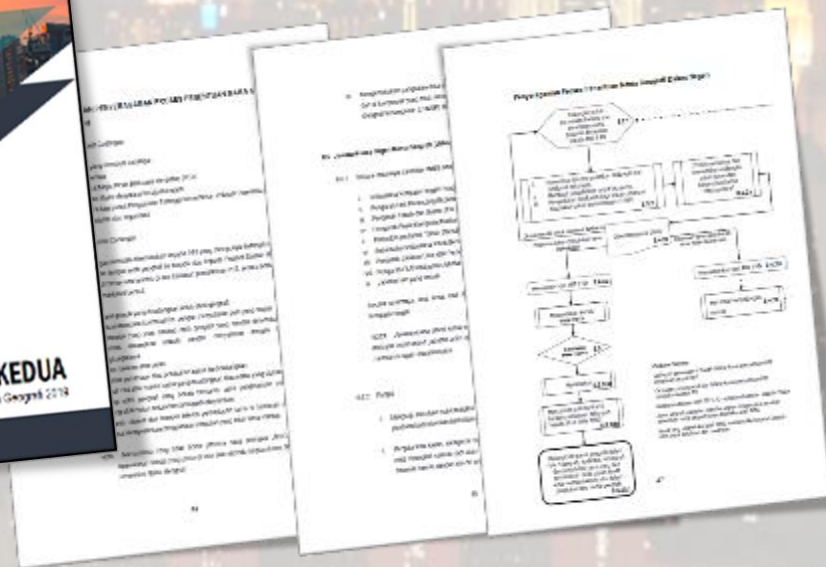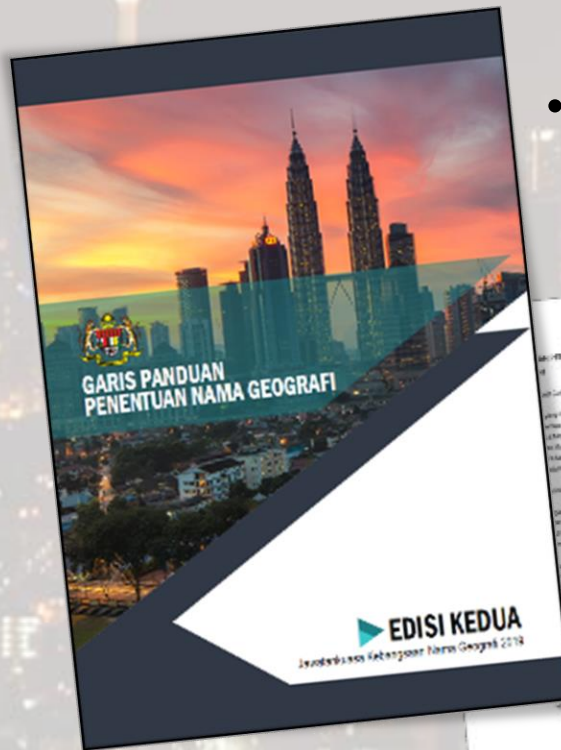## National Technical Committee on Geographical Names Meeting (NTCGN)

02

- The **22th NTCGN Meeting** was held on **10 September 2020** in Kuala Lumpur and chaired by Director General of Survey and Mapping I.

Working Group on Policy and Geographical Names Updating

03

- **Seven (7) meetings** were held to address issues on policy and updating matters.

- Matter on the notification of geographical names of places in the government gazette were also deliberated.

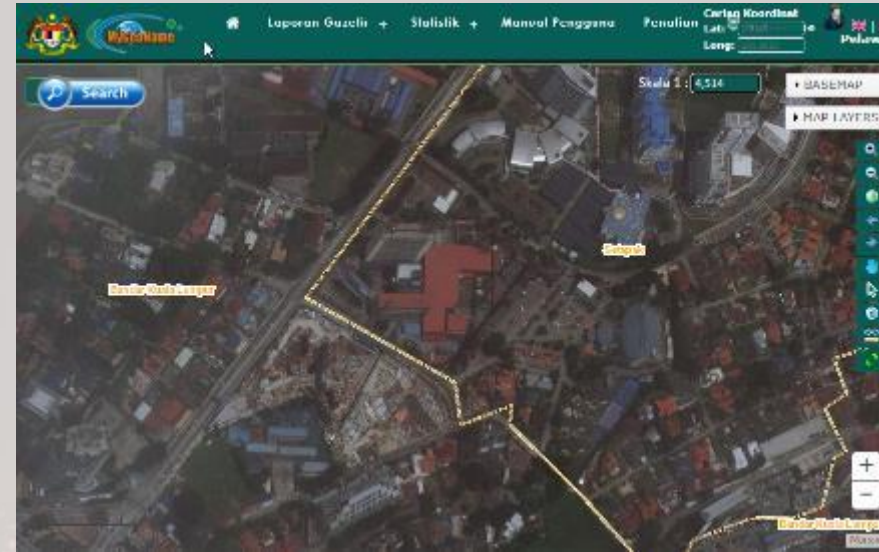- Published the **Guidelines for Determination of Geographical Names Second Edition.**

