

## Panel Discussion

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I ask myself whether we have strategic mind, what our goals are and what kind of tools we have to achieve such goals.

At least at the government level, it seems to lack meticulously planned and coordinated strategic approach. It is required to play a proactive and goal-oriented role to bring about synergistic effect.

Some people still continue to claim that the name 'East Sea' is logically flimsy in countering Japanese name 'Sea of Japan' in the international arena. They argue that the name 'Sea of Korea' is more appropriate in convincing international community. Korean government is required to strengthen its publicity activities targeting those who are skeptical about the strategic usefulness of the name 'East Sea'

Korean government does not seem to have official position about a possible compromise solution or an alternative name. It is very clear and unambiguous that our goal is the dual use of the two names. But, for example, although the probability is very low, regarding the division of the sea into two sections, East Sea for the eastern part and Sea of Japan for the western part, our position seems to be unclear.

In order to achieve our goal, we should accurately assess the situation we face now. Japan does not show any hint of compromise. Bilateral consultation with Japan is at standstill and no progress in sight. Although we appreciate the effort made by the IHO to break the deadlock, it only reveals its incompetence.

Under such circumstances, we need renewed and fresh start based on realistic and practical policy options and international laws as follows;

1. We ask Japan that the issue be solved according to the rules and principles governing naming issues.
2. We ask the IHO to clarify the justification of single use of the name 'Sea of Japan' which was decided without Korean government's representation.

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3. We ask the UN for the official position on the naming dispute between Korea and Japan.
4. We ask the US government not to take actions which might be interpreted as unilaterally taking side with Japan, thus playing a constructive role in this regard.

In conclusion, we need to propose that the bilateral consultation be held between Korea and Japan to solve the issue according to rules and principles governing naming disputes under the supervision of the UN with the strong backing of the US government.