

Eastern Sea Area of Korea Peninsula should resume the Original Name: Donghai, Orient Sea

—comply with the principle of justice, propitiousness and to showing respect to tradition on the naming

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summary

Based on the Chinese ancient works, the word DONGHAI (东海) was widely used in the period of Warring States (480~222BC). It is a broad spatial concept, with its meaning consistent with ocean or sea.

The famous geographic literature *Shan Hai Jing* (the Books of Mountain and Sea) which was written in the period of Warring States, has referred to the name of the eastern sea of Korea Peninsula twice. The fact shows that it has been more than 2,200 years since the eastern sea of Korea Peninsula was denominated DONGHAI.

In the 400 years from the Western Han Dynasty to the Eastern Han Dynasty(206BC~220AD), the eastern sea of Korea Peninsula has kept its name DONGHAI. one important proof is that Canghai County (苍/沧海郡) was set up in the eastern sea of Korea Peninsula in the reign of Emperor Han Wudi. Canghai is just the alternative name of DONGHAI. In other words, DONGHAI was used definitely to name the eastern sea of Korea Peninsula in the Han Dynasty.

From the period of Warring States (480~222BC) to Qing Dynasty(1616~1911AD), DONGHAI

as the name of the eastern sea of Korea Peninsula has come down in one continuous line without any discontinuity.

In the Chinese traditional literature vocabulary, the word DONGHAI embodies the abundant senses of broadness, generousness, happiness and selflessness. So if we take the phrase in the western languages — THE ORIENT — as the name of this sea region, it will be full of desirable blessing of propitiousness. It seems that this name is easy to gain international acceptance far and wide.

Although it is impossible to make textual research to know the origin of the words SEA OF JAPAN, as we all know, this denomination is a result of power politics in the background of the imperialism and colonialism expanding crazily in the mid-1800s. It ignored the basic justice that should be maintained by the international world, and infringed upon the circumjacent countries' right of naming in the international sea area, such as Korea and China.

In my opinion, the naming of the international sea area should be followed the essential principle of justice, propitiousness and respecting historical traditions. So I suggest that the words SEA OF JAPAN should be abolished and THE ORIENT SEA be the phrase to dominate this region.