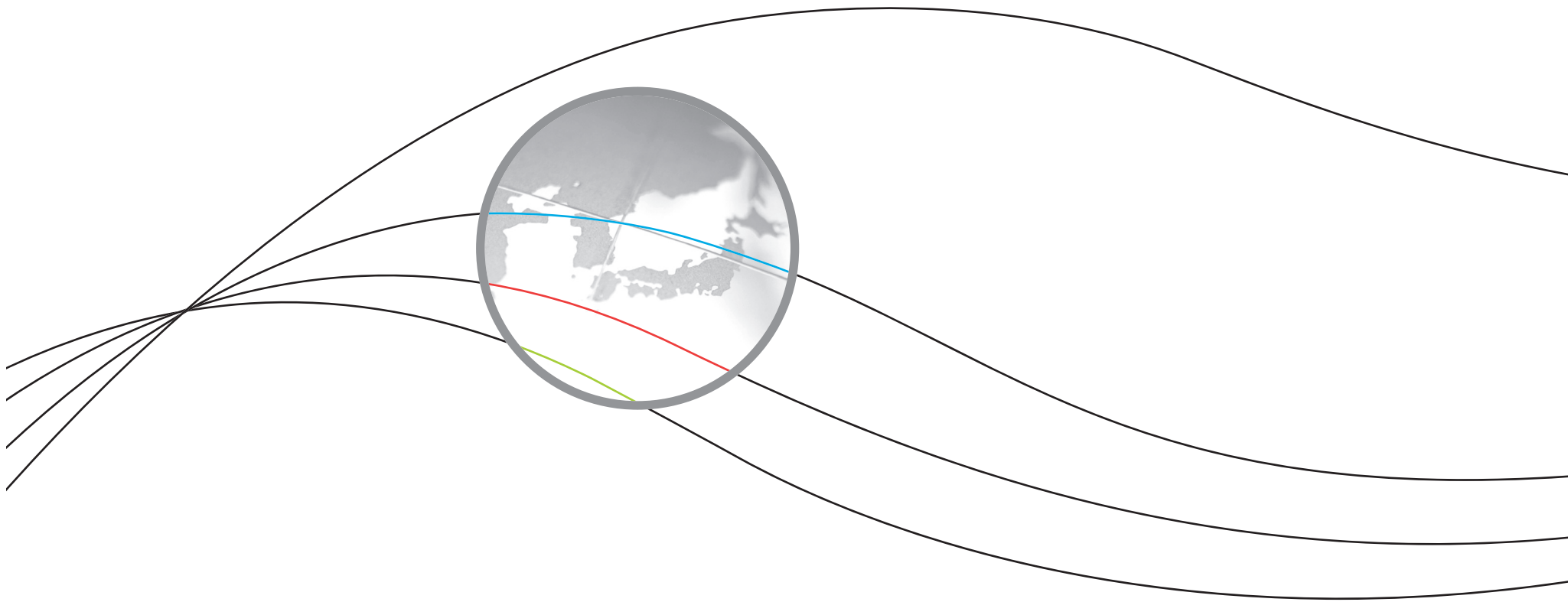


East Sea

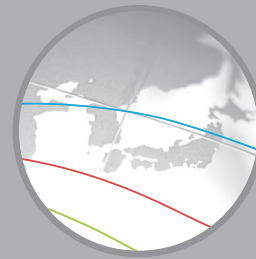
The Name EAST SEA Used for Two Millennia





Introduction: One Sea, Two Names

The naming dispute over the sea area located between the Korean Peninsula and the Japanese Archipelago has been the object of increasing attention in the international community. Japan insists that only one name, the "Sea of Japan", be used for this sea area since the designation is widely used. The Republic of Korea, however, proposes that both names, "East Sea" and "Sea of Japan", be used concurrently until the two countries agree on a common designation. Korea's argument is based on two facts: first, Korea and Japan are using two different names for this sea at present, "East Sea" and "Sea of Japan", and second, the concurrent use of these two designations is increasingly apparent. The relevant international organizations and



East Sea

many governments recommend that this naming dispute be resolved through the reaching of mutual agreement between the governments of Korea and Japan.

Why do Koreans object to the single use of the name "Sea of Japan"? Although the name "East Sea" disappeared from world maps for a time - during Japanese colonization of Korea in the early 20th century - Koreans have referred to this sea area as the "East Sea" for two thousand years and even today, 50 million South Koreans and 25 million North Koreans continue to use this term. One can clearly appreciate the significance of the name to Koreans as the very first word of the Korean national anthem starts with "Donghae",

which means "East Sea" in Korean.

However, this sea area became more widely known as the "Sea of Japan" after the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) chose to use the name "Sea of Japan" in its 1929 Special Publication No.23 (Limits of Oceans and Seas). What the world may not have realized is that at the time of the establishment of the IHO - and the publication in 1929 as well - the Korean people, with their nation under Japanese colonial rule, were forced to use the Japanese language for the designations of mountains and seas, and even their own names. In disregard of such fact, the Japanese government asserts that the name "Sea of Japan" has no

connection with Japan's colonial rule in the 20th century and the name was internationally established prior to the 19th century. Accordingly, Japan insists that only the name "Sea of Japan" is acceptable, leaving no room for compromise on this matter.

This pamphlet will provide answers as to why Japan's assertion is not valid and why both names, "East Sea" and "Sea of Japan", should be used concurrently to refer to the sea area in question. These answers will be set out, with historical evidence of the use of the name "East Sea" and the logical basis to support the legitimacy of the international use of the name "East Sea".



