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Comments by the Republic of Korea on the Proposed Way Forward Regarding the Issue of the Naming of the Sea Area Between the Korean Peninsula and the Japanese Archipelago

With reference to the proposal contained in IHB letter N° S3/7020 dated 20 December 2010, the Republic of Korea wishes to make the following comments:

1. The proposal of using the name appearing in the 3rd edition of the S-23 for the sea area between the Korean Peninsula and the Japanese Archipelago does not properly reflect the overall view among Member States or the progress made so far in the IHO including the S-23 Working Group.

■ Only a single Member State has insisted on using the name appearing in the 3rd edition of the S-23 for the sea area in question without sufficient support from other Member States. Rather, there has been a general consensus that the 3rd edition of the S-23 published in 1953 is clearly outdated. It is on the basis of this general consensus that the publication of a new edition of the S-23 in the near future has been pursued.

- At the 2nd Meeting of the S-23 Working Group in Singapore in July 2010, Australia stated that the IHO should withdraw the 3rd edition of the S-23 which is out of date and remove the S-23 from the list of IHO publications if the Working Group fails to address pending issues and a new edition of the S-23 cannot be published soon.¹

¹ Paragraph 2 of page 3 of the Final Minutes of the 2nd Meeting of the S-23 Working Group

- The sea area in question was clearly identified as “an area of concern” in the course of making advances in the publication of a new edition of the S-23. The Terms of Reference of the Working Group also include a reference to “the work that has been done in the past years” such as the final draft of the 4th edition of the S-23 published in 2002 and the two-volume approach suggested by the Chair of the 17th International Hydrographic Conference in 2007. Proposing the use of the name appearing in the 3rd edition of the S-23 for the sea area in question is not an action that takes into account such progress made so far in the IHO, including the Working Group, but rather a step backward in the process of revising the S-23.

2. As indicated in its proposal, the Republic of Korea believes that the other legitimate name, “East Sea,” which is used both domestically and internationally, should be shown not in an Annex but on the same page on which the sea area in question appears.

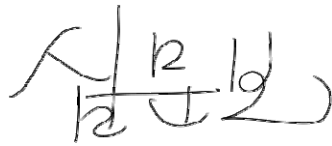
- A fundamental point in the proposal made by Australia, which is recognized as a basis for an acceptable solution for the naming of the sea area, is that an alternative name in use be shown in a new edition of the S-23. Showing an alternative name is a means to fulfill the function of the S-23 effectively as an international reference document with the aim of providing cartographers with information to promote navigational safety. Furthermore, at the 2nd Meeting of the S-23 Working Group in Singapore in July 2010, Australia emphasized that IHO Technical Resolution A.4.2, Paragraph 6 could offer a possible technical solution to certain issues.² The final draft of the 4th edition of the S-23 published in 2002 also stipulates that when two or more names are indicated for a feature pursuant to IHO Technical Resolution A.4.2, Paragraph 6, cartographers may decide which name or names to use.
- In terms of methodology, showing an alternative name on the same page is more readily comprehensible than showing it in an Annex. Indeed, this is mentioned in the comments by Oman on the proposals for resolving the naming of the sea area. Oman stated that “in terms of names, they are easy to use in the same page as this method has been used.”³
- The final draft of the 4th edition of the S-23 published in 2002 contains several cases of different names being shown on the same page: “English Channel (La Manche),” “Dover Strait (Pas de Calais),” and “Bay of Biscay (Golfe de Gascogne).” It provides that both names be used on charts in accordance with IHO Technical Resolution A.4.2, Paragraph 6. As such, concurrent use of different names is neither confusing nor a threat to navigational safety.

Thus, showing both names “East Sea” and “Sea of Japan” on the same page on which the sea area in question appears fulfills the function of the S-23 effectively and complies with IHO Technical Resolution A.4.2, Paragraph 6. This easy and readily

² Paragraph 5 of page 3 of the Final Minutes of the 2nd Meeting of the S-23 Working Group

³ Paragraph 3 of page 1 of the Comments by Oman on the Proposals dated 1 October 2010

comprehensible method not only helps to avoid confusion among S-23 users but also serves to enhance navigational safety in the sea area where the name “East Sea” is currently used at both domestic and international levels.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Moon Bo SHIM'. The signature is stylized and somewhat cursive, with a vertical line separating the first two characters from the last two.

Moon Bo SHIM
Representative of the Republic of Korea to the S-23 WG