

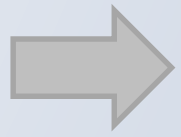
# The Naming of Undersea Features In Malaysia: Rationale and Challenges

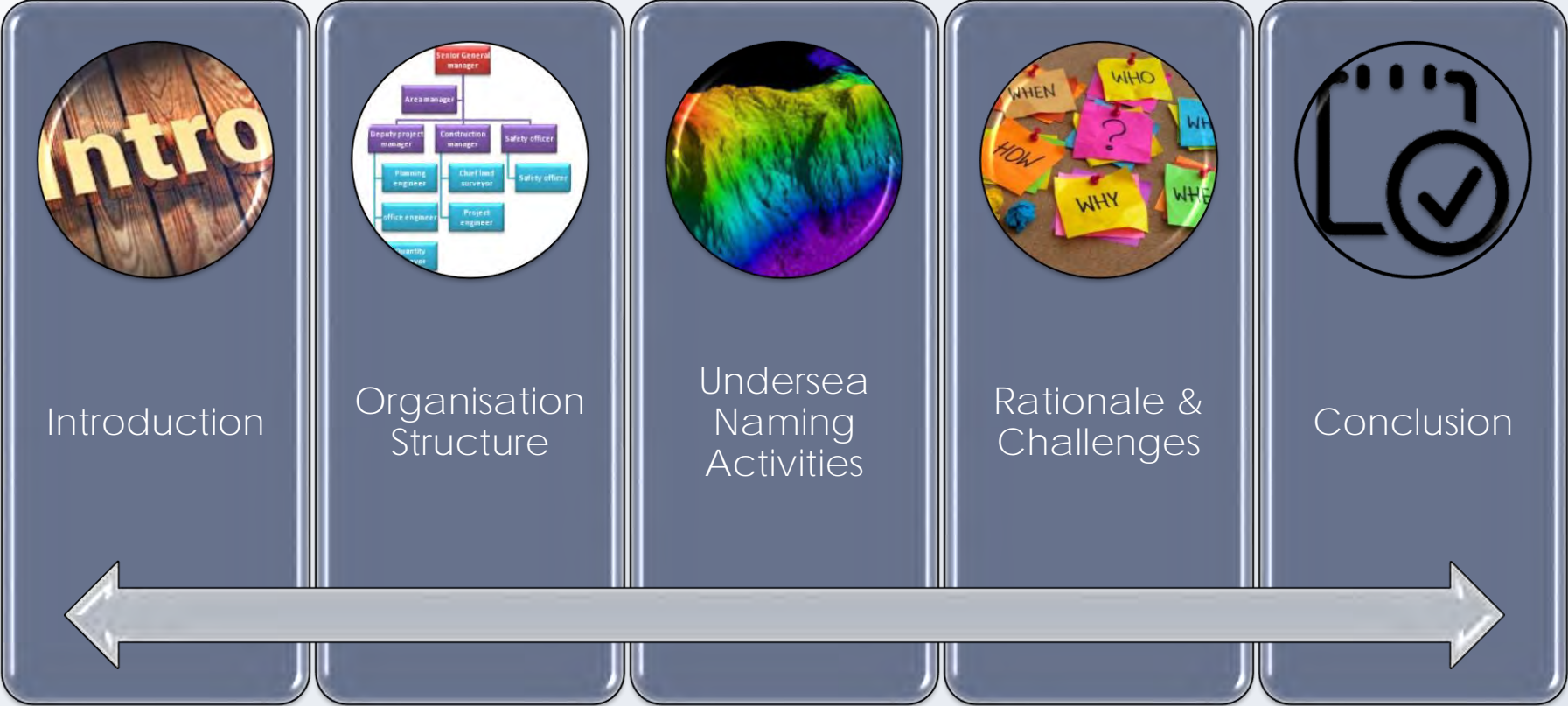
First Admiral Dr. Najhan Md Said, RMN  
Senior Director of Hydrography  
National Hydrographic Centre

