



UNITED NATIONS
**GROUP OF EXPERTS ON
GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES**

Geographical Names Supporting Sustainable Development and
Management of the Pandemic

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STATEMENT/INTERVENTION

Agenda Item Number: item 4 (d)	
Agenda Item Title: National and international meetings and conferences	
Title of paper/report: International Seminar on Sea Names, 2019-2020	
Statement/intervention provided by: Japan	
Statement/intervention:	
<p>Click or tap here to enter text.</p> <p>Concerning the document submitted by the Republic of Korea on May 2, we are obliged to point out the following.</p> <p>With regard to the claim of the Korean delegation that “the concept of ‘the only internationally established name’ seems to exist only in the imagination of a certain delegation, detached from stark reality”, we have already pointed out in our submission dated on April 28 why “Sea of Japan” is the only internationally established name for the sea area bordered mainly by Japan, Russia and the eastern coast of the Korean Peninsula. Based on this, the United Nations, as well as other international organizations, have consistently used the name “Sea of Japan”.</p> <p>Secondly, with regard to the claim that “When states are unable to reach an agreement, concurrently using all the names in use by the countries concerned is recommended. This rule of international cartography is confirmed in relevant international resolutions, including, first and foremost, UNCSGN Resolution III/20 and IHO Resolution 1/1972”, we would like to draw your attention to the statement delivered and submitted by Japan during the 1st session of UNGEGN in April 2019 under the agenda item 5(d) which refers to our position on this issue.</p> <p>Finally, with regard to the claim that “it has been repeatedly pointed out, the name “East Sea” has been used for more than 2,000 years and is deeply rooted in the culture and history of the Korean people”, although we respect any national or local culture which people cherish, we have to note that the Republic of Korea had not opposed to the designation of Sea of Japan until 1992, and that it continued to use the name “Sea of Japan” on nautical charts issued by the Korean Government until 1993.</p> <p>Japan will continue to actively support UNGEGN’s work and reiterates its respect towards the technical and academic nature of UNGEGN avoiding the discussion of political issue.</p>	
Submitted on:	5/3/2021