

**Twenty-ninth Session  
Bangkok, Thailand, 25 to 29 April 2016**

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**Item 16 of the provisional agenda**

**Activities relating to the Working Group on Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage**

## **International Seminar on Sea Names, 2014~2015**

**Submitted by Republic of Korea\***

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\* Prepared by Yeon-Taek Ryu, Young-Hoon Kim and Sungjae Choo (Republic of Korea)

## **International Seminar on Sea Names, 2014~2015<sup>†</sup>**

### **SUMMARY**

The 20th International Seminar on Sea Names was held in Gyeongju, Republic of Korea in October 2014. The 21st International Seminar on Sea Names was held in Helsinki, Finland in August 2015. At these two seminars, over eighty participants discussed issues of geographical naming, especially of maritime features, in paper presentations and panel discussions. Launched in 1995, this annual seminar is striving to broaden its scope to serve as a principal forum where principles and practices of naming maritime features are discussed, increasingly through the interdisciplinary lens of international studies. The total number of papers presented so far has reached 324, all of which can be downloaded at: <http://www.eastsea1994.org/seminars>.

The 20th and the 21st International Seminar on Sea Names took place in Gyeongju, Republic of Korea on 26-29 October 2014 and in Helsinki, Finland on 23-26 August 2015, respectively. In each seminar, over forty participants discussed issues of geographical naming, especially of maritime features, in the presentations of sixteen to eighteen research papers and panel discussions. Both seminars were co-organized by The Society for East Sea and the Northeast Asian History Foundation. All of the papers presented as well as key discussion points were subsequently compiled, edited and published as a series of books, titled “Sea, Sea Names and Peace in East Asia” and “Sea Names: Heritage, Perception and International Relations,” respectively.

Launched in 1995, the seminar was initially motivated to search for a resolution to the chronic disputes between the Republic of Korea and Japan concerning the name of the sea between the two states. It has since gradually broadened its scope to serve as a general forum for discussing principles and practices of naming geographical features, especially maritime features, as well as issues of international standardization and documentation of geographical names. Recently, the topic of discussion has expanded to include the fields of international law, politics, and relations.

The total number of papers presented from the 1st to 21st seminars has reached 324, all of which can be downloaded at: <http://www.eastsea1994.org/seminars>. The 22nd International Seminar on Sea Names is scheduled to be held in Jeju Island, Republic of Korea, in October 2016. Any experts interested in participating are welcome to contact Professor Young-Hoon Kim at: [gis@knue.ac.kr](mailto:gis@knue.ac.kr).

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<sup>†</sup> This working paper pertains to the UNCSCGN resolution I/7 (Regional meetings).

## **Papers presented at the 20th International Seminar on Sea Names, October 2014**

### **Keynote Speech**

- Jin-Hyun Kim (Republic of Korea)

### **SESSION I: Geographical Naming, Social Justice and Educational Value**

- Joseph Stoltman (U.S.A.), Geography education and geographical naming
- Corey Michael Johnson (U.S.A.), Politics in the landscape: Reading toponymy in political geography
- Yean Hong Choi (Republic of Korea), Korean-American power: Forces to Virginia legislation for the dual name of the sea between Japan and Korea – Sea of Japan and East Sea
- Brahim Atoui (Algeria), The toponymical changes in formerly colonized countries: The case of Algeria
- Discussants: Alexis Dudden (U.S.A.) and Young-Hoon Kim (Republic of Korea)

### **SESSION II: Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage**

- Isolde Hausner (Austria), The significance of geographical names as transmitter of the cultural heritage across time and space
- Michelle Metro-Roland (U.S.A.), Habits of interpretation: The semiotics of place names
- Young Choon Lee (Republic of Korea), The theories of no tide in the East Sea in pre-modern Korea: From metaphysics to science
- Discussants: Heuiha Son (Republic of Korea) and Soo Jin Park (Republic of Korea)

