

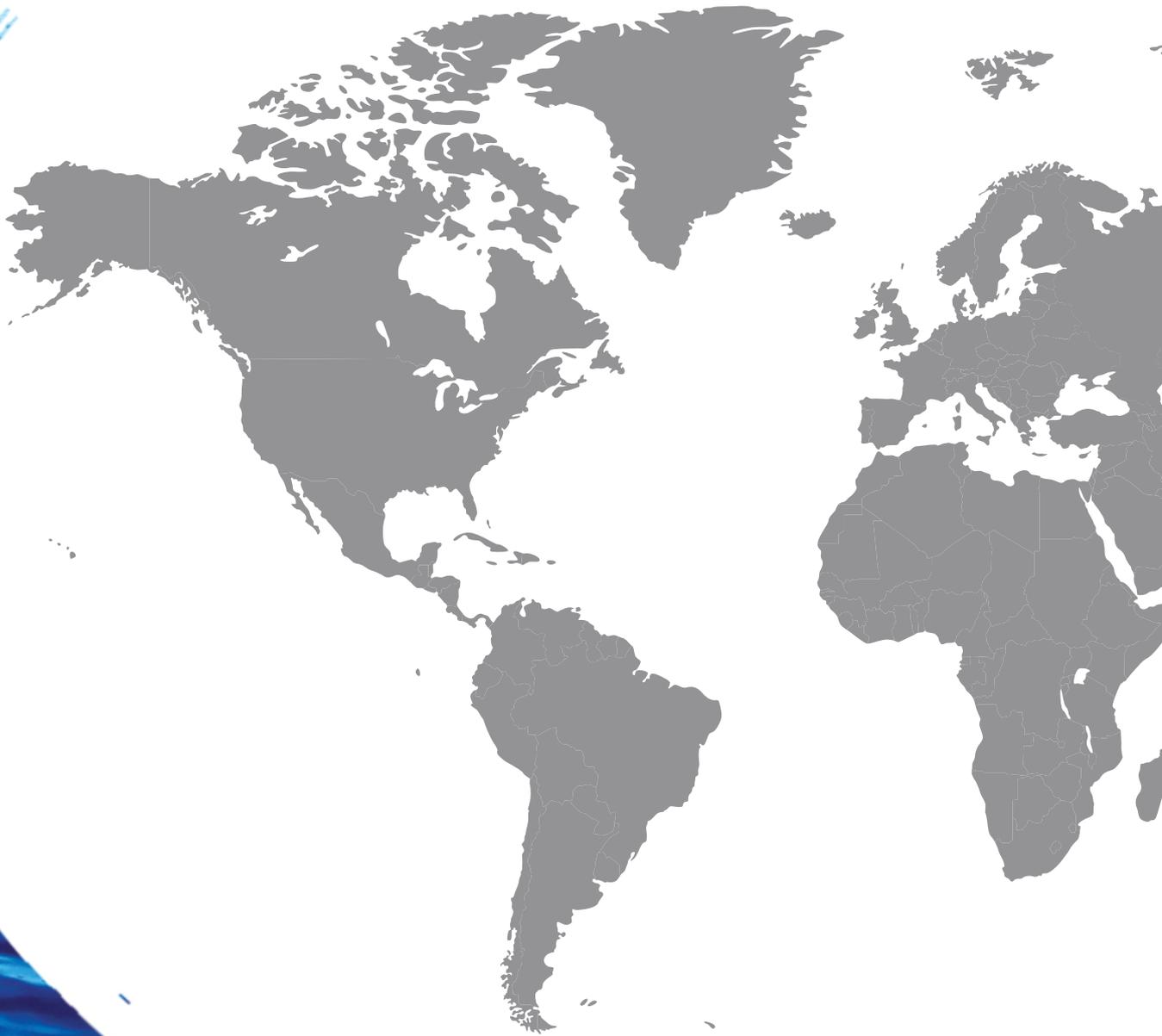
East Sea

The Name from the Past,
of the Present and for the Future

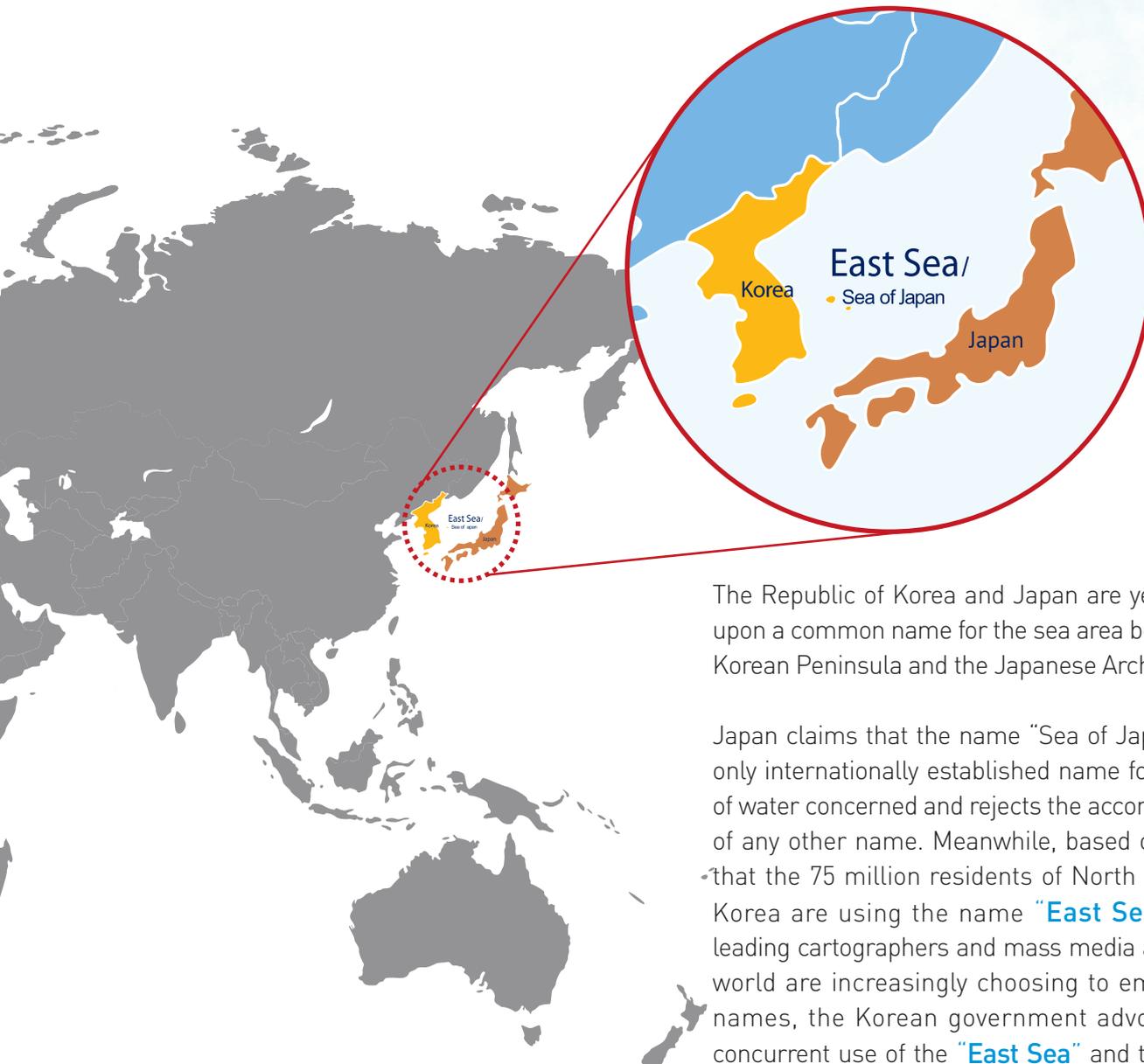
1

The Naming Issue of the Sea Area

between the Korean Peninsula
and the Japanese Archipelago



The Name from the Past,
of the Present and for the Future



The Republic of Korea and Japan are yet to agree upon a common name for the sea area between the Korean Peninsula and the Japanese Archipelago.