The Name in History

The name "East Sea" has been in use for more than 2000 years

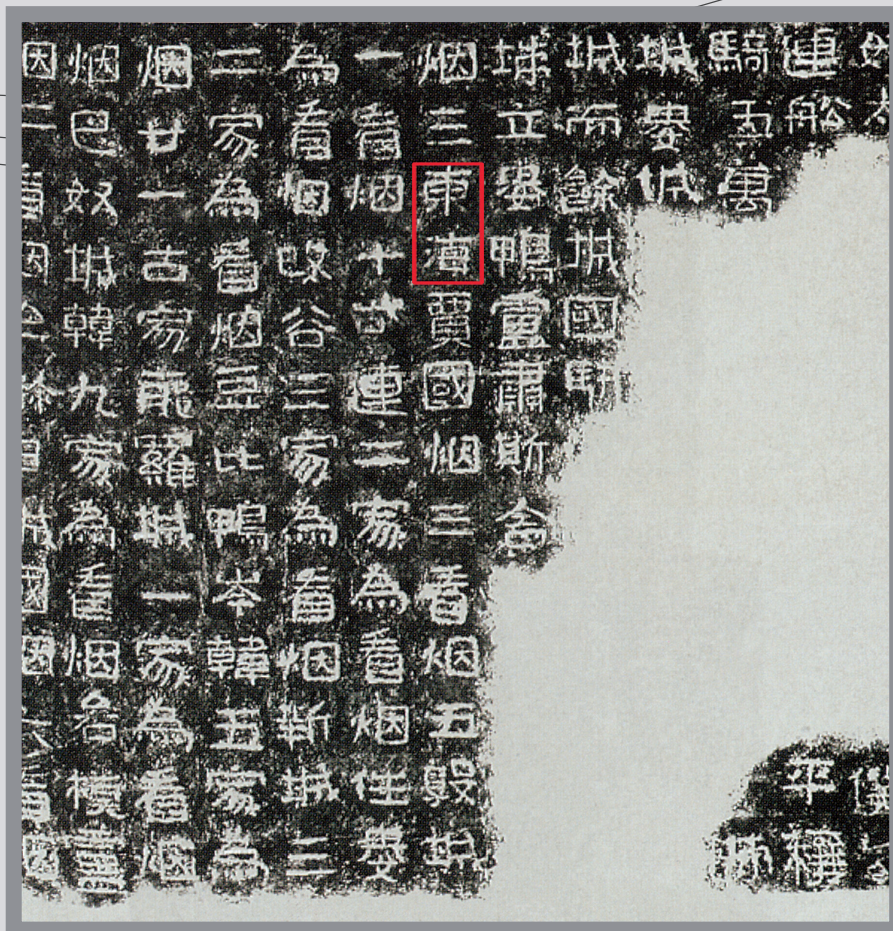
Geographical names reflect the history, culture, lifestyle, and philosophy of the people who use them and the name "East Sea" is no exception. "East Sea", a name deeply rooted in the lives of the Korean people, first appears in a historical document dating back to as early as 59 B.C. In the *History of the Three Kingdoms (Samguksagi, 三國史記)*, the name "East Sea" was used in a chapter on King Dongmyeong, the founder of Goguryeo (one of the three ancient kingdoms in Korea). This proves that the name "East Sea" dates back more than 2000 years, which is 1700 years before the first appearance of the name "Sea of Japan" in

Mappamondo, the publication of the Italian missionary Matteo Ricci in 1602.[•]

There are various other historical references to the "East Sea" thereafter. Another noteworthy example of use of the name "East Sea" is the inscription on the stele of King Gwanggaeto of the Goguryeo Kingdom in 414 A.D..^{••} Since the territory of Goguryeo at that time extended as far as Manchuria in China, the name "East Sea" encompassed the sea not only east of the Korean Peninsula but east of the entire Eurasian continent as well.

• When the Chinese version of "Mappamondo" was published in Beijing, the sea adjacent to Japan was simply rendered into Chinese characters as the "Sea of Japan" which is Nihonkai in Japanese.

•• The Stele of King Gwanggaeto was erected by King Jangsu in 414 A.D. in memory of the great work of his father, King Gwanggaeto of the Goguryeo Kingdom.



三國史記卷第十三
 翰定韓國贊化同德功臣開府儀同三司檢校太師守太保阿下侍中判尚
 書事兼禮部事兼發殿大學士監修國史上柱國致仕臣金富弼奉 宣撰
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DONG HAE (East Sea, 東海)
 History of the Three Kingdoms (Samguk sagi), Korea
 This seminal book recounts the history of ancient states in Korea and the name "East Sea" was used
 when describing historical events that occurred around B.C. 50.

DONG HAE (East Sea, 東海), 414
 A Stele of King Gwanggaeto, Korea
 Erected by King Jangsu in 414 A.D. in memory of
 the great work of King Gwanggaeto and the name "East Sea" was inscribed on it.



DONG HAE (East Sea, 東海), 1531

The Map of Eight Provinces of Korea (Paldo Chongdo), Korea

One of the Korea's oldest maps, *Paldo Chongdo*, from the book of *Sinjeung Dongguk Yeoji-Seungnam* (Newly Expanded Survey on the Geography of Korea) used the name DONG HAE (East Sea).

- *Joseon* is the name of the dynasty in Korea which existed from the late 14th to the early 20th century.
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, 2003, *History of the Name "Sea of Japan"*, Table 2.
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, 2006, *A Historical Overview of the Name "Sea of Japan"*, p.2.