Email: najhan@navy.mil.my

**“Empowering Marine Knowledge Through Hydrography”**

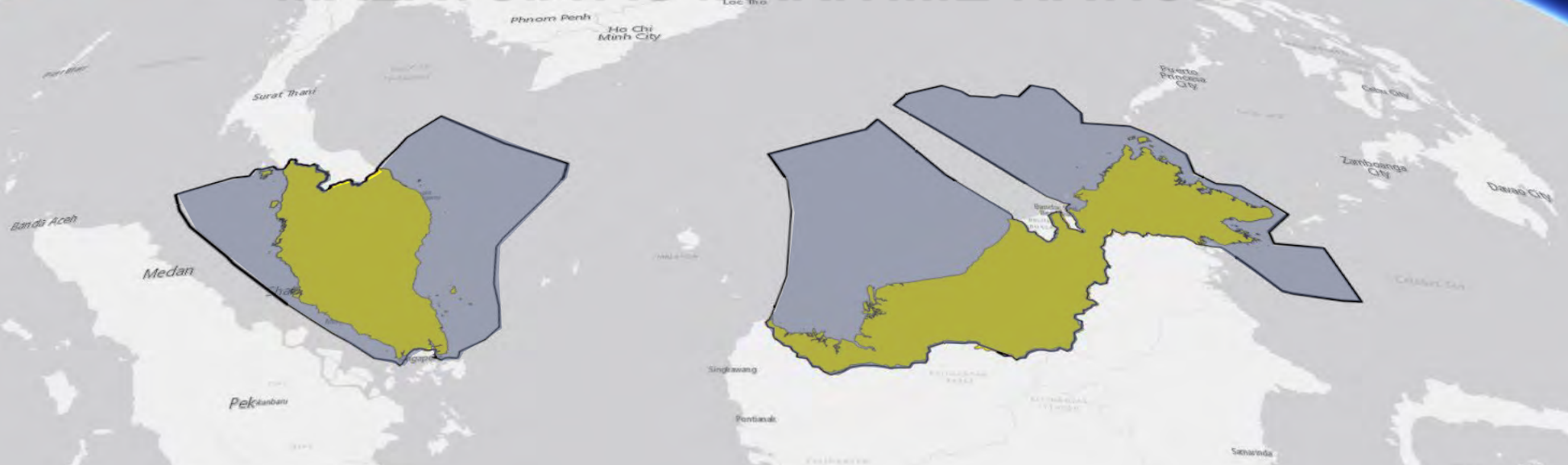








# MALAYSIA AS MARITIME NATION



Coastline <b>6036.7 km</b>	Islands <b>887</b>	Maritime