Japan claims that the name “Sea of Japan” is the only internationally established name for the body of water concerned and rejects the accommodation of any other name. Meanwhile, based on the fact that the 75 million residents of North and South Korea are using the name “**East Sea**” and as leading cartographers and mass media around the world are increasingly choosing to employ both names, the Korean government advocates the concurrent use of the “**East Sea**” and the “Sea of Japan” until an agreement is reached upon a single common name.

2

East Sea

the Name from the Past, of the Present and for the Future

A History of over 2,000 years

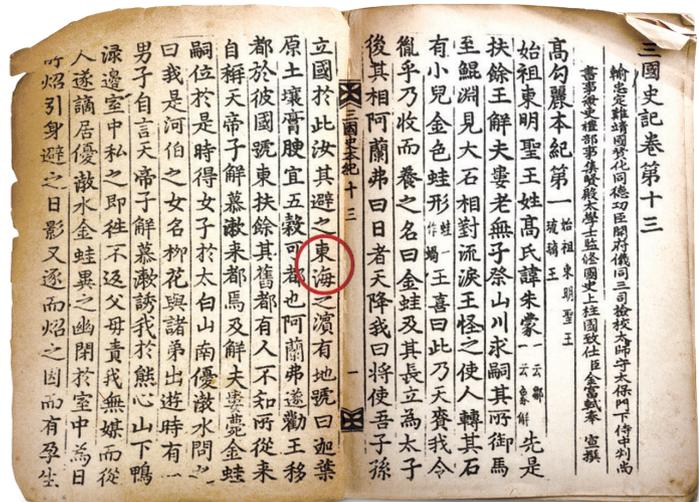
As attested to in numerous historical documents, the name “East Sea” has been used to refer to the sea area between the Korean Peninsula and the Japanese Archipelago for more than 2,000 years.¹ To the 75 million people living on the Korean Peninsula, the sea area is known by the name “East Sea.”

Until the 19th century, the sea area concerned was also referred to by various names such as the “Eastern Sea,” the “Sea of Joseon²,” the “Sea of Korea” and the “Oriental Sea.” Even a number of Japanese maps, as late as 1870, described this body of water as the “Sea of Joseon” rather than the “Sea of Japan.”³

東海 (East Sea)

The Chronicles of the Three Kingdoms, Korea.

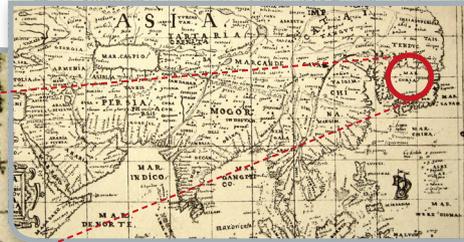
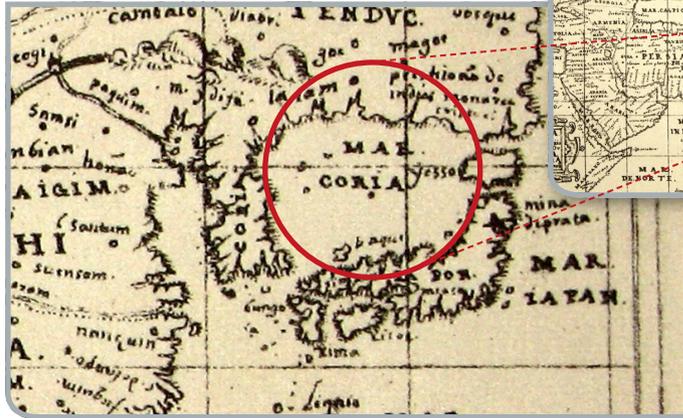
This seminal book recounts the history of ancient states in Korea and shows that the name “East Sea” was used from around 50 B.C.



1) There are numerous references included in the *Chronicles of the Three Kingdoms* (三國史記), on the monument of King Gwanggaeto (414) and on the *Map of Eight Provinces of Korea* (八道總圖, 1531).