The use of the name "East Sea" in old Korean maps dates back to the year 1531

The oldest remaining map in Korea that officially used the name "East Sea" is the *Map of Eight Provinces of Korea (Paldo-Chongdo, 八道總圖)* in the *Newly Expanded Survey on the Geography of Korea (Sinjeung Dongguk Yeoji-Seungnam, 新增東國輿地勝覽)* compiled by an order of the king in 1531. Subsequent maps also clearly specify the name "East Sea". Examples from the late 18th century include the *General Map of Korea (Ahguk Chongdo, 我國摠圖)* found in *Maps of the World (Yeojido, 輿地圖)* and the *Map of Joseon-Japan-Ryukyu Islands (朝鮮日本琉球國圖)*.

Even Japan officially used the name "Sea of Joseon"

Japanese historical records and geographical books reveal that the name "Sea of Japan" did not appear until the late 18th century.●● Even Japanese scholars acknowledge the fact that it was a Westerner Matteo Ricci, not a Japanese person, who first used the name in 1602.●●● For the Japanese people, the sea was simply a nameless body of water until the beginning of the 17th century.



SEA OF JOSEON (Sea of Korea, 朝鮮海), 1809

A Simplified map of Japan's Periphery (日本邊界略圖), K. Takahashi, Japan

One of the maps drawn by a well-known Japanese cartographer, Takahashi Kageyasu, published under official endorsement from the Tokugawa Shogunate in 1809 and 1810, describes the sea area located to the east of the Korean Peninsula as the SEA OF JOSEON (name of the last Korean dynasty) while the sea area off the eastern coast of the Japanese archipelago was described as the SEA OF JAPAN.

Moreover, there are a number of historical documents showing that the sea area was called the "Sea of Joseon" among the Japanese rather than the "Sea of Japan". Even official maps produced by the Japanese government during the 18th and 19th century refer to the sea as the "Sea of Joseon". This refutes Japan's argument that the Japanese simply adopted the name "Sea of Japan" because it was already predominantly used by Westerners in the late 18th and early 19th century.

Approximately eighteen Japanese maps referred to the sea area between Korea and Japan as "Sea of Joseon". Examples include the *Map of Asia (亞細亞全圖)* drawn by Katsuragawa Hoshu in 1794 and the *Simplified Map of Japan's Periphery (日本邊界略圖)* by Takahashi Kageyasu in 1809. Additional examples are the *New World Map (新製輿地全圖)* drawn by Mitsukuri Shogo in 1844 and *Japan's Northeast Marginal Boundary Map (本邦西北邊界略圖)* by Yasuda Raishu in 1850. Furthermore, the *Collection of Korean Treaties*, containing documents of diplomatic agreements between Korea and Japan in 1883, designated the waters as the "Sea of Joseon".

Various names were used in old Western maps, but none of them were internationally established

In a brochure distributed by the Japanese Foreign Ministry, Japan insists that since the sea was described as "Sea of Japan" in *"La Perouse: Chart of Discoveries made in 1787 in the Seas of China and Tartary"*,[•] the name began to be used by many European mapmakers and became well established internationally in the late 18th and early 19th century.

After it examined a number of Western maps produced since the 16th century, Japan claimed that its position has greater historical validity since old Western maps evidence more frequent usage of the term "Sea of Japan" from the early 19th century onwards.^{••}

While this may be Japan's claim, the frequent use of the name in ancient Western maps is not enough to support Japan's position that the name "Sea of Japan" was established around the 19th century. It should be pointed out that 72.8% (1,088 out of 1,495) of the old maps held by the French National Library (Bibliothèque Nationale de France) and 50.1% (223 out of 445) of the

maps drawn up before the 19th century held by the US Library of Congress do not even indicate a name for the sea area in question.^{•••} This shows that there was no international consensus or common understanding regarding the name of the sea prior to the 19th century. More importantly, no international regime on the standardization of geographical names was in place at the time. Therefore, there are clearly no grounds for Japan's claim that the name "Sea of Japan" was well established internationally.

Korea has also undertaken a similar study of maps. While the samples examined were somewhat dif-

ferent from those of Japan, Korea's study shows that throughout the 18th century, a variety of names were used, including "Sea of Korea", "East Sea", "Eastern Sea", and "Oriental Sea". However, from the 19th century there was an increase in use of the name "Sea of Japan". (Table below)

In sum, a thorough examination of historical records and maps testifies to the fact that various names were used for the sea area in question until the 19th century. This is contrary to the notion that one specific name had been well-established and recognized internationally.

A Comparison of the Statistics on Sea Names in Ancient Old Maps

	Statistics from Korea ¹⁾					Statistics from Japan ²⁾				
	1500s	1600s	1700s	1800s	Total	1500s	1600s	1700s	1800s	Total
Sea of Korea (Corea)										
East (Eastern) Sea	-	39	341	60	440	5	29	165	107	306
Oriental Sea										
Sea of Japan	-	17	36	69	122	1	16	70	1,312	1,399
Others ³⁾	29	69	90	12	200	5	56	39	67	167
Total	29	125	467	141	762	11	101	274	1,486	1872

