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Vice Admiral Alexandros MARATOS
Chairman of the S-23 WG

Dear sir,

The name "Sea of Japan" appeared as the old colonial remnant and was used unfairly and one-sidedly in the past years.

We think that it has full propriety to designate the "Sea of Japan" into original name "East Sea of Korea", in view of the histories of the neighboring states adjacent to the "East Sea", oceanographic and legal principles, geographical naming principles, and international geographical naming trends.

And it will become important opportunity for IHO to play enough role as the authoritative and fair international organization.

You will remember that the DPRK has already clarified the fair stand several times and offered many evidences to the IHO through a lot of opportunities.

It is becoming the international trends to build the healthy, cooperative and independent new world, without repetition of the past scandalous history that mankind experienced.

We think it is also an advance to overcome the repetition of the past scandalous history that the name "Sea of Japan" is designated into the "East Sea of Korea".

In March this year, we presented our stand related to the disputed naming problem to you, after we had studied the S-23 WG Letter 06/2010 "Way forwards to progress the S-23 WG".

We report our stand that we have already presented to you, once again.

① We clarify again that the stand of the DPRK will not be changed, which the legitimate geographical names and boundaries in current use should be described simultaneously and shown on the same page, if it is impossible to agree with a common name or boundary for a sea or an ocean.

② We do not agree with the continuous use of geographical names that have been designated in the 3rd Edition of S-23 without agreement between the concerned states.

It ignores the constructive proposals of the S-23 WG member states that the names which was not agreed would be used continuously.

As the guidance to support the unity of the navigational charts, the 4th Edition of S-23 should become the authoritative publication of IHO which all the states in the world recognize it.

③ For 2.4 (A way forward), we consider that the attentions should be paid to the followings which would be the most fair solution.

Based on the Australian proposal which several states supported , the geographical names in dispute (current names that several states are using legitimately) should be described simultaneously on the same page and the explanatory notes for it should be attached to the page as appendix.

Yours sincerely.

KIM Chang Sik 

Director of Hydrographic Department

DPRK