

## **VIETNAM NATIONAL REPORT**

### **Meeting of United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical name for in Asia South east from 31/3 to 01/4/2014**

#### **Overview :**

In Vietnam, collection, naming and standardization of geographical name were implemented by some agencies following the assignment of Vietnam government to serve the operational management of the agency, as follows:

- Ministry of the Interior is responsible for management and submitting Administrative geographical name (name of province/ city under central authority, the name of the county/ district/ town/ provincial cities, the names of ward / commune/ town) and geographical name of the sea and islands to Congress for evaluation and approval.

- Provincial Department of Interior is responsible for management and submit the resident geographical name (names of villages, hamlets and population groups) to provincial People's Council for evaluation and approval.

- The name of the streets was named by the provincial People's Council following the regulation on the naming or renaming streets and public works issued by the Government .

- Ministry of Transport is responsible for management of Geographical name of transport features (name of national roads, provincial roads and related structures).

- Geographical name of transport features in lower level (district roads, commune roads and related structures) were named and managed by the provincial Department.

- Geographical name of irrigation system (name of canal, ditch and related works) were named and managed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Provincial Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.

- Geographical name of History-Culture objects (name of the historical monument landscape) were named and managed by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism.

- Almost Geographical name of topography (name of mountains, hills, forests), geographical name of hydrology (name of rivers, streams, natural lakes) were named before. At present, Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment is implementing standardization and publishing those Geographical names.

Currently, the use of Viet Nam geographical name and also foreign geographical name in Viet Nam still exist inconsistency. The cause of this inconsistency is partly due to the formation of the Vietnamese language and transformation of foreign toponymy into Vietnamese, other reason due to National Committee of Viet Nam on Geographic name has not established yet. Central and local agencies are implementing the

standardization, naming following particular knowledge and rules with internal and temporary characters.

### **Regulations on geographical name:**

Currently, there are many regulations were issued by government agencies in Viet Nam. Those regulations were used in management activities of the agencies, as follows:

- "Temporary Regulation on foreign languages transcription into Vietnamese" issued by the Office of the National Assembly in 1999.

- "Temporary Regulation on capitalize in the document" issued by the Office of Government in 1998 .

- "Regulations on spelling Vietnamese and Vietnamese term" issued by the Ministry of Education in 1984. This Regulation lays down the principles of proper names written in Vietnamese and foreign languages .

- "Regulation on spelling and transcription of proper name and foreign term" issued by Steering Council for compilation of Vietnam encyclopedia in 1995.

- "Principle in handling foreign names in Vietnam Encyclopedia on Military" issued by the Ministry of Defense in 1996.

- "Regulation on naming or renaming of streets and public structures" issued by Viet Nam government in 2005.

- "Regulation on transcription of international geographical name into Vietnamese for mapping" issued by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment in 2007.

- "General regulations on transcription of geographical name of ethnic minority in Vietnamese for mapping" issued by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment in 2007 .

- "National technical regulation on standardization of geographical name for mapping" issued by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. Regulations provide guidelines to standardize geographical names, classification and determine the coordinates of geographical name, the principle of geographical name database construction and gazette.

In above documents still exist differences in principles and transcription method.

### **Database of Geographical name**

The Department of Survey and Mapping Viet Nam (DOSMVN) is responsible for the standardization of geographical names on map. Since 2005 to 2013, Vietnam has developed and issued the gazetteers of Geographical name as following:

+ In 2006, Vietnam issued the Gazetteers for civil/political subdivision of Vietnam which includes 63 provincial gazetteers list of places the administrative units Vietnam consists of 63 provinces. Gazetteers of Geographical name include information about: code, type, official name, Geographical coordinates, the standard map series on which the civil/administration division located.

+ In 2007, Vietnam issued Gazetteer of international geographical name (country name, capital name, the name of the big city, river and mountain), which presented on map. Gazetteer of International geographical name includes: code, official name, Geographical coordinates.

+ In the period 2005 - 2013, Vietnam has built gazetteers for topography and hydrology features, economic – social features on topographic maps at 1:25 000 scale and 1:50 000 scale. Currently, Vietnam has completed and issued the gazetteers of 21 provinces in North-Eastern area, the North-Western area and Central part. The gazetteers includes basic information such as: code, type, official name, geographical coordinates, the standard map series on which the civil/administration division located.

In addition, Vietnam is building a database of geographical name for the sea and islands in The East Sea of Vietnam.

In coming years, Vietnam will continue implementing the standardization and establishment of geographical name database on the map for 42 provinces and cities directly under the Central Government, complete the database of geographical name for the sea and the islands to publishing.

However, the Gazetteers of geographical name were announced by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, which only was applied in the mapping field, was not applied in other fields.

At present, the Geographical name were issued and published in the official gazette. The website could provide data of geographical name will be established in the near future.

### **National Committee on Geographical name**

Recognizing the need and importance of standardizing geographical name and using uniform geographical name, Vietnam is building the project “Establishment of National Committee on Geographical name”, this committee is responsible for overall coordination of Geographical name activities. After formation of National Committee, geographical name activities will be uniformly directed from central to local for build national geographical name database.