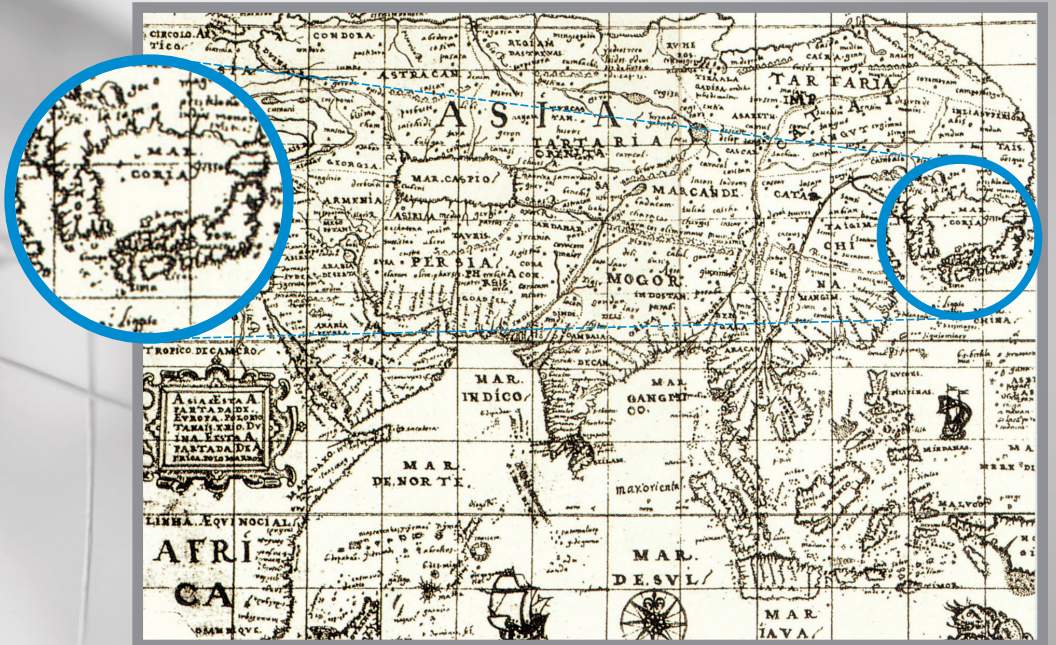
Notes 1) Results of the survey of old maps and atlases preserved at the British Library, Cambridge University Library, East Asian Map Collection of East Asian Library of the University of Southern California, Geography and Map Division of the US Library of Congress, Russian State Library, and French National Library / Bibliothèque Nationale de France.
2) Results of the survey of old maps and atlases preserved at the British Library, Cambridge University Library, French National

Library / Bibliothèque Nationale de France, and US Library of Congress.
3) Others include Sea of China, dual names, undetermined names, etc.

Sources Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Korea, et al., 2004, *East Sea: The Name East Sea Used for Two Millennia* (booklet); Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, 2006, *A Historical Overview of the Name "Sea of Japan"* (booklet).

• Ibid., pp.15-17 •• Ibid., pp.33-35.

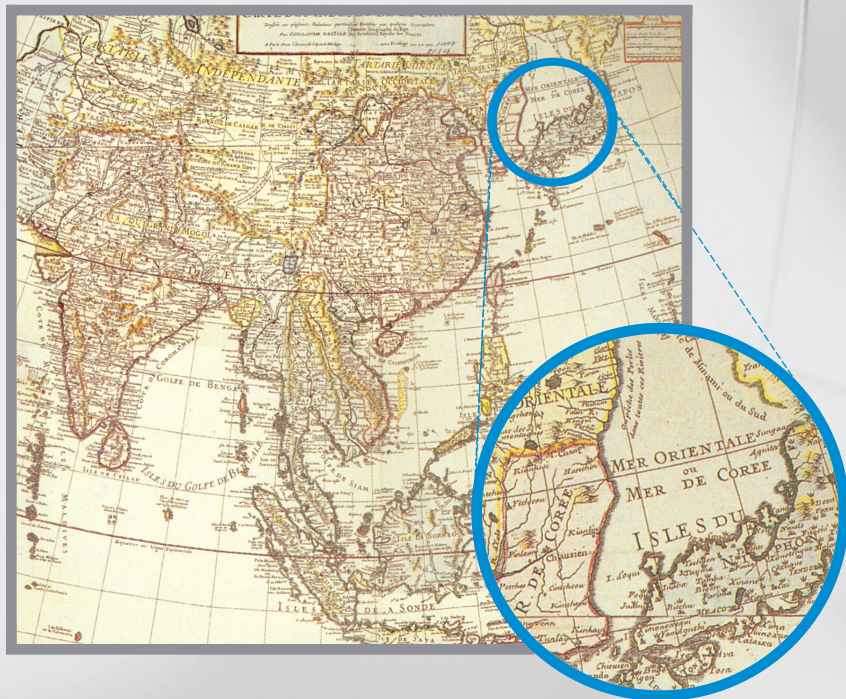
••• Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, <http://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/maritime/japan/index.html>



MAR CORIA, 1615

*The Map of Asia Portugalia Monumenta Cartographica, Vol. IV (plate 414),
Manoel Godinho De Eredia (1563-1623), Portugal*

The Map of Asia drawn by De Eredia, a Portuguese cartographer, became the first map of European origin, published during the period of vast expeditions throughout the world, to identify the name of the sea area in question as MAR CORIA (Corea Sea).



MER ORIENTALE, MER DE COREE, 1705

Carte des Indes et de la Chine, Guillaume de l'Isle, France

The maps drawn by de l'Isle are renowned for their high quality, recharting the world according to standard terminologies. This chart is also known for the dual usage of MER ORIENTALE (Oriental Sea) and MER DE COREE (Sea of Korea).