2) The Joseon Dynasty was a Korean Kingdom which lasted from 1392 to 1910.

3) Various Japanese maps such as the *Simplified Map of Japan's Periphery* (日本邊界略圖) by Takahashi Kageyasu in 1809, the *New World Map* (新製輿地全圖) by Mitsukuri Shogoin in 1844, and the *Japan's Northeast Marginal Boundary Map* (本邦南北邊界略圖) by Yasuda Raishu in 1850 referred to the sea area as the “Sea of Joseon.”



MAR CORIA (Sea of Korea)

De Erédia, Manuel Godinho. *The Map of Asia Portugalia Monumenta Cartographia*. Portugal, 1615.

The Map of Asia drawn by De Erédia, a Portuguese cartographer, became the first map of European origin, published during the period of vast expeditions throughout the world, to identify the name of the sea area in question as the "Sea of Korea."



EASTERN SEA

Bowen, Emanuel.

A Map of Marco Polo's Voyages. England, 1744.

In 1705, John Harris edited the book *A Complete Collection of Voyages and Travels*, which presented information from world expeditions. *A Map of Marco Polo's Voyages* produced by Emanuel Bowen, royal cartographer to both King George II of England and King Louis XV of France, was included in the book. As seen on the map, there was a trend among British royal cartographers in the 18th century to name the sea area between the Korean Peninsula and the Japanese Archipelago the "EASTERN SEA."



朝鮮海 (Sea of Joseon)

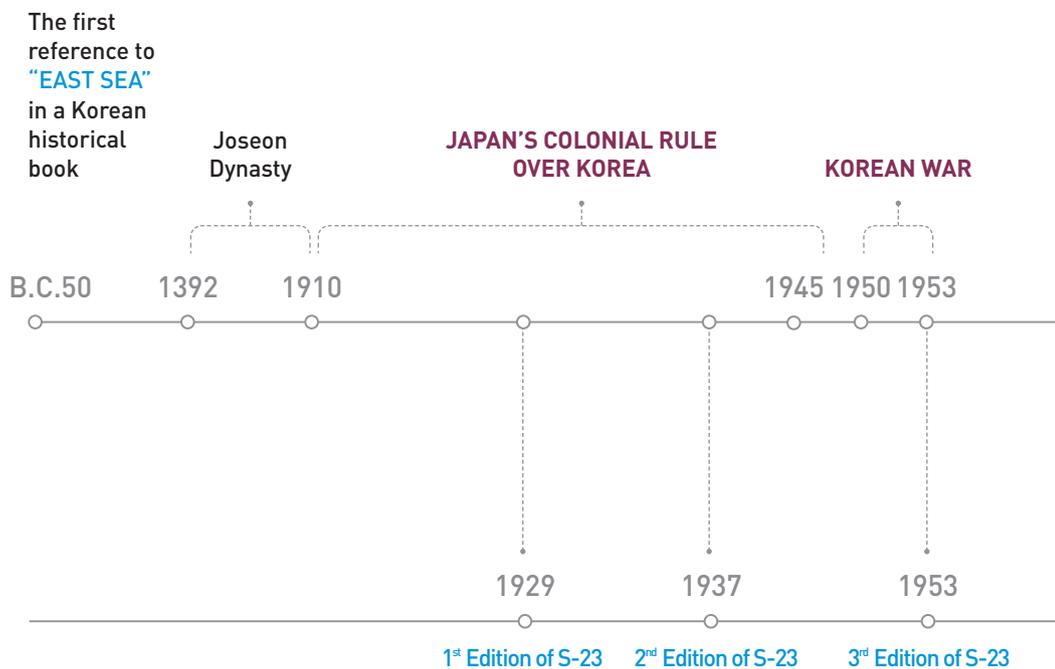
Newly Revised World Map. Japan, 1853.

A Japanese map published in 1853 refers to the sea area between the Korean Peninsula and the Japanese Archipelago as the "Sea of Joseon," and the Pacific Ocean on Japan's side as the "Sea of Japan." This world map is based on one of the maps by Takahashi, a Japanese government astronomer.

