

# Panel discussion

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## QUESTION 1

In the minority situations presented we deal always with endonyms: the endonym of the community, which is locally in a non-dominant position, and the endonym of the community, which is in the dominant position in the same location. Both are names of local communities and they have the perfect right to use them.

In the *East Sea/Sea of Japan* case we refer to two or even three different levels: (1) to the **endonym level**, the names of the local communities around this sea, i.e. the Koreans using *Dong Hae*, the Japanese using *Nihon Kai*, and the Russians using *Japonskoje more*. It is the Sea of the Three Endonyms – as Paul Woodman titled it. It is the perfect right of all three communities to use their name for the sea in its entirety; these names are in their hands; they have the command over these names.

Much more frequently than the endonym level, however, we are discussing here (2) the **exonym level**, i.e. the names used by non-riparian languages and countries, external communities with no share in this sea, e.g. *East Sea/Sea of Japan* in English or *Ostmeer/Japanisches Meer* in German. Exonyms are in principle part of the exonym (receiver) language and community and their property. These names have sometimes long traditions in the respective languages and countries and it is completely in their hands to preserve or change them. The donor language or country has no saying in it. The only thing it can do is to promote a certain name – as the Republic of Korea rather successfully undertakes it.

A third level, which I have suggested to define in an earlier paper is the level of (3) the **international name**. It is usually a prominent, frequently used exonym in a global trade language like English, sometimes it can also be an endonym, proposed by an international authority for international use and a certain purpose – e.g., names proposed by the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) for international use on charts for navigation. These names are the result of negotiations between the members of this

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authority. They are not anymore “owned” by a certain language or community as “pure” exonyms and endonyms are.

This categorization is – I believe – basic for the discussion on the East Sea/Sea of Japan issue and should be taken into account much more.