Area <b>569,845 km<sup>2</sup></b>	Land Area <b>329,758 km<sup>2</sup></b>
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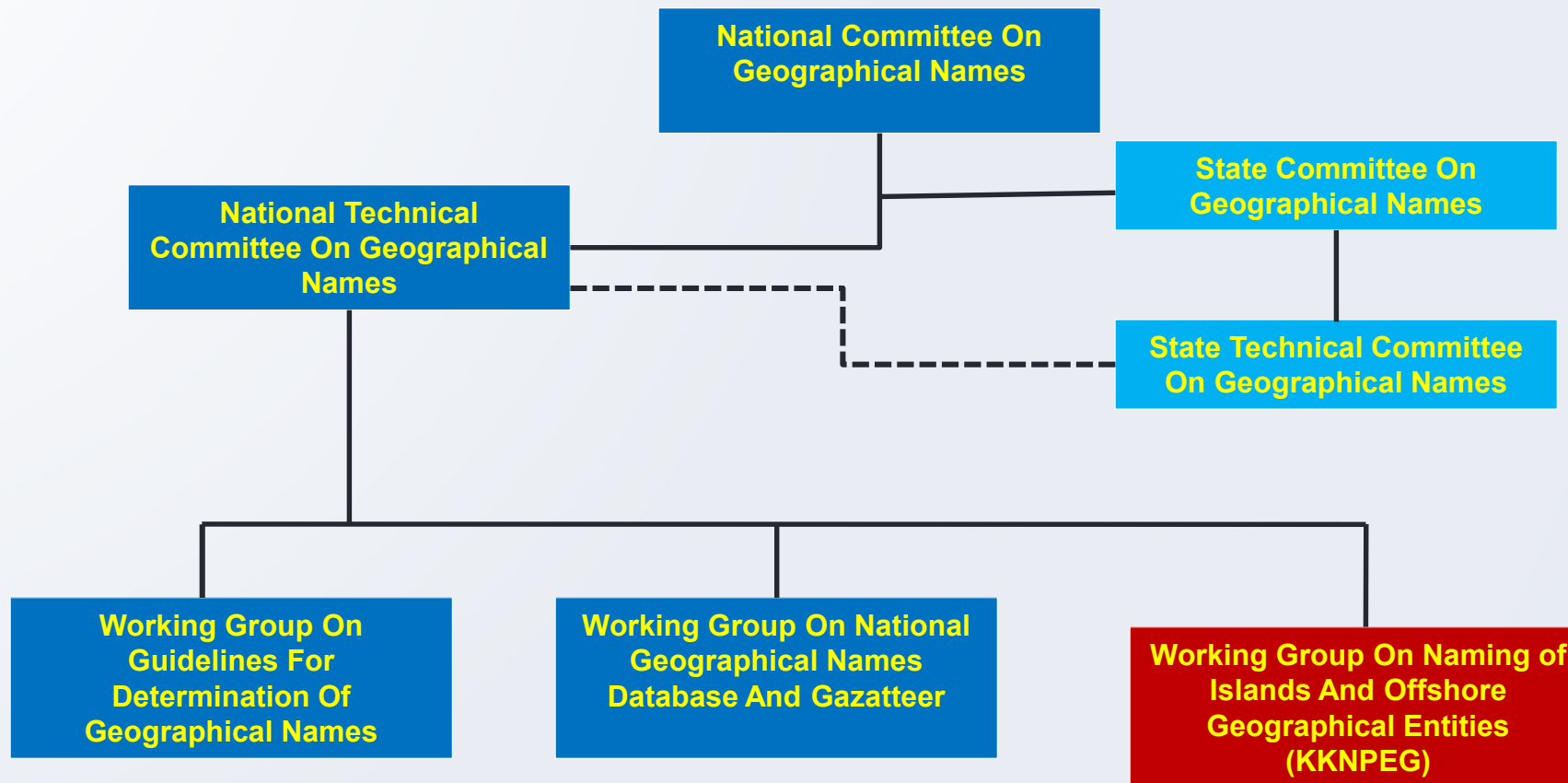
Maritime approximately 2x the size of land area