Working Group on Geographical Names Database and Production of Web Gazetteer

- Developed **MyGeoName application** in order to manage authoritative information related to geographical names and location.

04

- Proposed **Visualization Video Module** for each states as additional video informations in MyGeoName Application.

Working Group on Geographical Names Database and Production of Web Gazetteer

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- There are 67,827 for mapping scale 1:50;000 and 1,755 for mapping scales 1:5,000 and 1:10,000 existing Geographical Names that have been coordinated and updated in Malaysia.
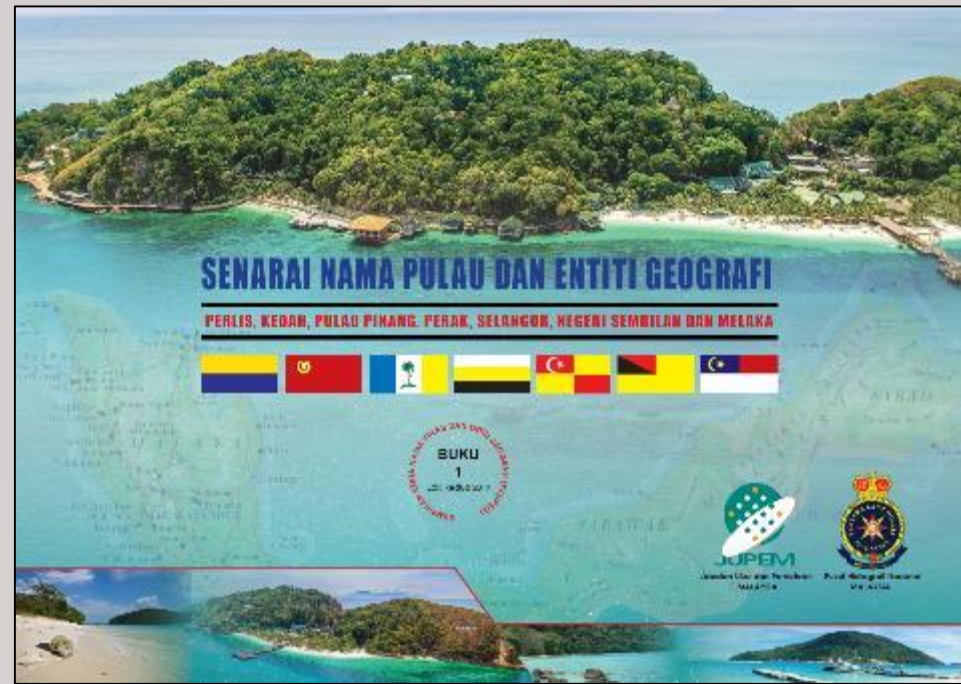
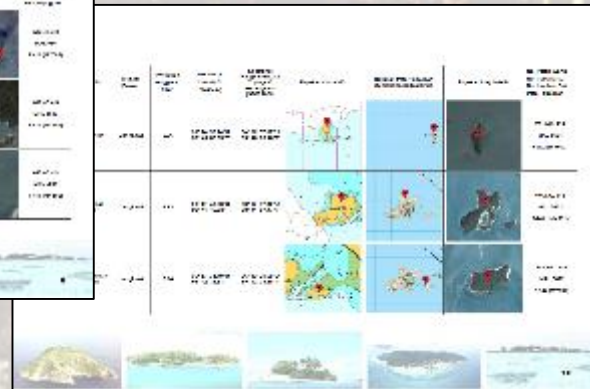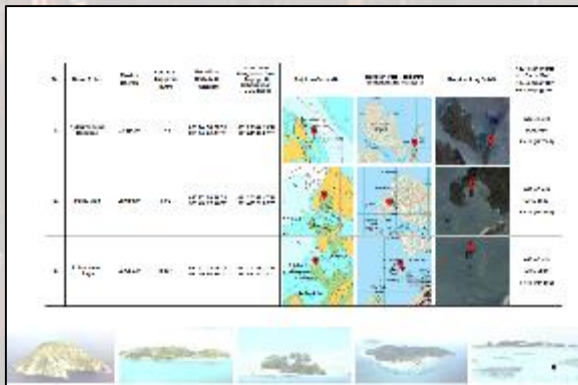- Finalized the **State Gazetteer Document** for **eight (8) states** in Malaysia.

