

IHO S-23 WORKING GROUP

Meeting of S-23 WG Chair Group with Japan 10 October 2011, IHB

1. In progressing the work of the S-23 WG in accordance with paragraph 4.1 of S-23 WG Letter No. 04/2011 dated 22 July 2011, approved by the members of the WG, the Chair and Secretary of the WG met at the Bureau on 10 October 2011 with a Japanese delegation led by Ambassador Kenji HIRAMATSU. The purpose of the meeting was to further review the issue of naming the sea area between the Korean Peninsula and the Japanese Archipelago and to try to identify possible ways forward.
2. A detailed discussion took place. The Japanese delegation stated that:

QUOTE

- The basic position of Japan on this issue, as stated in the letters H.O.D [02/11 dated 24 January](#), [08/11 dated 13 April](#), [09/11 dated 24 June](#) and [12/11 dated 8 August 2011](#), is that "Sea of Japan" (or "Japan Sea") is the only internationally established name for the sea area concerned. Japan, as a responsible member of the WG, could go along with the Chairman's proposal, as stated in [S-23WG Letter No.06/2010](#), if a consensus could be formed around it. It is, therefore, indeed regrettable that the issue has yet to be resolved to date.
- Japan reiterates its position, as given in the letter H.O.D [08/11 dated 13 April 2011](#), that IHO Resolution A 4.2 paragraph 6 (now Res. 1/1972) “applies only to situations where two or more countries share a given geographic feature such as, for example, a bay, strait, channel or archipelago, and that it is, therefore, obvious that the resolution is irrelevant in the case of the high seas such as Japan sea”.

UNQUOTE