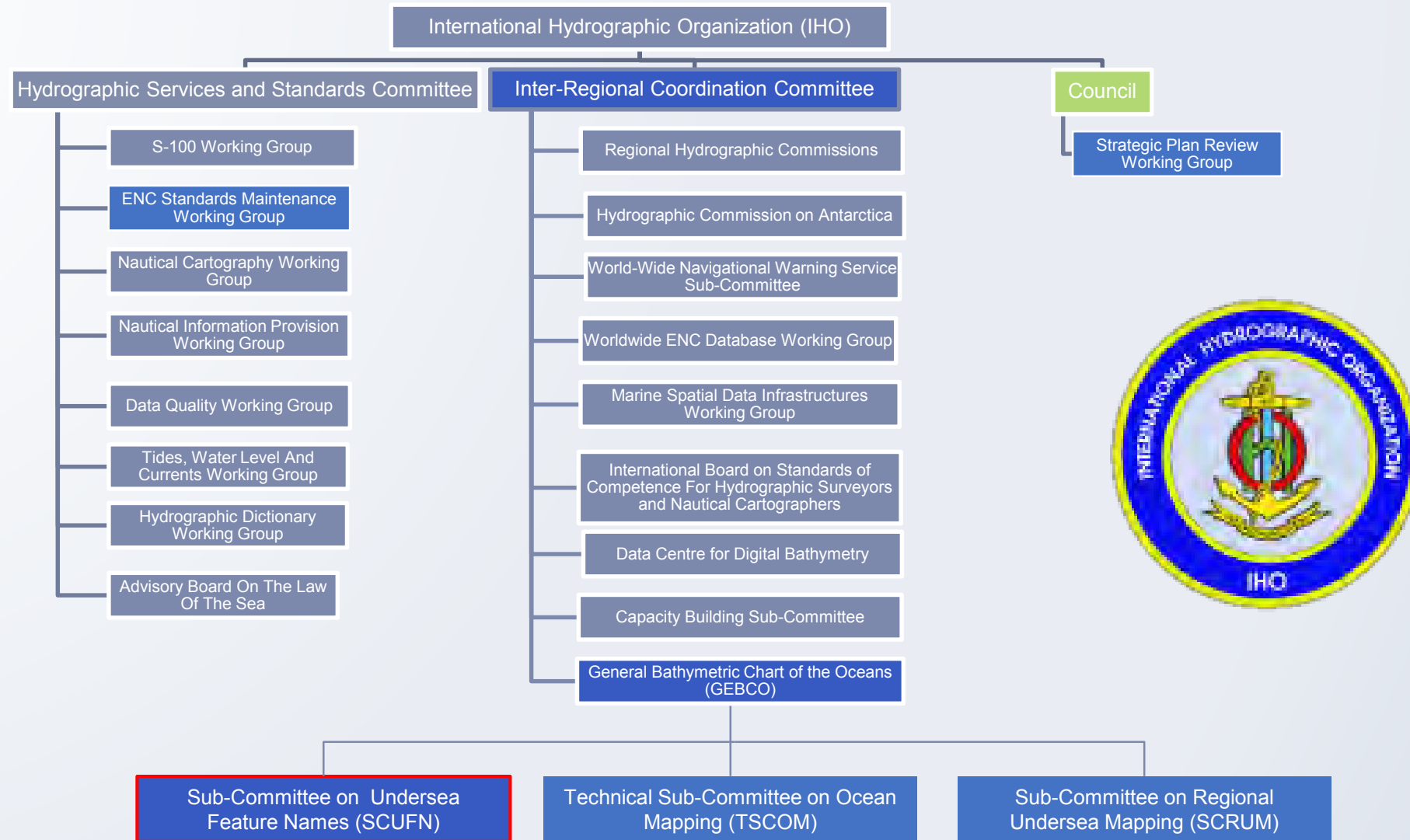


# Introduction

“Empowering Marine Knowledge Through Hydrography”

# The National Committee On Geographical Naming Organisational Structure





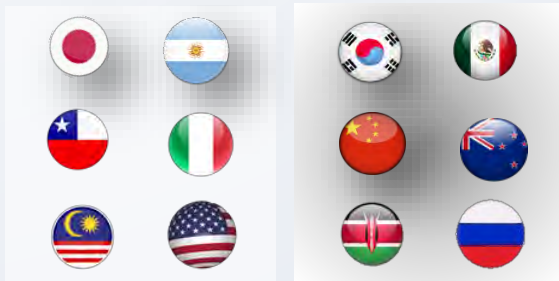
# Organisation Structure



Guiding Committee



Sub Committee on Undersea  
Feature Names  
(SCUFN)



# SCUFN

- Establish naming scheme & standardization of the geographic terms of undersea features
- Enacting and gazette the undersea features
- 12 permanent members representing IHO and IOC
- IHO Standardization of Undersea Feature Names (IHO-B6) :
  - Application must be made by the national authorities
  - Features need to be on beyond the territorial water



**MS 2256:2009**  
**Geographic Information - Guidelines For**  
**The Determination Of Geographical**  
**Names (Malaysian Standard)**



**IHO-IOC Publication B-6**  
**"Standardisation of Undersea**  
**Feature Names"**





Started on 26<sup>th</sup> Jun 2006



NHC as Chairman & Secretariat



19 Members from Government Agencies



18 meetings (to date)



12<sup>th</sup> Meeting (Melaka)



13<sup>th</sup> Meeting (Johor)



18<sup>th</sup> Meeting (Pahang)



17<sup>th</sup> Meeting (Kelantan)



16<sup>th</sup> Meeting (Kedah)



15<sup>th</sup> Meeting (Sarawak)



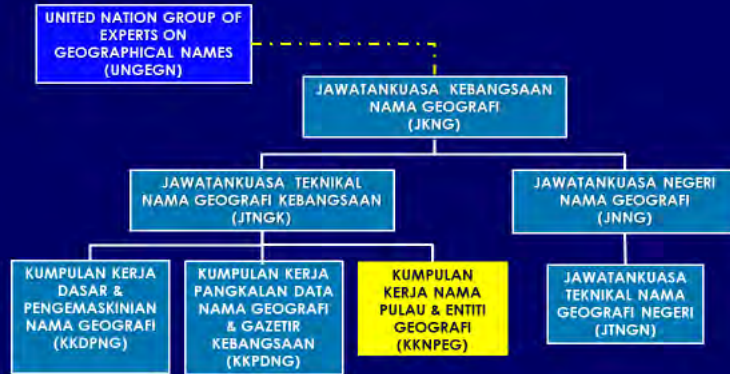
14<sup>th</sup> Meeting (Terengganu)



