Geographical Names: Detailing Map and Enhancing GIS

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SUMMARY

The necessity of having geographical names is to match geographical data. Names on points, lines and polygon data in GIS and map present important value for readers and GIS users to capture the spirit of the data. When we look for location and places we use names and the names depicts the whole picture in term of spatial and attributes. Basically the primary access to spatial information is via geographical names. In GIS, querying, buffer and overlay operations on the basis of named objects are possible on the basis of place name standardization. Malaysia participated actively in the geographical names forum. Geographic name management is much complex as it involves different languages, culture and scripts. No one can be an expert in geographical names from all the languages that are spoken over the world, or in all national names practices. Determination and updating of geographic names has been discussed dynamically in the GIS world and has created researches and reports that

are deliberated in the United Nation under the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN). The paper tends to discuss the efforts and coordination that have been taken through the National Committee on Geographic Name in Malaysia. The toponymic guidelines for map and other editors for MALAYSIA has been tabled and edited with the help of UNGEGN toponymic guideline coordinator. The guideline will be highlighted in the presentation as an awareness because the use of toponymical guidelines implies some knowledge of the language, culture, script that is valuable to be debated. Apart from that, treatment will be given regarding the Geographical Names Database (MyGeoname) which is a geographical names data bank that stores names, locations, historical backgrounds and gazette notifications. It is an authoritative record that is available for government and public use.

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