

Panel discussion

Looking for the peace on the East Sea

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From yesterday to today I have learned a lot from the excellent presentations and discussions of many experts on sea names.

I was particularly impressed by Professor Joseph Stoltman's Keynote Speech "The *East Sea*: Peace, Education and Geographical Naming." The point that the problem of naming the *East Sea* should be solved peacefully based on the philosophy of peace, which would be the key point of this international seminar. I think it is very beneficial and desirable for the idea of peace to be raised and discussed in relation to the name of the sea, especially the issue of naming the *East Sea*.

From my point of view as historian, in the whole history of mankind, the oceans of the world have not been master for a long time, so anyone can sail and fish. And except for a very short period of time, the sea was always in peace. Considering the history of the continent where people struggled and fought to occupy a very small land, it can be said that it was really a big job. Of course, considering the desire of those who have fought over the small islands of the sea, I think that much more impressive.

When we look at sea, it is always peaceful and equitable, not tilted or misaligned, and has many resources in it. There are no mountain ranges or rivers in the sea, no beautiful scenery, no city to induce all kinds of greed. Now we need to learn the spirit of this sea without words.

It was after the modern era that the territorial sea was established in the world, and EEZ was declared very recently. There is now a master in the oceans of the world, and no one can fish in any area. However, the idea that the sea should be kept in peace and its benefits should be shared has long been a good tradition of mankind and has become an important principle to this day.

To briefly describe the history of the *East Sea*, it has always been peaceful since about 10,000 years ago when the people began to live on the Korean peninsula and the Japanese archipelago. In history many people have moved through this sea, and many products and cultures have been exchanged. In ancient times, many people who lived in

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Korea crossed the sea and settled in Japan. People from both countries crossed the sea, married each other, and learned and spread their knowledge and skills. In the 9th century, Japanese monk Ennin 圓仁 went to the Tang Dynasty to study Buddhism on the ship of Jang Bogo, a maritime admiral of Korea.

In the 7th century, Japan had an alliance with Baekje 百濟 in the Three Kingdoms period, so it had some conflicts with Silla 新羅, and there was a slight battle in the *East Sea*. In the thirteenth century, Mongolia and Koryo coalition invaded Japan and were repulsed. In the 14th and 15th centuries, as Japan was not controlled by domestic disruption, a number of small battles took place, once called the Wokou (pirates), plundering the coastal areas of Korea and China.

In 1592, Toyotomi Hideyoshi of Japan sent a large army to invade Korea. From this, war broke out for six years and was repulsed by General Yi Sun-sin 李舜臣. In 1994, Japan defeated the Russian Navy in the *East Sea* and began to invade South Korea. However, during World War I and World War II, there was no battle in the *East Sea* and peace was maintained.

However, when the Korean War was broke out in 1950, there were a small battles between the North Korean Army and the ROK Army and the UN forces in the East Sea, but soon the UN forces took control of the territory. Uneasy peace has been continuing for more than 60 years since the ceasefire in 1953, but more and more uneasy situations are continuing as the North has recently tested several missiles in the East Sea. This is what happened in the East Sea from ancient times to the present.

Although there were some problems for a short period of time, the *East Sea* was always a sea of peace. Perhaps compared to the sea in any part of the world, there would not have been as peaceful sea as the *East Sea*. Therefore, considering the history of the *East Sea* and the philosophy of peace, I believe that the issue of naming the East Sea will be solved smoothly, albeit with minor problems. It is not a question of ownership of the *East Sea* itself, it is only an international notation of the name, and it should not cause complications in either Japan or East Asia.

I hope that the people of the two countries would understand each other warmly and deepen their friendship with open heart. And I think we the scholars should help them to do with this peaceful solution.