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Vice Admiral Alexandros MARATOS
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International Hydrographic Bureau
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25 November 2011

Bilateral Meeting between the Republic of Korea and Japan 4 November 2011, Tokyo

Dear Chairman Vice-Admiral Alexandros MARATOS,

Further to our correspondence dated 11 November 2011, the Republic of Korea wishes to provide further information on the outcome of the ROK-Japan meeting as follows.

In response to S-23 WG Letters No.04/2011 and No.05/2011 which recommended that Korea and Japan seek to make progress with regard to the issue of the naming of the sea area between the Korean Peninsula and the Japanese Archipelago, the Republic of Korea (ROK) and Japan held Director-level bilateral consultations in Tokyo on 4 November 2011.

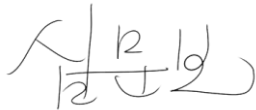
During the meeting, the ROK conveyed its firm position that “East Sea”, which is used both domestically and internationally, should be used concurrently with “Japan Sea.” This is in accordance with the IHO TR A4.2.6 and UNCSD Res. III/20. Previous editions of S-23, including the final draft of the 4th edition in 2002, also contain several cases of concurrent use of different names. Furthermore, concurrent appellation is the most simple and reasonable solution as it does not exclude one name at the expense of the other, and would effectively improve navigational safety in sea areas where both names are currently being used.

With regard to the “Way Forward” (as proposed in the S-23 WG Letter No.06/2010), the ROK made it clear that the proposal is not a feasible solution as it had already failed to win consensus in the S-23 Working Group, and that a fresh approach must be taken in order to move the issue forward. The lack of consensus on

the proposed “Way Forward” has also been repeatedly confirmed by several WG members as well as the S-23 Chair Group (S-23 WG Letter No.02/2011 and Annex C to S-23 WG Letter No.03/2011).

Although Japan remained adamant throughout the meeting, insisting upon the sole use of “Japan Sea”, the Republic of Korea remains committed to resolving this issue through close consultations among the countries directly concerned. The Republic of Korea appreciates the S-23 Chair Group’s patience and understanding on this issue and will keep you informed with regard to future developments.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Moon Bo SHIM'. The signature is stylized and cursive, with the first part resembling 'Moon' and the last part resembling 'SHIM'.

Moon Bo SHIM

Representative of the Republic of Korea to the S-23 WG