# Activities



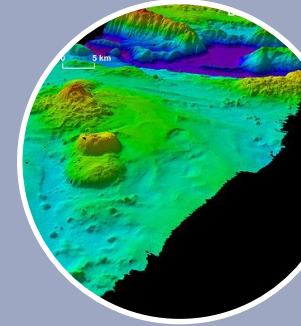
“National Authority”



KKNPEG liable for establishing databases and information of islands and geographical entities within the national waters

2013

The features naming process initiated since 2013



To date, 7 seabed features have been registered and 1 still pending



Malaysia's candidate was elected to represent IHO as a SCUFN member for the 2018-2023 term



# Activities

2014

2015

2016

2018

2019

1. Rentap Hill
2. Rosli Hill
3. Jugah Seamounth
4. Raja Jarom Ridge



**REJECTED**

1. Rafflesia Hill (Rentap)\*
2. Kenyalang Hill (Rosli)\*
3. Santubong Seamount (Jugah)\*
4. Iban Ridge (Raja Jarom)\*



1. Layang-layang Hill
2. Mustafa Hill
3. Kinabalu Seamounth
4. Sabah Trough



**REJECTED**

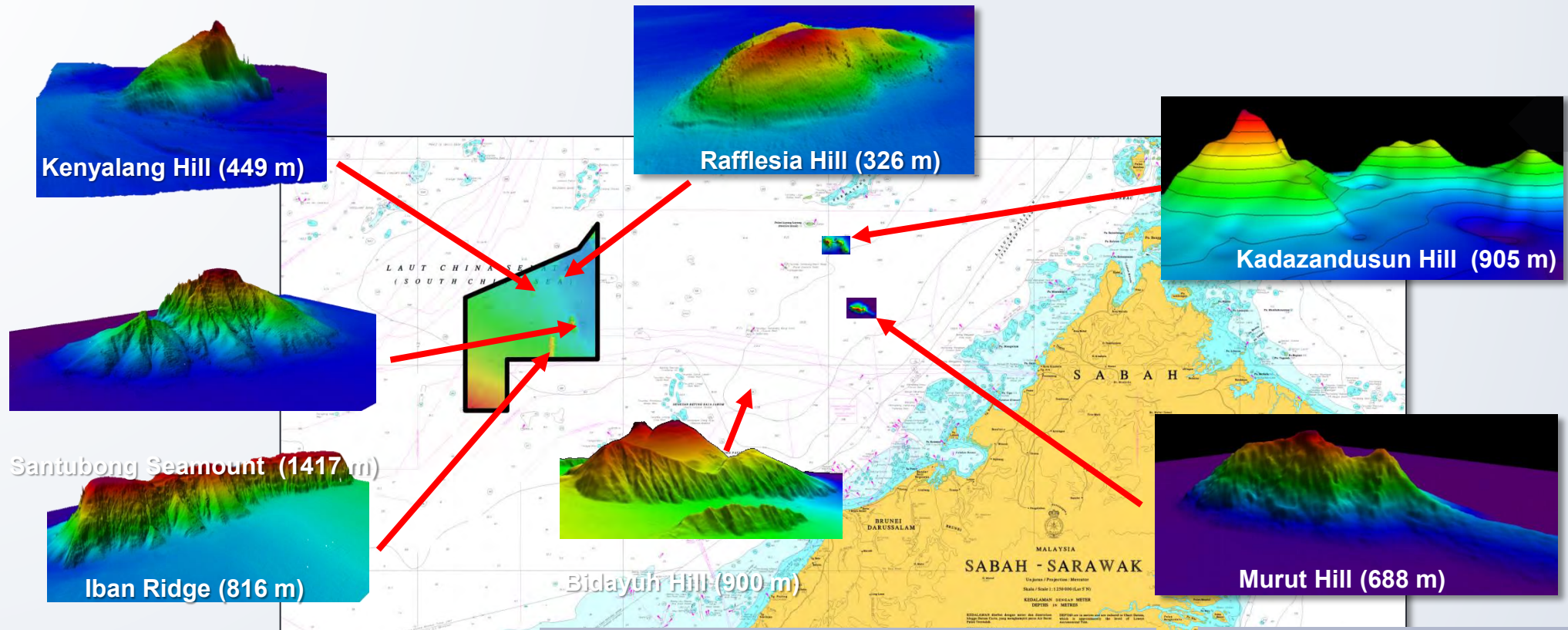
1. Kadazandusun Hills (Layang-layang)\*
2. Murut Hill (Mustapha Hill)\*



