

# On The Principles Dealing with Japanese Sea's Dispute

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## Abstract

The Dispute of Japanese Sea was initiated by ROK public claims for renaming since 1960's and by ROK government efforts on the matter since 1990's. The conferences, The International Seminar on the Naming of Seas, hosted by ROK once a year since 1995, which politically & academically has been pushing the United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (UNCSGN) and the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) to consider the dispute.

The crux of the dispute is the issue of high seas left over by history, which is one of the issues caused by the economic internationalization of the countries in the Northeast of Aisa, or around the Sea of Japan.

The dispute has been noticed by scholars from over 15 countries, who submitted papers and attend the conferences on the dispute. Up to 2003, three countries (ROK, Russia and P.R.China) hosted or co-hosted the meeting in the three cities (Seoul, ROK; Fladivostok, Russia; and Shanghai, P.R.China). The focus of the seminars is whether & how to re-name the Sea of Japan.

Facing up to the dispute, many opinions appeared and implied several positions. First position is to re-name the Sea of Japan, the scholars from ROK work hard for it, but DPRK's scholars radically claim for. Second one is to evade the dispute, or against the re-naming, by Japan. The third one is to keep neutrality on the dispute by European scholars and some from Russia. And last is to observe objectiveness on the dispute some Chinese scholars.

In my opinion, I suggest that, in order to fairly deal with the dispute, we should respect the

historical fact, giving the whole documents (e.g. past maps of the Sea), not part of them, before discussing the dispute; we should face up to the objective reality: the name of Japanese Sea, which has been used up to now; and we should abide by the international law, whether claiming for re-naming or against it. As to requirement of re-naming, the way to realize it is to submit the report to UN or other interrelated international organization, so do the against. It is UN, or other international organization, that it has international authority to solve the international dispute that can not be settled by countries of both side, if we hope peacefully to overcome the dispute