Sea of Japan, Neither Established Nor Authorized

Sea of Japan is not an established name

As explained so far, the sea between the Korean Peninsula and the Japanese Archipelago was referred to by various names until the late 19th century. But with the publication of "Limits of Oceans and Seas" in 1929, the name "Sea of Japan" came into widespread use in the 20th century.

The IHO was founded in 1919 and published "Limits of Oceans and Seas: S-23" in 1928 in an effort to establish international limits and names of oceans and seas. In 1929, member states of the IHO approved the publication in which only the name "Sea of Japan" was used. It was largely on account of this publication that "Sea of Japan" came into popular use. Regrettably, Korea could not voice its objections at the time as it was unable to act as an independent country under Japanese colonial rule. •

Nevertheless, it should be known that Korea has never approved of the name "Sea of Japan". The Korean government had no opportunity to claim the legitimacy of the name "East Sea" during Japanese colonial occupation from 1910 to 1945 or the period of the tragic Korean War from 1950 to 1953. Yet, persistent efforts to restore the name "East Sea" were being made by private organizations and academic circles in Korea.

It was not until the Korean government became a member of the United Nations in 1991 that it could officially bring the issue up at international conferences. For the past 15 years, the Korean government has exerted tireless efforts to raise international awareness of the legitimacy of the name "East Sea". Accordingly, the international community now recognizes the naming dispute over the sea area between Korea and Japan,

• When the second edition of "Limits of Oceans and Seas" was published in 1937, Korea was still under Japanese colonial rule. When the third edition was published in 1953, Korea was suffering a war. In 1957, Korea joined the IHO but it was too late for the Korean government to voice its opinion on the publications up to that time.

and awaits a favorable solution through bilateral consultations.

The United Nations did *NOT* authorize the name “Sea of Japan”

The Japanese government maintains that the United Nations has authorized the name "Sea of Japan" as the only official name for the sea area, citing a letter from the United Nations Secretariat dated March 2004. According to Japanese officials, "the United Nations Secretariat clarifies its position that it observes the prevailing practice of the single use of "Sea of Japan" and that dual designation breaches the prevailing practice and infringes the neutrality of the United Nations." On this basis, the Japanese government concludes that the name "Sea of Japan" is officially authorized by the UN.

However, the UN Secretariat has clearly stated the following in a letter addressed to the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations: *"the UN Secretariat practice of using, in the absence of an internationally agreed standard, the most widespread and generally recognized denomination is without any prejudice to the position of any Member State of the United Nations on a particular appellation and does not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations. It goes without saying that the use of an appellation by the Secretariat based on the above-cited and established practice is without prejudice to any negotiations or agreements between the interested parties and should not be interpreted as advocating or endorsing any party's position, and can in no way be invoked by any party in support of a particular position*

in the matter."

This letter reveals that Japan's argument that the UN has officially authorized the name "Sea of Japan" is entirely unfounded. The UN Secretariat made it clear that although it maintains the prevailing practice of the single use of "Sea of Japan", this should not be interpreted as supporting or endorsing the position of Japan regarding the name of the sea. The letter also indicates that the UN Secretariat opposes the Japanese government's misuse of the UN notion of neutrality to its own advantage in the ongoing dispute it has with Korea over the proper name of the sea.

The Name according to Toponymic Principles

There are diverse methods of naming seas

In a pamphlet published by the Japanese Foreign Ministry,[•] Japan asserts that "the most frequently used method of naming sea areas separated from an ocean is to use the name of a major archipelagic arc or a peninsula that separates the sea area in question from the ocean". It cites as examples the "Sea of Japan", the "Andaman Sea", the "Gulf of California" and the "Irish Sea".

However, there are a number of other cases where sea areas were named in a different manner from that described by Japan. For example, the sea separated from the Pacific Ocean by the Kuril Islands is called the "Sea of Okhotsk" after the name of a Russian City, not the Kuril Islands. The sea northwest of the Aleutian Islands in the Northern Pacific is referred to as the "Bering Sea", instead of the "Aleutian Sea", after the

name of an explorer Bering. The sea separated from the Atlantic Ocean by the British Isles is referred to as the "North Sea", not the "Sea of England", signifying that it is located north of the European continent.

There are obviously various ways to determine the names of seas. Examples include its location from a continent or a country, a geographical feature such as the country or city closest to the sea, the name of the person who discovered the sea, or the color or other characteristics of the sea. In light of this, it is not only inappropriate but also misleading to claim that one method for naming is the general practice when in fact there are a variety of practices.

• Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, 2006, op. cit., pp.31-32.

•• Dr. David Munro, 2004, "The Standardization of Geographical Names : Achieving the Impossible?", paper presented at the Tenth International Seminar on the Naming of Seas, November 4-6, 2004, Cité Internationale Universitaire de Paris, Paris, France.



The name used by the local people should be given the highest priority

According to Dr. David Munro, a British scholar of toponymy, geographical names are an expression of perceptions of a place, a means of communication about that place and a way of referencing.^{••} Since geographical names are a part of the lives of the people who use them, it is common practice to give the highest priority to the names used by local people when deciding on a name for international use.

"East Sea" is the name that has been used by 75 million South and North Korean people for over 2,000 years. Its historical legitimacy is demonstrated by various legends, tales, songs, and historical records that include the name Donghae (East Sea). "East Sea" is not a denomination that merely implies its location but a name firmly rooted in history. Yet, rather than using "Sea of Japan" for themselves first, the Japanese admit

that they adopted the name after 1850 as it became more widely used in the West.