1. Bidayuh Hills



**ACCEPTED**



**HILL**  
*A Distinct elevation generally of irregular shape, less than 1000m above the surrounding relief as measured from the deepest isobaths that surrounds most of the feature*

**SEAMOUNT**  
*A distinct generally equidimensional elevation greater than 1000m above the surrounding relief as measured from the deepest isobaths that surrounds most of the feature*

**RIDGE**  
*A long, narrow elevation with steep side often separating basin feature*



# Activities

“Empowering Marine Knowledge Through Hydrography”



**Coordinating  
Activities**



**Naming  
Standardization**



**Documentation**



**Gazette**



**Maintaining  
Database**



**Overlapping Maritime Boundaries**



**Survey Data**



**Other Agencies Awareness**

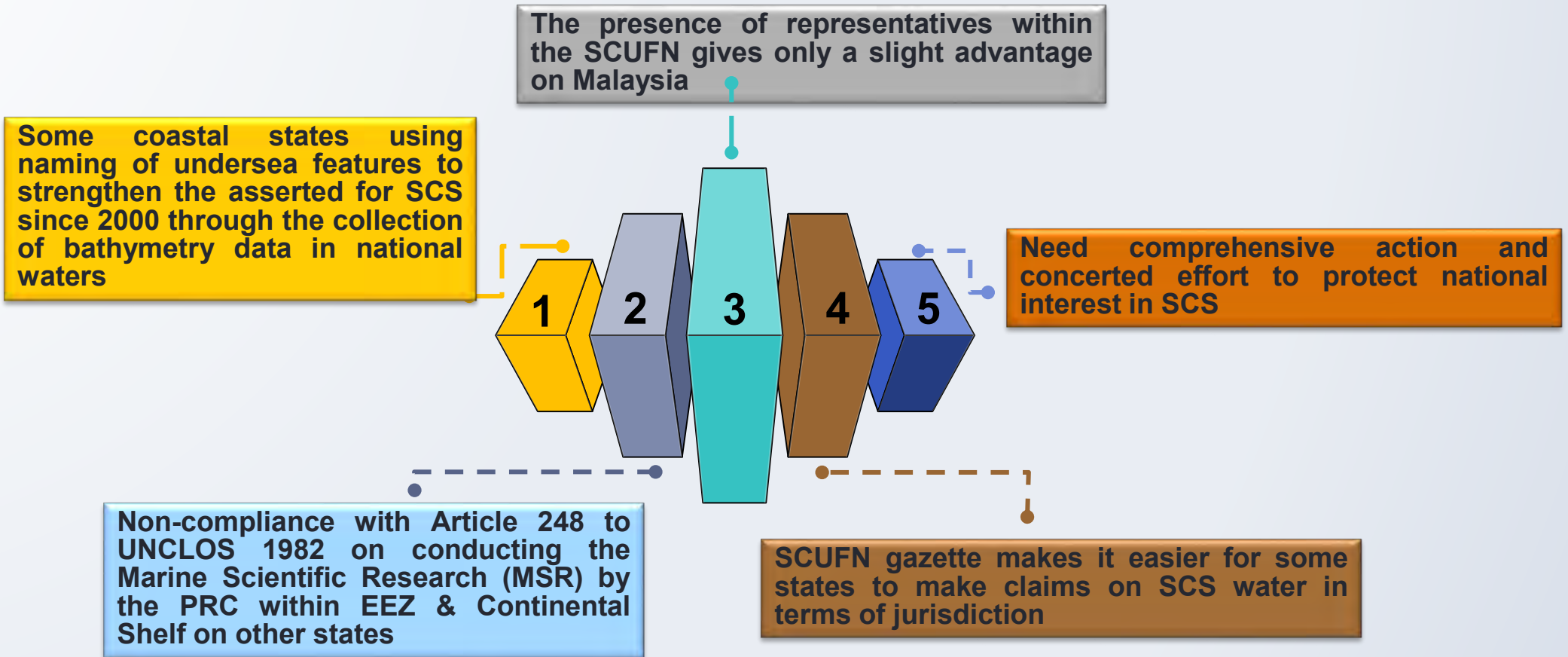


**National Gazetting**



**Limited Resources**

# Challenges







**Malaysia's naming on undersea features initiative is significantly essential**

**Restrict other coastal states dominance through subtle approaches in implementing the *effectivites* action through the naming of underwater features around SCS**

