

## Summary of the Myanmar P-Code version-VI

March 2013

### What's new?

The MIMU is pleased to announce the Myanmar P-codes Release VI which updates all administrative structure from States /Regions down to Villages according to the latest Gazette issued on 31 August 2012 by the Ministry of Home Affairs. In all, more than 297 new villages and settlements have been added to the list and 805 villages and settlements removed reflectively some villages are upgraded as urban area and some are no longer existed as villages on the ground.

As of August 2012, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar is constituted of 14 states and regions plus 1 Union Territory, 70 districts, 330 townships, 84 sub-townships, 398 towns, 3,063 Wards, 13,618 village tracts and 66,777 villages. In line with the Constitution (2008) there are also ... SELF ADMINISTERED ZONES/Divisions which include 18 of the 330 townships across the country (see in detail list of the SAZ/Ds).

To note that there are some differences between the Government and Self-administered zone/division in terms of administrative definitions on townships, towns, village tracts and villages, especially in the Wa and Kokang Area. Considerable facts such as access constraints, moving populations and establishment of new villages, lack of a system to routinely gather data on village locations and villages being known by more than one name or by different names than on the Government listing are the main reasons for this issue. MIMU is working with other partners to sort this out by gathering the alternate common name which is being used by the local people.

### What are P-codes?

P-code is an abbreviated term for 'Place Code'. P-codes are unique reference codes, represented by a combination of numbers and a Standard English transliteration, covering thousands of locations across Myanmar.

### Why are P-codes useful?

P-codes provide a single, unified system for referring to locations, allowing the free exchange of data between participating agencies and comparison of data from one area with a P-code to another.

P-codes resolve several basic issues:

- 1) What we all call a particular place – the place codes provide a standard approach to the English spelling of Myanmar area and settlement names. Use of place *names* (rather than place *codes*) to identify locations can lead to confusion over spelling, use of different languages or scripts, and sometimes duplication with villages in different parts of the country having the same or similar names.
- 2) Where the place is – P-codes include a unique code, standard spelling of the place name and location based on spatial data standards agreed by all stakeholders. This allows places with P-codes to be accurately mapped out, and data from one location to be compared visually on maps to data from other locations.
- 3) A means of sharing data between data providers and data users - P-codes allow users and providers to share data so as to improve the overall baseline and understanding of the situation. Where differing systems are used by different agencies and departments for naming or coding places, data sharing becomes extremely difficult and results in huge amounts of potentially useful information not being shared or used optimally
- 4) Comparing data from one place with another – use of the P-codes across different datasets allows us to easily compare and combine data across administrative levels and locations. Data can be aggregated to give the picture at higher administrative levels (such as state/region level) or disaggregated to more defined township, village tract and village levels.

## What is the role of P-codes in Myanmar

Many Government departments, UN agencies, donor governments, civic institutions and local and international NGOs working in Myanmar, undertake assessments and surveys and generate data on their activities. Without a system for organizing these data it is almost impossible for data from more than one source to be easily combined. The P-codes offer a system to bring compatibility to these multiple datasets, allowing organizations to continue generating their own data for their own purposes, yet in a format that others can easily make use of.

## Why should my agency use P-codes?

P-codes promote cooperation and information sharing and allow users to gain full access to the huge range of information already available in Pcode format. This includes information on issues such as population, housing damage, landmines, agriculture and assistance distribution. This information can help you to plan your own programmes, to combine information with data collected from other sources, and avoid repeating surveys already done by others.

## Historical background

**Release I:** In June 2007, the Myanmar Information Management Unit (MIMU) took on the task of overseeing a comprehensive translation/transliteration of place names into a common system. In addition to standard place names, standard place codes (P-codes) were also developed. A full list of place names and P-codes was disseminated to all agencies in December 2007.

**Release II:** In the second release issued in February 2009, the village code had been changed to a unique 6 digit number which is not affected by any boundary changes. Attribute Information on the village if required can be extracted from the VT code if it's a rural village or the Ward Code if it's an urban settlement/village. Moreover, villages from partners in the field not on the official government list were incorporated in the P-codes and denoted as "Field" in the source column.