Despite the fact that the name "Sea of Korea" can be found on several old Western maps, the Korean government is asking that "East Sea" be used and recognized in the international community since it is the name that has been with the indigenous people of the Korean Peninsula throughout its long history.

Concurrent Naming Before Agreement

Concurrent naming is the solution before agreement on a common name

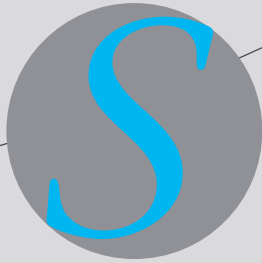
Reaching an agreement on a common name for a sea adjacent to several countries is obviously a difficult and sensitive task, since the name of the sea reflects the culture, history, and identity of the people living nearby. This is well proven by concurrent use of different names in the editions of "Limits of Oceans and Seas: S-23" published so far. There are two cases of concurrent name usage in its first edition: four cases in the 2nd edition, and five cases in the 3rd edition. Even in the unpublished final draft circulated in 2002, three cases of concurrent name usage were included. • These cases show how the international community has endeavored to respect indigenous names used by local people with different languages and cultures.

The coastline of the sea located on the eastern side of the Korean Peninsula is shared by four countries : South Korea, North Korea, Japan, and Russia. Within

the sea area are found the territorial waters and Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) of each country. It is therefore not appropriate to name this area after one particular country when several countries share sovereignty and jurisdiction. Furthermore, it is incumbent upon the international community to give due consideration to the names if the countries concerned refer to the sea differently.

Relevant international organizations recommend that names be used concurrently when countries concerned cannot agree on a single name for a shared geographical feature. Major examples include, IHO Technical Resolution A.4.2.6 and the United Nations Resolution on the Standardization of Geographic Names III/20.

- Examples of concurrent naming in the 1st edition of S-23: Greenland Sea (Norwegian Sea), The Archipelago (Aegean Sea) / Examples of concurrent naming in the 2nd edition: Greenland Sea (Norwegian Sea), Laptev Sea (Nordenskjöld Sea), Andaman Sea (Burma Sea), The Archipelago (Aegean Sea) / Examples of concurrent naming in the 3rd edition: Laptev Sea or Nordenskjöld Sea, Gulf of Iran or Persian Gulf, Balearic Sea or Iberian Sea, Andaman Sea or Burma Sea, Aegean Sea (The Archipelago) / Examples of concurrent naming in the 4th edition (unpublished final draft): English Channel (La Manche), Dover Strait (Pas de Calais), Bay of Biscay (Golfe de Gascogne).



Korea looks forward to an agreement on a common name

In accordance with the IHO Resolution and United Nations Resolution on the Standardization of Geographical Names, Korea suggests that it is most appropriate to use both "East Sea" and "Sea of Japan" concurrently until an agreement on a common name is reached. Since 2002, Korea has held five bilateral meetings with Japan in order to pursue constructive dialogue and reach an agreement on a common name. However, Japan has only responded with indifference to these overtures and continues to insist that nothing other than the single use of "Sea of Japan" is acceptable.

If this be the case, are map publishers adhering to the use of only "Sea of Japan" for the same reasons that Japan does? Can this really be justified simply because the name "Sea of Japan" has been widely used during the 20th century?

IHO Technical Resolution A.4.2.6 (1974)

It is recommended that when two or more countries share a given geographical feature (such as, for example, a bay, channel or archipelago) under a different name form, they should endeavour to reach agreement on fixing a single name for the feature concerned. If they have different official languages and cannot agree on a common name form, it is recommended that the name form of each of the languages in question should be accepted for the charts and publications unless technical reasons prevent this practice on small scale charts e.g. English Channel/La Manche.

United Nations Resolution on the Standardization of Geographical Names III/20 (1977)

Names of features beyond a single sovereignty

"The Conference.

Considering the need for international standardization of names of geographical features that are under the sovereignty of more than one country or are divided among two or more countries,

1. Recommends that countries sharing a given geographical feature under different names should endeavor, as far as possible, to reach agreement on fixing a single name for the feature concerned ;
2. Further recommends that when countries sharing a given geographical feature do not succeed in agreeing on a common name, it should be a general rule of international cartography that the name used by each of the countries concerned will be accepted. A policy of accepting only one or some of such names while excluding the rest would be inconsistent in principle as well as inexpedient in practice. Only technical reasons may sometimes make it necessary, especially in the case of small-scale maps, to dispense with the use of certain names belonging to one language or another."

The Name at Present

World maps are changing

Many of the world's prominent cartographers and the press are beginning to recognize the validity of the name "East Sea", and have moved away from the single use of "Sea of Japan" to the concurrent use of both names. In some cases they even use only the name "East Sea". These demonstrate that the world has begun to recognize that the name "Sea of Japan" is not firmly established and that the single use of "Sea of Japan" is problematic. Such trends suggest growing support and understanding for the name "East Sea" in the international community.

Japan is also starting to acknowledge that many prominent mapmaking companies are changing from the single use of "Sea of Japan" to the concurrent use of "East Sea" and "Sea of Japan". In October 2000, the Japanese Foreign Ministry carried out a study of 392 maps from sixty countries excluding South / North Korea and Japan. The results of this study showed that eleven maps, or 2.8%, used a concurrent designation. However, in October 2005 when the Ministry conducted a further survey of 116 commercial maps from sixty-one countries, the cases of the concurrent use of names increased to 18.1%. In the latter study, Japan also included school textbooks and school maps for a total of 331 maps from sixty-seven countries, which revealed that 10.8% of the maps used both "East Sea" and "Sea of Japan".

