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H.O.D 12/11
8 August, 2011

Vice Admiral Alexandros MARATOS
Chair of Working Group on the Revision S-23 (Limits of Oceans and Seas)
President
International Hydrographic Bureau
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MC 98011 MONACO CEDEX PRINCIPALITE DE MONACO

Reference: S-23 WG Letter No. 04/2011 dated 22 July 2011

Dear Vice Admiral Alexandros Maratos,

I thank you for the S-23 WG Letter No. 04/2011 in which the Chair Group proposed a couple of points on how to progress the work of the S-23 WG and requested comments from the WG members.

The basic position of Japan on this issue is that "Sea of Japan" (or "Japan Sea") is the only internationally established name for the sea area concerned, and this position remains unchanged. Japan, as a responsible member of the WG, however, had come a long way to say that it could go along with the Chairman's proposal in a spirit of compromise, if a consensus could be formed around it. It is, therefore, indeed regrettable that the WG could not reach a consensus on the Chairman's proposal in the S-23 WG Letter No. 06/2010 (hereinafter referred to as "Chairman's proposal"). Your personal engagement in this issue, I believe, was highly appreciated by all the WG members including Japan.

I welcome the initiative of the Chair Group as laid out in the S-23 WG Letter No. 04/2011 to try to make progress on this sensitive issue and hope that the Chair Group will inform the WG members on the next steps after considering the comments from the WG members.

I would like to reiterate that Japan will spare no effort in cooperating with the Chair Group and other WG members on this important issue.

I look forward to hearing further from you on specific ideas to take this issue forward.

Yours sincerely,

Hideo Nishida

Japan Representative to S-23WG

Cc: Ing.en chef Michel Huet, Secretariat of S-23WG