

Myanmar Information Management Unit

Summary of the Myanmar P-Code version- 9.2

Mar 2020

What's new?

The MIMU is pleased to announce the release of Myanmar P-codes Version-9.2 which updates administrative structures especially for Yangon Region and Self-Administered Division and Zones according to the latest Gazette issued as of January 2020 by the General Administration Department, Ministry of Office of the Union Government, and information provided by field offices.

The most significant changes are the split of Hlaingtharya townships to two townships named Hlaingtharya (East) and Hlaingtharya (West), Seikkan Township merged with Lanmadaw and Botahtaung Township in Yangon Region, and newly defined codes for **1** Self-Administered Division and **5** Self-Administered zones. As per reported from GAD township offices, the coordinates of **235** villages were newly added and the coordinates of **30** villages were updated for Tachileik District. In addition to that, **29** new villages from Tachileik District are added as per following table.

According to the latest Gazette issued by the General Administration Department, as of January 2020, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar is constituted of 14 states and regions plus 1 Union Territory, 75 districts, 330 townships, 469 towns, 3,470 Wards, 13,590 village tracts and 63,214 villages. ***MIMU P-code Version 9.2 lists a total of 71, 870 villages comprising those which are gazetted (registered) as well as as-yet unregistered villages (3,149) and deleted villages (5,442) which were removed from the GAD list.***

To note that there are some differences between the Government and Self-Administered Zones/Divisions in administrative definitions of townships, towns, village tracts and villages, especially in the Wa and Kokang area. Access constraints, moving populations and establishment of new villages, lack of a system to routinely maintain the village data 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. The MIMU is working with other partners to resolve these issues by including, in the P-code list, the alternate common name as used by local people in the area in these cases.

Starting from the P-code Version 9, the MIMU Place Code database includes additional columns, namely ChangeType, Status (of administrative unit), Notification number, Modified Notification Number, Start Date and End/Modified Date.

More detailed information of changes between Version 9.1 and Version 9.2 can be found in the additional report named "MIMU_PCodesMajorChangesbetweenVersionV9.1and9.2_24Jan2020.pdf".

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.

- P-codes cover Union Territory, States/Regions, Districts, Townships, Towns, Wards, Village Tracts and Villages in Myanmar.
- 96% of the Myanmar language place names in the Place Code listing are provided by General Administration Department (GAD) and few of them are provided by other government departments and organizations from field offices.
- P-codes are currently maintained by the Myanmar Information Management Unit (MIMU)

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 P-code 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.

P-code Use in Myanmar

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.

Release VI: was released in March 2013, in this release VI which updates all administrative structure from States /Regions down to Villages according to the latest Gazette issued on 31 August 2012 by 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 following some villages are upgraded to urban area and some are no longer exist as a village in the ground.

Release VII: was released in March 2014, in this release VII which updates all administrative structure from States /Regions down to Villages. Most changes in this version are in Kachin State based on information received through DOP; 248 new villages and settlements have been added to this version and 2 village tracts (total 10 villages) were reclassified as urban areas. In total, 1,298 villages and settlements are no longer registered as villages. We have included these along with more than 3,500 villages which were removed from the previous P-code release with remarks describing the changes made to these records.

Release VIII: was released in August 2015, in this release VIII which updates all administrative structure from States /Regions down to Villages. Most changes in this version are **two new districts** (*Kantbalu and Mongmit*) were formed in Sagaing Region and Shan State, **three districts** (*Kengtung, Monghsat and Tachileik*) were restructured and **two districts** (*Monghpyak and Kunlong*) no longer

exist as a district level administrative structure. Other significant change is that all the *Subtownship level administrative units are totally terminated to be in line with current constitution*.

Total **24** places were designated as town level in Kachin, Bago (East & West), Magway, Mon, Rakhine and Ayeyarwady Region. Because of upgrading those **24** places as an urban area, **119** Wards were established in this period and **48** Village Tracts were dismissed and **31** were newly formed, total **595** villages were no longer recognized by GAD and **277** villages were registered in this publication. Many changes have occurred in Rakhine State.

Release VIII.i: was released in September 2017, in this release VIII which updates all administrative structure from States /Regions down to Villages. Major changes in this version is **two townships** (*Taze and Yae-U*) from Kanbalu District were moved to Shwe Bo District in Sagaing Region.

Total **67** places were designated as town level in Ayeyarwady Region, Bogo Region, Rakhine State and Tanintharyi Region. Because of upgrading those **67** places as an urban area, **46** Wards and **7** towns were established in this period. **109** villages were newly formed and total **114** villages were no longer recognized by GAD. Many changes have occurred in Ayeyarwady Region, Bago Region, Kachin State, Kayah State, Rakhine State and Sagaing Region.

Release IX: was released in September 2019, in the release **two townships** from Mindat District were moved to Matupi District in Chin State. Similarly, **three townships** from Katha District moved to new district named Kawlin in Sagaing Region. A total of **203** villages have been newly designated as ward level in 12 states/regions mainly in Sagaing Region (42 wards) and Chin State (30 wards). Because of upgrading those **203** places as an urban area, **210** wards and **35** towns were established in this period. **966** villages were newly formed and total **1,244** villages were no longer recognized by GAD.