Why the name “East Sea” failed to appear in the previous editions of the S-23

The IHO(International Hydrographic Organization) publication of “Limits of Oceans and Seas (S-23)” serves as an important international reference on the names and/or limits of oceans and seas. When the first and second editions of S-23 were published by

the IHO in 1929 and 1937 respectively, Korea was under Japanese colonial rule. When the third edition was published in 1953, Korea was in the midst of the Korean War. In such circumstances, Korea was unable to present its case for the name “East Sea.” Now is the time to properly recognize the name “East Sea” in the new edition of S-23.





**The name “East Sea”
is widely used
at the international level.**

Recognizing the legitimacy of the name “East Sea,” an ever-increasing number of the world’s prominent cartographers and media houses have moved away from the sole use of the “Sea of Japan” to the concurrent use of the “East Sea” and the “Sea of Japan.” Now, cartographers and press such as

National Geographic, *Rand McNally* and *The Times* use both the “East Sea” and the “Sea of Japan”. A survey conducted by the Republic of Korea shows a steady increase in the number of maps using both names concurrently. Not only atlases by internationally recognized cartographic publishers, but also the most widely accessed digital map services such as Google Maps and Bing Maps are adopting the names “East Sea” and the “Sea of Japan” to be used concurrently. More recently, a legislation¹ was passed in the state of Virginia, the United States requiring the name “East Sea” to be used alongside the “Sea of Japan” in new school textbooks. Some other states are following suit.

1) Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:
1. § 1. That all textbooks approved by the Board of Education pursuant to § 22.1-238 of the Code of Virginia, when referring to the Sea of Japan, shall note that it is also referred to as the East Sea.



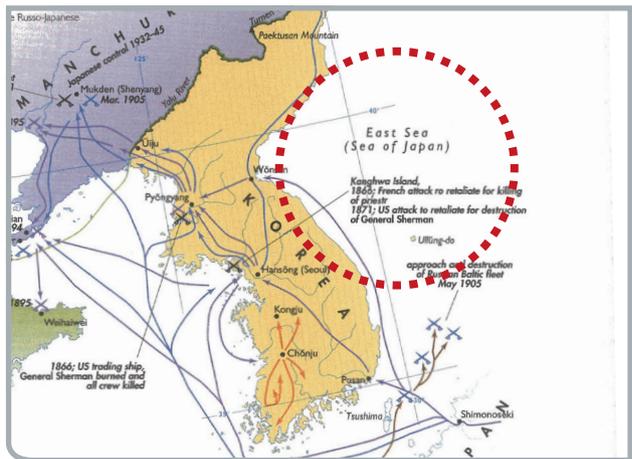
Geography - Realms, Regions, and Concepts
de Blij, Muller, Nijman
Wiley, 2012



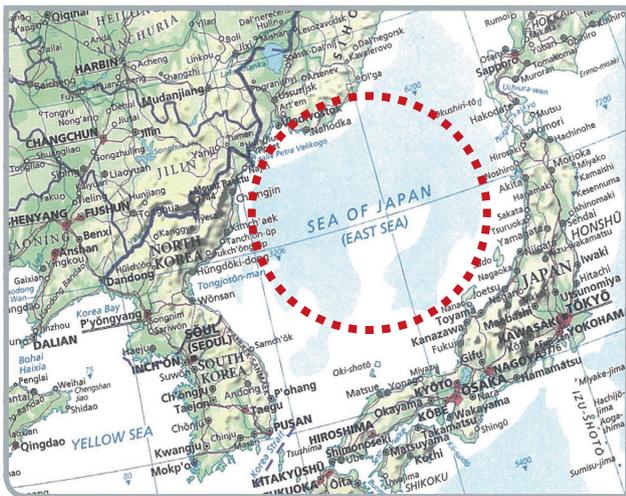
*National Geographic
Visual Atlas of the World.*
Washington, D.C.: National Geographic Society,
2009.



The World Almanac and Book of Facts 2014
World Almanac Books, 2014



The Times Complete History of the World.
Times Books, 2004.