**Protect national interests & sovereignty in the SCS by gradually naming the underwater features**



**“We are accountable for what we DID,  
but we are also responsible for the  
THINGS that we didn’t DO...”**

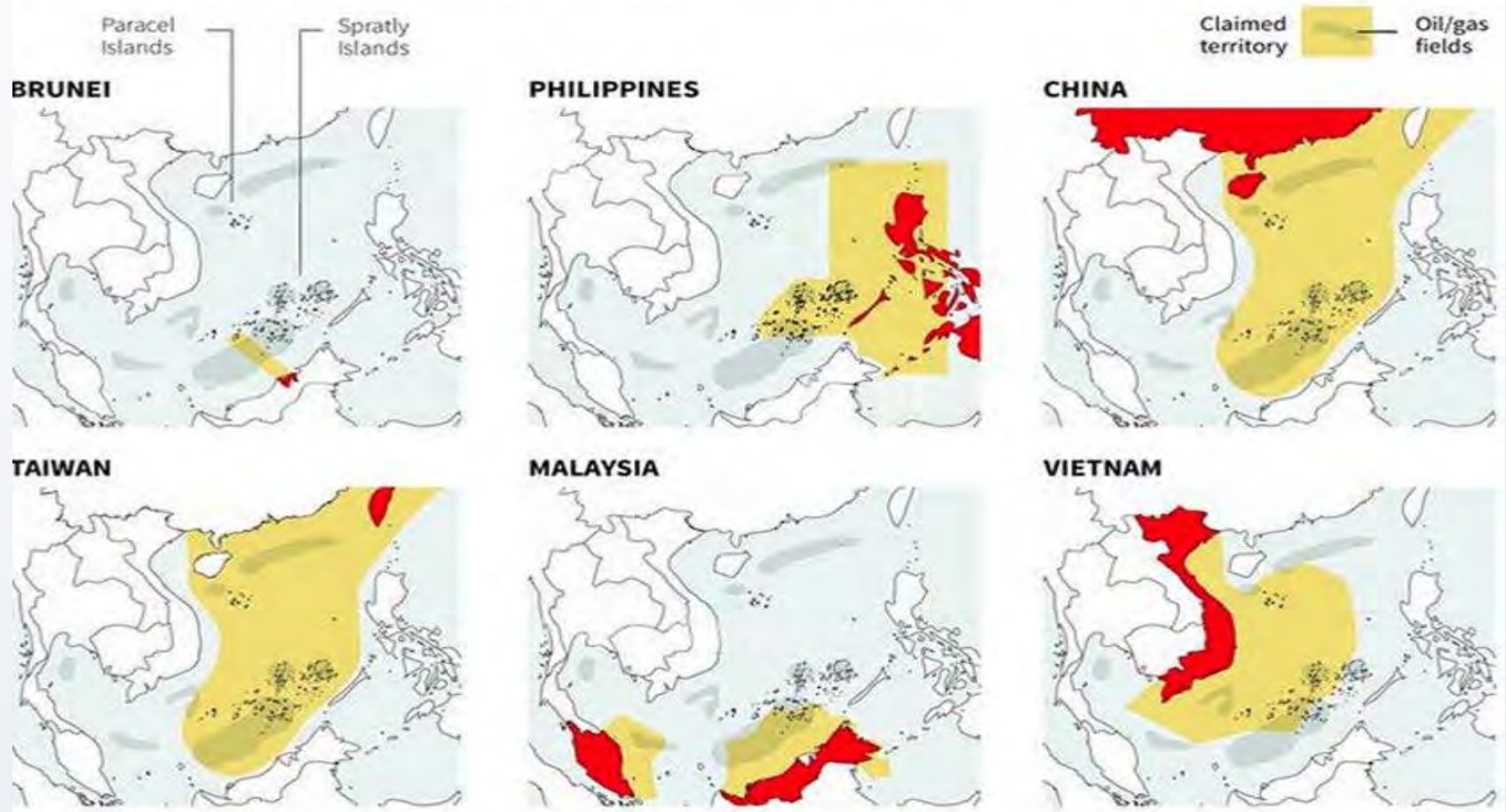
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'L. J. ...'.

**Thank You**



# Claims on the South China Sea

China and five other Asian states contest all or parts of the Spratly and Paracel islands in the South China Sea.



Sources: U.S. Energy Information Administration, U.S. Department of State, Middlebury College, National Geographic