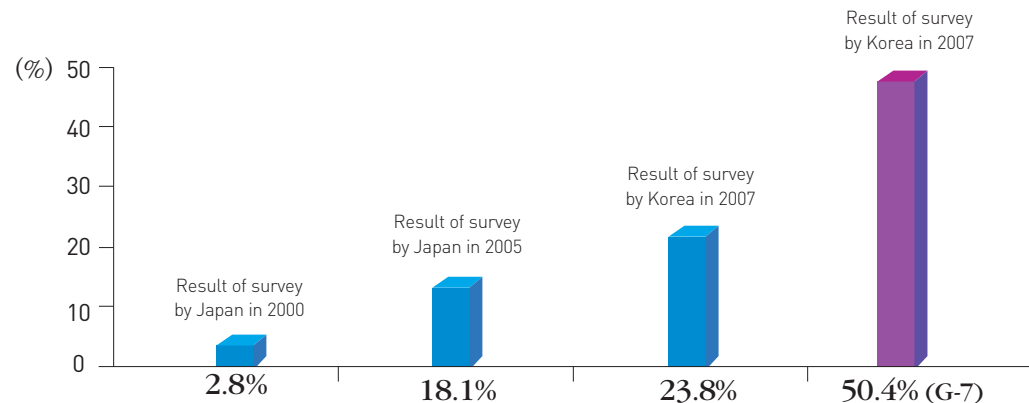


From February to March 2007, the Korean government also conducted its own survey of 353 maps from seventy-five different countries, sixty-three of which were map-producing countries[•]. The maps examined are all in wide use in each country, including government maps and those published by private institutions (as well as nine school textbooks and thirty-seven school maps). The results reveal that the concurrent use of "East Sea" and "Sea of Japan" stood at 23.8%, single use of "Sea of Japan" at 74.2% and no indication of any name at 2%.

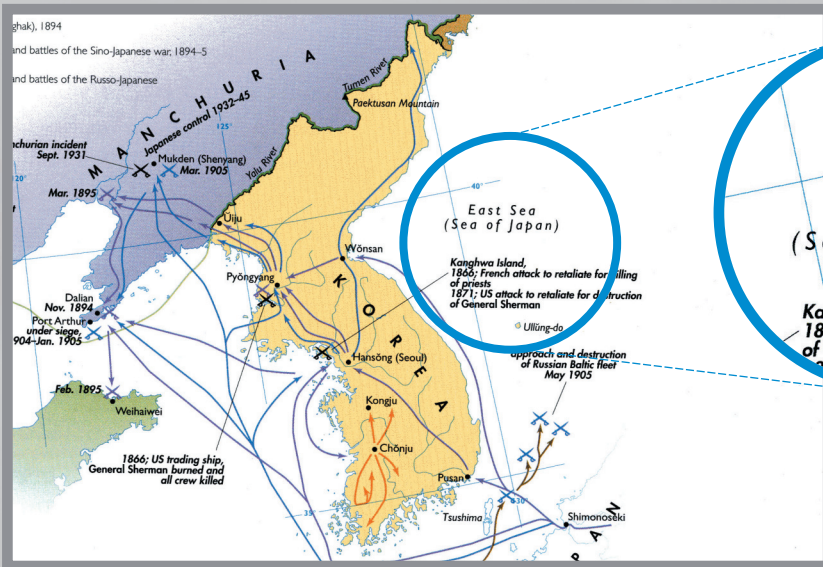
Taken as a whole, these studies show that the percentage of world mapmakers using the name "East Sea" has increased rapidly from 2.8% in 2000 to 18.1% in 2005 and again to 23.8% in 2007. More noteworthy is that the maps of the G-7 nations (excluding Japan), which produce the majority of the world's maps, showed a total of 50.4% usage of both names. Again, these statistics are a strong indication that the name "East Sea" is increasingly being used internationally.

The increasing use of both names, "East Sea" and "Sea of Japan", concurrently, on the maps of the world

• Countries included in the study: Afghanistan, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Brunei, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Italy, Kuwait, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Serbia and Montenegro, the Republic of South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Taipei, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, and Zimbabwe.



Sources Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, 2002, *Sea of Japan* (booklet); Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, 2006, *A Historical Overview of the Name "Sea of Japan"* (booklet); Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Korea, 2007(survey).



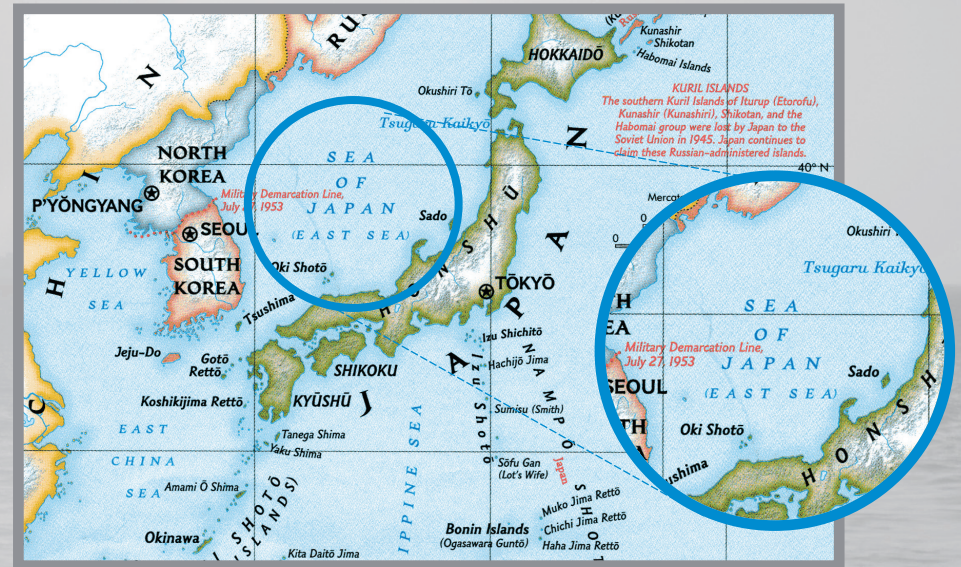
THE TIMES Complete History of the World, Sixth Edition, TIMES BOOKS, 2004