Working Group on Naming of Islands and Geographical Entities

- Identified **1,519** of **1698** the **naming of islands and geographic entities**.

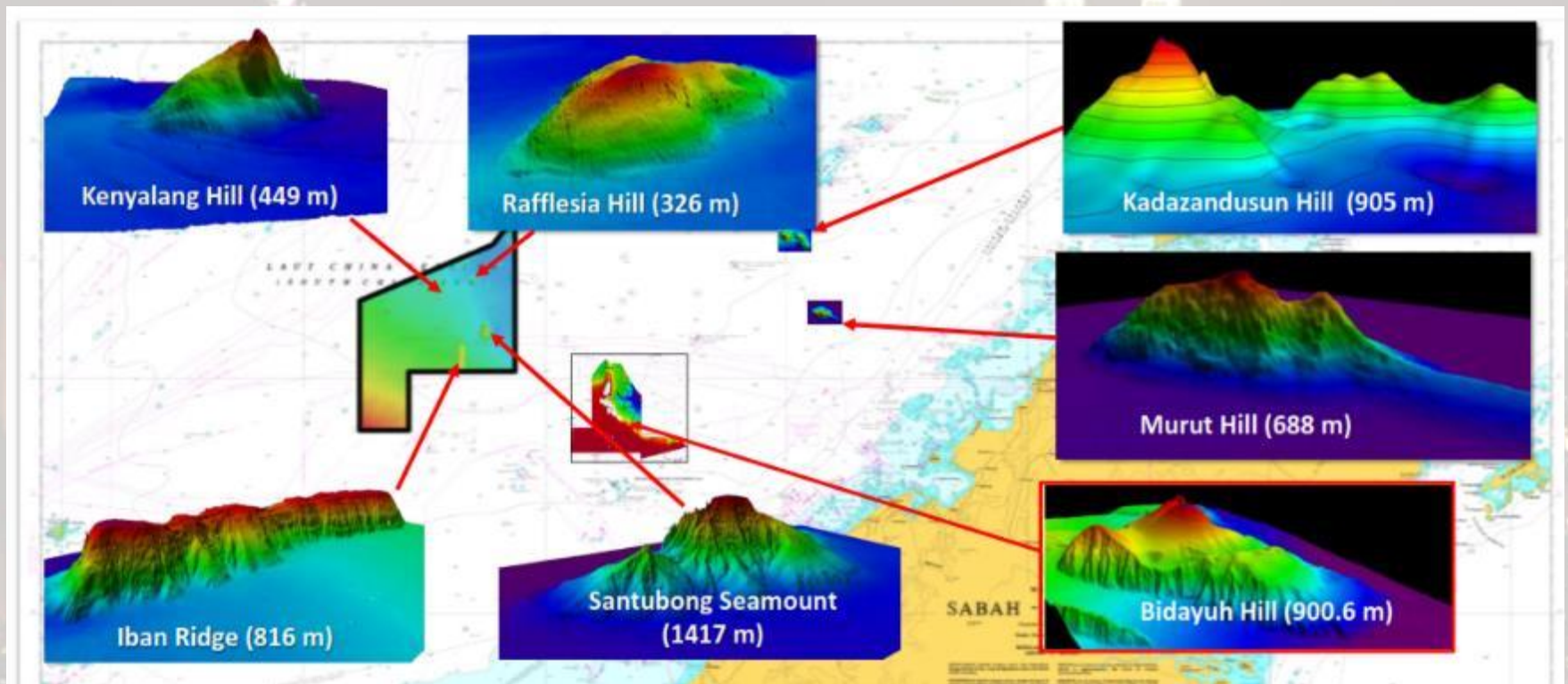- **182 islands** and geographic entities have no name.

- **Republished** new format for the Listing Naming of Islands and Geographical Entities Book I

05

Working Group on Naming of Islands and Geographical Entities

- Identified seven (7) geographical entities in South China Sea from year 2014 till 2019. The entities have been presented and accepted by Sub Committee on Undersea Feature Names (SCUFN).