World Atlas. Rand McNally, 2006 (Revised 2009 Edition)



The Economist 15 October 2009



Bing Maps_ April 07, 2014
<http://www.bing.com/maps/?FORM=Z9LH2>



3

Why the “East Sea” should be used concurrently with the “Sea of Japan”

It is in compliance with IHO Technical Resolution A 4.2. and UNCSCN Resolution III/20.

The IHO Technical Resolution A 4.2 (now re-numbered 1/1972) paragraph 6 provides that if two or more countries share a given geographical feature for which they cannot agree on a common name, each of the names should be used to refer to that geographical feature. This general rule of international cartography is also confirmed by the United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names in its resolution III/20 adopted in 1977.

IHO(International Hydrographic Organization) Resolution 1/1972 as amended : International Standardization of Geographical Names(1974)

It is recommended that when two or more countries share a given geographical feature (such as, for example, a bay, strait, channel or archipelago) under a different name form, they should endeavour to reach agreement on fixing a single name for the feature concerned. If they have different official languages and cannot agree on a common name form, it is recommended that the name forms of each of the languages in question should be accepted for charts and publications unless technical reasons prevent this practice on small scale charts. e.g. English Channel/La Manche.

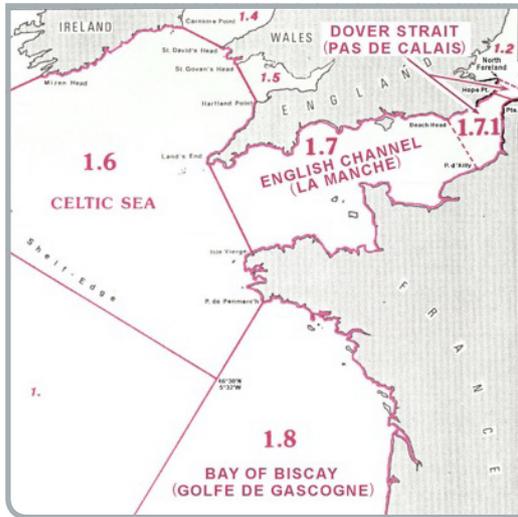
United Nations Resolution on the Standardization of Geographical Names III/20 : Names of features beyond a single sovereignty(1977)

The Conference,

Considering the need for international standardization of names of geographical features that are under the sovereignty of more than one country or are divided among two or more countries,

1. Recommends that countries sharing a given geographical feature under different names should endeavor, as far as possible, to reach agreement on fixing a single name for the feature concerned;
2. Further recommends that when countries sharing a given geographical feature do not succeed in agreeing on a common name, it should be a general rule of international cartography that the name used by each of the countries concerned will be accepted. A policy of accepting only one or some of such names while excluding the rest would be inconsistent in principle as well as inexpedient in practice. Only technical reasons may sometimes make it necessary, especially in the case of small-scale maps, to dispense with the use of certain names belonging to one language or another.

It is in compliance with the international practice.



Final Draft of the 4th Edition of S-23.
International Hydrographic Organization, 2002.

The concurrent use of different names have precedents in the publication S-23. There are such cases in previous editions of S-23, two in the first edition(1929), four in the second edition(1937) and five in the third edition(1953). The final draft of the 4th edition of 2002 also contains cases of simultaneous use of names : English Channel (La Manche), Dover Strait (Pas de Calais) and Bay of Biscay (Golfe de Gascogne).

The name “East Sea” is widely used internationally. An ever-increasing number of atlases, books and papers refer to the sea area between the Korean Peninsula and the Japanese Archipelago as the “East Sea” singlehandedly or along with the “Sea of Japan.”

It will promote navigational safety.

The primary mission of the IHO is to promote navigational safety. Given that the number of ships navigating the sea area between the Korean Peninsula and the Japanese Archipelago annually reaches around 400,000, it is extremely important to provide sailors with accurate information lest any ambiguity or confusion on the names of oceans and seas should hamper navigational safety.

It is the most reasonable solution.