**Release III:** In September 2009, the General Administration Department (GAD) issued the latest Gazette on the organization of states and divisions, districts, townships, towns, wards, village tracts and villages. Keeping this GAD list as the main source, release II was edited and updated with new settlements as reported from the field. Release III was issued in October 2009.

**Release IV:** In the fourth version released in February 2011, lists of Wards and Village Tracts were edited according to the Government's Constituency Lists issued in September 2010 before the General Election. Spellings of Towns, Wards, Village Tracts and Villages in several Chin Townships have been changed according to local names, as reported by agencies working in those areas.

**Release V:** In February 2011, the General Administration Department (GAD) issued the latest Gazette on the organization of states/regions, districts, townships, towns, wards, village tracts and villages. Keeping this GAD list as the main source, Release-V was also edited and updated with new settlements as reported from the field and the latest notification of administrative structure changes in Shan State and Ayeyarwady Region issue in August 2011. Release-V was issued in February 2012. Spelling of Towns, Wards, Village Tracts and Villages in several Chin Townships have been changed according to local names, as reported by agencies working in those areas.

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### How can P-codes be used in my existing databases?

In most cases, adoption of P-codes requires only the addition of an extra column to your existing databases and spreadsheets. The MIMU has developed software which can facilitate the linking of

coding systems developed by individual agencies to the P-code system. If you need technical support to implement the P-codes, please contact the MIMU.

- P-codes cover Union Territory, States/Regions, Districts, Townships, Towns, Wards, Village Tracts and Villages in Myanmar.
- P-codes are currently maintained by the Myanmar Information Management Unit (MIMU)

### Sources:

**Main source** – The Gazette on the organization of states and regions, districts, townships, sub-townships, towns, wards, village tracts and villages published by General Administration Department (GAD), Ministry of Home Affairs in August 2012 denoted as “GAD” in the source column.

Field data collection from various organizations’ initiatives (for villages), denoted as “Field” in the source column.

New villages reported by some agencies are also indicated with respective names in the source column.

### Please send comments and suggestions to:

**Myanmar Information Management Unit**

**First Floor, Inya Lake Hotel**

**37 Kaba Aye Pagoda Road**

**Mayangon Township**

**Yangon, Myanmar**

**email - [info.mimu@undp.org](mailto:info.mimu@undp.org)**

### Linking P-code and GIS capability

Spatial data standards include full GIS capability, allowing data linked to towns, villages and administrative units to be mapped and geographically analyzed. Data collected with Global Positioning System (GPS) equipment can also be used. The latest status of the villages data can be mapped are as follow :

### Status of Villages can be mapped as of March 2013

SR_Pcode	State_Region	Total Villages in P-code	GPS Coordinate	Coverage %
MMR008	Bago West	3623	3390	94%
MMR010	Mandalay	4918	4593	93%
MMR004	Chin	1494	1380	92%
MMR005	Sagaing	6128	5633	92%
MMR009	Magway	4795	4284	89%
MMR012	Rakhine	3931	3434	87%
MMR018	Naypyitaw	799	695	87%
MMR013	Yangon	2170	1827	84%
MMR017	Ayeyarwady	12194	9472	78%
MMR002	Kayah	512	384	75%
MMR007	Bago East	2941	2179	74%
MMR011	Mon	1182	782	66%
MMR003	Kayin	2063	1293	63%
MMR006	Tanintharyi	1250	781	62%
MMR014	Shan (South)	4964	2996	60%
MMR001	Kachin	2875	1550	54%
MMR015	Shan (North)	7243	3144	43%
MMR016	Shan (East)	3695	1217	33%
Grand Total		66777	49034	73%

### How can P-codes be used in my existing databases?

In most cases, adoption of P-codes requires only the addition of an extra column to your existing databases and spreadsheets. Over time it is recommended that any other naming or coding systems be phased out and that all new data collection use the P-codes.

By including the pcode into separate spreadsheets, data on different issues from different agencies can be linked and cross-analysed.

The P-codes is delivered in Microsoft Excel-format, and can by request be delivered in other formats.