Kenyalang Hill (449 m)

Rafflesia Hill (326 m)

Kadazandusun Hill (905 m)

Murut Hill (688 m)

Iban Ridge (816 m)

Santubong Seamount (1417 m)

SABAH

Bidayuh Hill (900.6 m)

Workshop and Briefing

- **Geographical Names Database** Workshop;

- Briefing on **National Geographical Names and Gazetteer Database** for Town Map for Kuantan an Cyberjaya;

- **Updating** Islands and Geographical Entities Names Book II

- Discussion on **Determination of Naming Islands and Geographical Entities** exceeding three (3) nautical miles from shoreline.

06

Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) in Updating the Geographical Names Database for Urban Area

- This SOP will be the **main reference** to all State Liaison Officers in updating and verification of the geographical names.

- The SOP has been **distributed** to all the related states under phase III of Updating the Geographical Names Database for Urban Area

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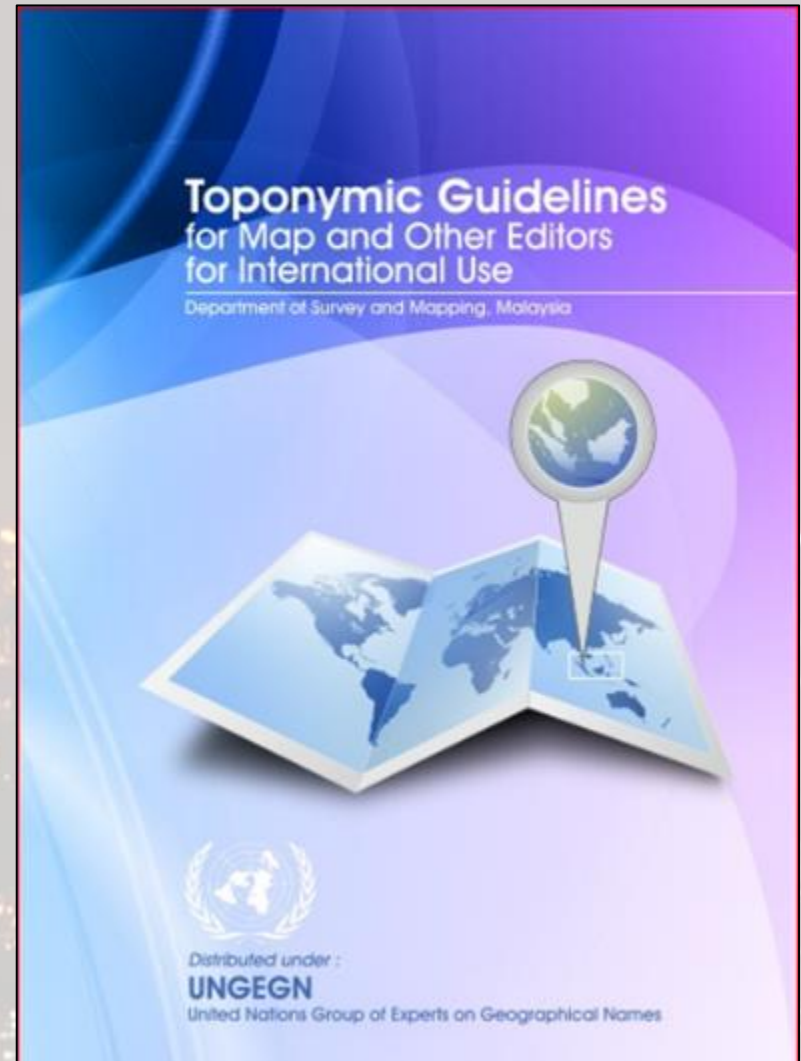
Toponymic Guidelines

- The Guidelines has been presented **11th United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names** held in New York, USA in August 2017.

- The guideline has been used as the reference in MyGeoname Application in Malaysia.
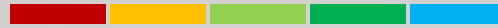

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ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

Verification of The Geographical Names

The long duration process, the list of geographical names in the database was not up to date.

Duplication in Updating Geographical Names

The developments causing difficulty to standardize and updating the geographical names due all the forementioned applications are not centralized.

Lack of Management Spatial and Non-Spatial Data

A total of 53,099 audio clips of official pronunciation, 57,753 audio clips of local dialect pronunciation, 57,205 images of Jawi writing and 28 video visuals were stored separately

CONCLUSION

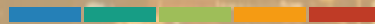Standard geographical names can identify and reflect culture, heritage and landscape.

Consistent use of accurate place names is an important element in effective communication worldwide, apart from supporting socio-economic development, conservation and national infrastructure.

The end

8TH UNGEGN ASIA SOUTH EAST
DIVISIONAL MEETING
27TH OCTOBER 2020