

Panel Discussion

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I think that in solving the sea name dispute between Korea and Japan – whether we call it *EAST SEA* or *SEA of JAPAN* – there are two main huddles for us to clear. One is how to make good relation between two countries. If the relation was not good, to solve this issue would be more difficult. The other huddle is to make international rule to enforce every nations to use dual or several names in disputed ereas more clearly than now.

In this point of view, I would like to comment on the recent statement by Japanese premier Shinjo Abe, on the 70th anniversary of the World war2. I would point only two important things even though there are so many things to be criticized. One is on the justification of Japanese colonization policy. Japanese premier Shinjo Abe said in the statement “the Japan–Russia war gave encouragement to many people under colonial rule from Asia to Africa.” When I listened this phrase, I lost my words. One of the famous American historians expressed “it is disgusting.” Really it is same emotion as Korean people have.

The other is on the apology of young generation about the damage and suffering by imperial Japanese aggression or colonization. Japanese premier Shinjo Abe said as follows. “In Japan, the post war generations now exceed 80% of its population. We must not let our children, grandchildren, and even father generations to come, who have nothing to do with that war, be predestined to apology.”

I think it is O.K, if he thought inwardly. But he spoke outwardly, confidently even though the suffered nations and people think that Japanese apology is not enough, lacks sincerity.

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In conclusion, so-called Abe statement hurt Korean people's mind deeply again. It make the historical huddle higher in solving disputing issues between two countries including sea name issue.

But we cannot dispend on Abe. Abe is not all Japan. Japan is eternal, but Abe is not. And so we try to make good relation with Japan without disappointment. We try to effort to let Japan receive the universal value or rule, especially on the sea naming rule, diversity of geographic names. I think, at a difficult time like this this seminar have to do more important role.