The concurrent use of the “East Sea” and the “Sea of Japan” is the most reasonable solution in the absence of agreement on a single name. It does not exclude one name at the expense of the other.



4 Recent Discussions on the Issue at International Organizations

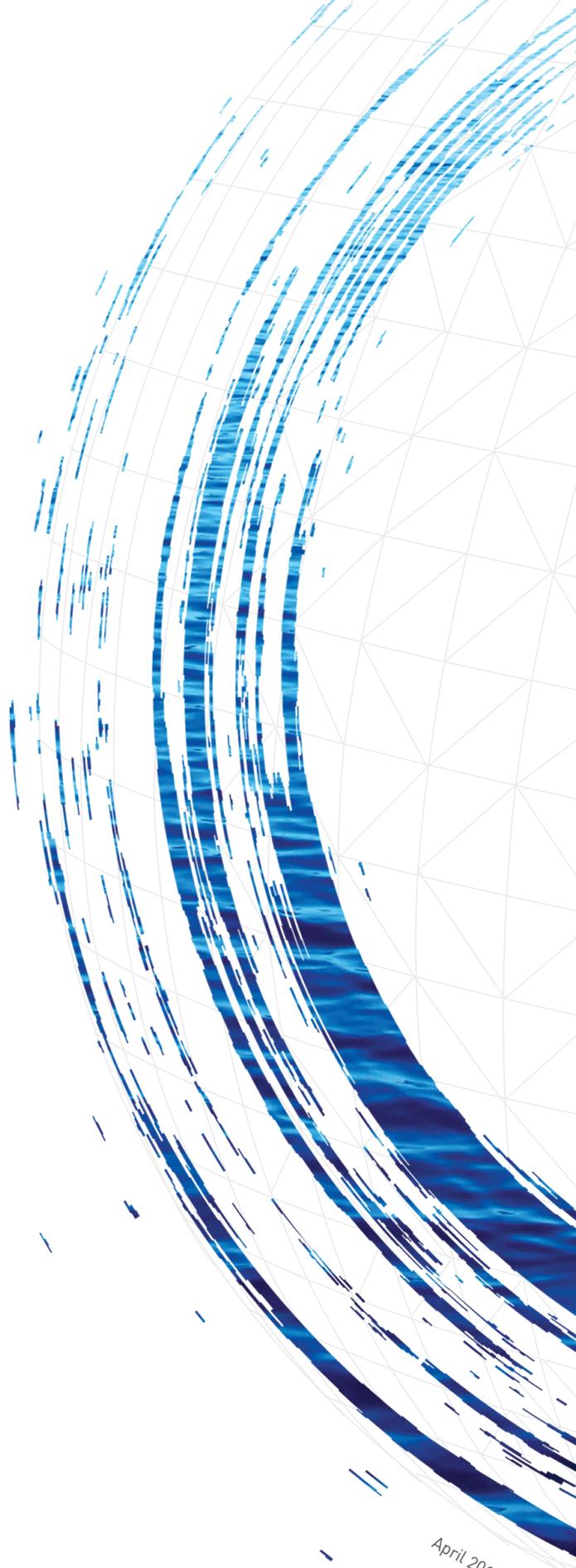
Show weakening support toward Japan's claim of the sole use of the name "Sea of Japan"

At the 18th International Hydrographic Conference held in April 2012, regarding the revision of "The Limits of Oceans and Seas," member states were unable to reach an agreement on a variety of issues, including a common name for the sea between the Korean Peninsula and the Japanese Archipelago. Hence, the conference concluded not to take any further action on revising the publication. At the conference, Japan proposed to work on the publication's revision with the purport of maintaining the name "Sea of Japan" from the previous edition. However, none of the member states provided their consent to discussing Japan's proposal, which implicates weakening support toward Japan's claim that the "Sea of Japan" is the only internationally established name.

The issue is currently being discussed at various international organizations and fora including the UN Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names.

East Sea

The Name from the Past,
of the Present and for the Future



April 2014



Ministry of Foreign Affairs
www.mofa.go.kr/ENG/



Northeast Asian History Foundation
www.nahf.or.kr/eng/