Collins World Atlas Complete Edition, Collins, 2006



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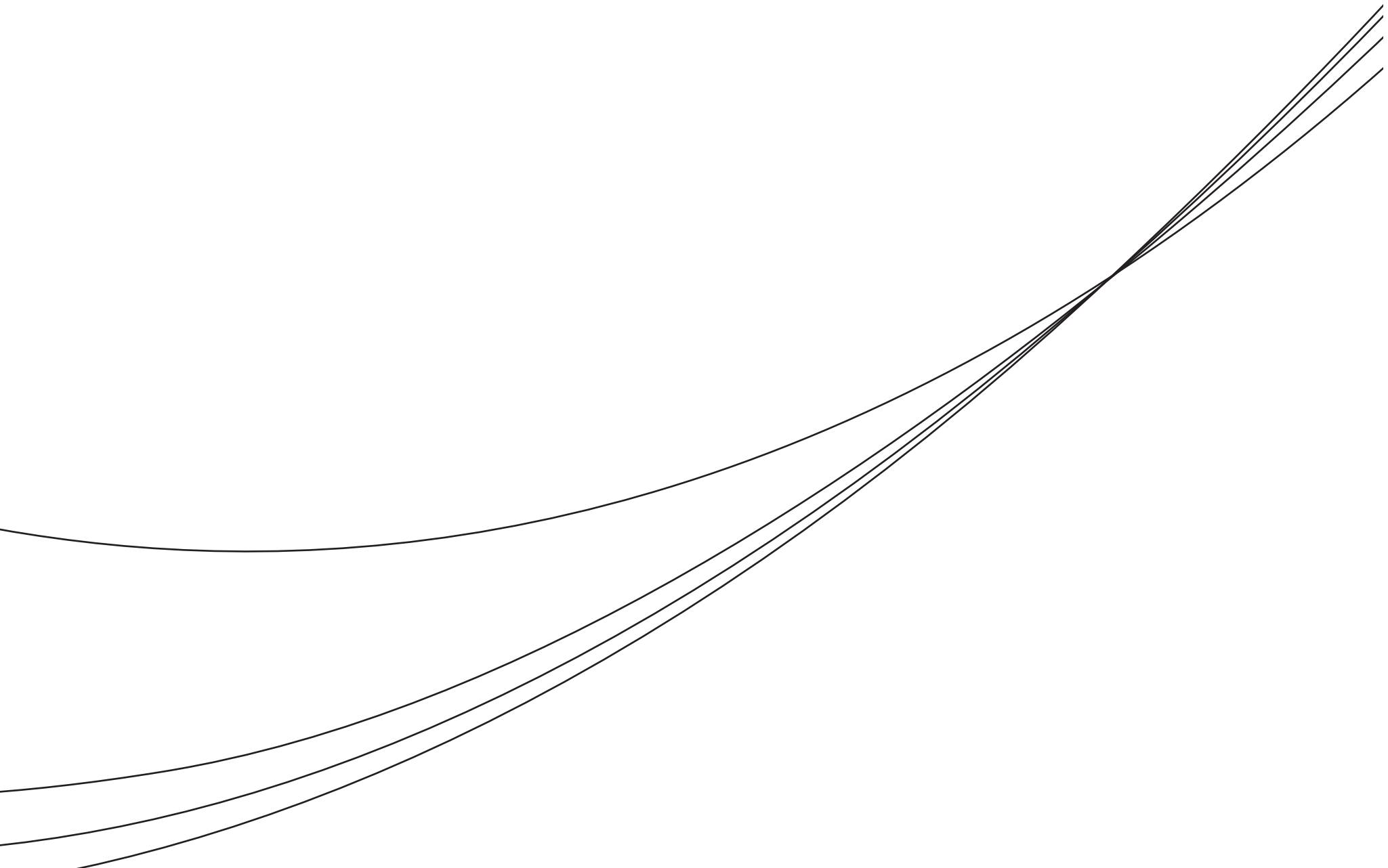
The Name in the Future

Two Names, One Sea

Korea wishes to continue to engage in open discussions with Japan on the naming of the sea. Korea neither insists on the single use of "East Sea" nor ignores the name "Sea of Japan", which is used by 130 million Japanese people. Korea simply seeks Japan's respect and acknowledgement of the name which has been used for 2,000 years of Korean history and is still being used by 75 million South and North Koreans.

The Korean government therefore calls upon the international community to use both names, "East Sea" and "Sea of Japan", until an agreement is reached on a

name acceptable to both parties through bilateral consultations. With a number of sensitive historical and political issues facing the two countries, concurrent use of both names may serve as a good starting point for Korea and Japan to create a win-win situation for the future.



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