Release 9.1: was released in January 2020, in this release **5 towns and 39 wards** were newly formed in Ayeyarwady, Chin, Kachin, Mandalay, Rakhine and Shan (south). **4 village tracts** were split into 5 new village tracts in Ayeyarwady, Bago (east) and Mon. **4 village tracts and 3 villages** were changed their names in Ayeyarwady, Bago (east), Kachin and Rakhine. **286 villages** were newly registered, mainly in Shan (east), Nay Pyi Taw and Kayin. In addition to that, the coordinates of **591** villages were newly added and the coordinates of **246** villages were updated for Kengtung District, Shan (east) State.

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 spread sheets. The MIMU has developed P-coder 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-code Updates

The MIMU obtains information to update the P-codes from agency and government sources. Please help us to map out all the villages across the country by contributing the following information using the ***P-Code Submission and Correction Form***:

<http://themimu.info/files/pcode/Pcode%20Submission%20and%20Correction%20Form.xlsx>

And return it to us at info.mimu@undp.org

- Corrections to details of villages already on the P-code list
 - o Name corrections (for example, an alternate name where the village is commonly known by that name to many people),
 - o GPS information
- Notification of villages missing from the P-code list

Sources:

- 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 Office of the Union Government in December 2018 denoted as “GAD” in the source column.
- Field data collection from various organizations’ initiatives (for villages), denoted as “Field Sources” in the source column.

Purpose: MIMU PCode Products have been prepared for operational purposes only, to support humanitarian, development and peace-focused activities in Myanmar.

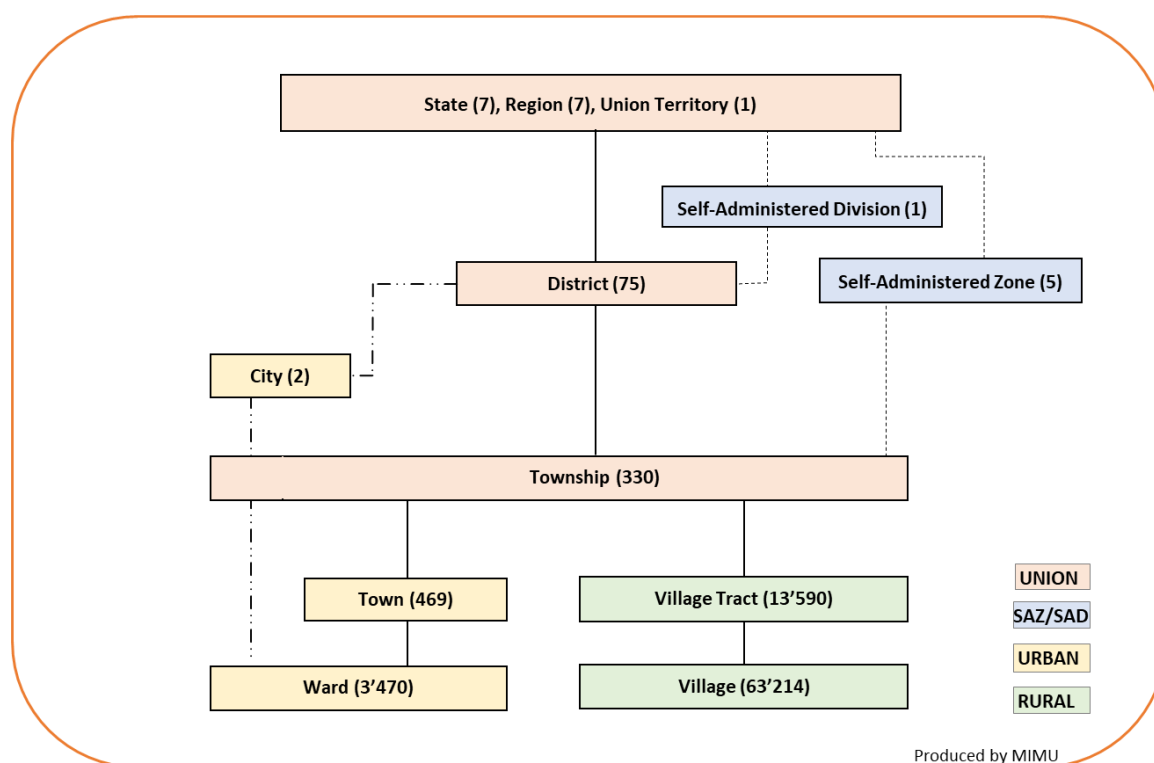
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Myanmar Administrative Structure

As per 2008 Constitution



In dash-line specific cases of Cities (Yangon, Mandalay) and Self-Administered Areas
In () the number of units as per GAD, December 2019, www.gad.gov.mm

Source: General Administration Department, Ministry of Office of the Union Government, December 2019

*There are only 14 States and Regions however; Shan States is subdivided into 3 Sub-States; Bago Region is subdivided into 2 sub-regions.
the GAD list due to the inclusion of as-yet unregistered settlements reported by field sources.