

**E-mail from Dr Hans Werner SCHENKE, SCUFN Chair, to Cdr Norhizam HASSAN,
NHC, Malaysia**

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“I have now studied your proposals in detail and have discussed with our Secretary and Vice-Chair your name proposals. After remarks from our Secretary I carefully studied the specific terms proposed by you.

A problem was argued among us with respect to the specific terms. The names of the feature do not comply with the regulations given in the Publication B-6 Standardization of Undersea Feature Names.

Please consult the B-6, where you can find on Page A-3 of B-6:

*Reason for Choice of Name: this item must contain a detailed description as to the reason for having chosen the specific term, following the rules which appear in item II, sub-item A, page 2-2. Historical information regarding the origin of the chosen name should be provided. **Names should preferably be associated with a geographical feature.** When a **ship name** is proposed, it should preferably be the name of the discovering ship or the one that surveyed and verified the feature. In the case of a name proposed after a living person, that person should have made a recognized outstanding or fundamental contribution to ocean sciences; accordingly, his/her biography should be attached.*

Further and more specific information can be found on pages 2-2 and 2-3:

II. PRINCIPLES FOR NAMING FEATURES

Note: a specific term followed by a generic term make up a feature name.

A. Specific terms

1. Short and simple specific terms are preferable.

*2. The principal concern in naming is to provide effective, conveniently usable, and appropriate reference; commemoration of **persons** or **ships** is a **secondary** consideration.*

*3. The **first choice** of a specific term, where feasible, should be one **associated** with a **geographical feature**; e.g.: Aleutian Ridge, Mariana Trench, Barrow Canyon.*

*4. Other choices for specific terms can commemorate **ships** or other **vehicles, expeditions** or **scientific institutes** involved in the discovering and/or delineation of the feature, or to honour the memory of famous persons. Where a ship name is used, it should be that of the discovering ship, or if that has been previously used for a similar feature, it should be the name of the ship verifying the feature, e.g.: San Pablo Seamount, Atlantis II Seamounts.*

5. Names of living persons will normally not be accepted, in accordance with the recommendation in the UNCSGN Resolution VIII/2. In the rare cases where names of living persons are used (surnames are preferable), they will be limited to those who have made an outstanding or fundamental contribution to ocean sciences.

6. Groups of like features may be named collectively for specific categories of historical persons, mythical features, stars, constellations, fish, birds, animals, etc. Examples are as follows:

*Musicians Seamounts: Bach Seamount Brahms Seamount Schubert Seamount
Electricians Seamounts: Volta Seamount Ampere Seamount Galvani Seamount
etc. please B-6 pp- 2-3 and 2-3*

7. **Descriptive names** are acceptable, particularly when they refer to distinguishing characteristics (i.e. Hook Ridge, Horseshoe Seamount). However, this is only advised when a characteristic shape has been established by definitive topographic exploration.

8. Names of well-known or large features that are applied to other features should have the same spelling.

9. A specific term should not be translated from the language of the nation providing the accepted name.

These regulations mean in particular, that the choice of the specific term (the name) should be done very justified and meaningful.

Commemorating persons or ships is definitely the secondary choice. To honour the memory of famous persons means in the sense of B-6 that the person should have made internationally respected and regarded contributions (like scientists, artists, musicians, explorers, etc.). In most cases a marine scientist who has worked in that region is commemorated by naming features after him. You'll find many examples in the Gazetteer.

The expression "famous person" in B-6 relates to recognized and famous scientists, artists, explorers, researchers, musicians, who made important contributions to the international community, rather than in politics. I think there is no or only a very little number of features named after a politician or after a politically active person.

I am sorry that your work on the preparation of undersea feature name proposals, which is so highly appreciated, could not be finalized yet. So, I would like to ask you to re-consider the choice of the specific terms (names) and come back and submit your proposals based on the B-6 Standards using other specific terms. I am sorry for the inconveniences.

If you have any questions, let me know, I would be happy to assist. ...

Hans"