### **SESSION III: Historical and Linguistics Approach to Geographical Naming**

- Saangkyun Yi (Republic of Korea), Japan's imperial ambition and its production of the world map in the 19th century
- Jong-Chul Soh and In-whan Kim (Republic of Korea), Peregrination of the name Korea
- Shin Kim (Republic of Korea), Map of Korea and dual names
- Discussants: Sang-Tae Lee (Republic of Korea) and Béla Pokoly (Hungary)

### **SESSION IV: International Relations, Legislation, Organization and Geographical Naming**

- Alexis Dudden (U.S.A.), History matters: The East Sea/Sea of Japan naming issue through the lens of Japanese Empire
- Andrey Kovsh (Russia), Sea naming issues from the perspective of Korea-Japan relations and peace in East Asia
- Erik Franckx (Belgium) and Nohyoung Park (Republic of Korea), The naming of sea features: Legal aspects
- Discussants: Chang-Wee Lee (Republic of Korea) and Sang-Hyun Chi (Republic of Korea)

### **SESSION V: The Naming Issue: Perception and Solution**

- Béla Pokoly (Hungary), Sources for foreign names of Hungarian world atlases
- Jongnam Choi and Okkyong Yoon (Republic of Korea), American geography teachers' familiarity with and knowledge of *East Sea*
- Sungjae Choo (Republic of Korea), Achieving the impossible?: The status quo of the *East Sea/Sea of Japan* issue and possible way forward
- Discussants: Bo-Kyung Yang (Republic of Korea) and Yeon-Taek Ryu (Republic of Korea)

#### **SESSION VI: Panel Discussion**

- Discussants: Nohyoung Park (Republic of Korea, Moderator), Brahim Atoui (Algeria), Dennis Halpin (U.S.A.), Isolde Hausner (Austria), Joon Ho Jin (Republic of Korea), Young Won Kim (Republic of Korea), Jin-O Kwak (Republic of Korea), Myung-Ho Moon (Republic of Korea), Dae-won Suh (Republic of Korea), Paul Woodman (United Kingdom)

### **Papers presented at the 21st International Seminar on Sea Names, August 2015**

#### **Keynote Speech**

- Euy-sang Yoo (Republic of Korea)

#### **SESSION I: Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage with Specific Regard to Hydronyms**

- Isolde Hausner (Austria), The Alpine Convention: A framework treaty for 8 countries, its benefits and merits
- Young Choon Lee (Republic of Korea), The tradition of sacrificial rituals for the East Sea in Korea
- Urszula Bijak (Poland), Potamonyms of the Vistula river basin as a part of cultural heritage
- Discussant: Rainer Dormels (Austria)

#### **SESSION II: International Relations, Naming Disputes and Solutions**

- Peter Kang (Taiwan), From *East Sea / South China Sea* to *Southeast Asia Sea*? The geopolitics of marine toponym
- Peter Roell (Germany), Hot spot East and South China Sea and the importance of crisis management: A European perspective
- Chang-Wee Lee (Republic of Korea), Maritime boundary delimitation around the Korean Peninsula and its implication for naming issues
- Discussants: Erik Franckx (Belgium) and Won-deog Lee (Republic of Korea)

#### **SESSION III: Perception on Seas and their Naming: Origins, Motivation, Memory and Harmony**

- Sirkka Paikkala (Finland), Perceptions on sea names and marine region names in the vicinity of Finland
- Peder Gammeltoft (Denmark), Why is the North Sea west of us? On the naming of seas – perceived naming or chance survivals?
- Paul Woodman (United Kingdom), Maritime naming practice for shared and divided features: Common perceptions and harmonious coexistence
- Béla Pokoly (Hungary), Exonyms of Vietnam's Vinh Bac Bo (Gulf of Tonkin)
- Discussant: Terhi Ainiala (Finland)

#### **SESSION IV: Political Geography, Peace and Toponymy in Northern Europe**

- Joseph Stoltman (U.S.A.), The Baltic Region: Geopolitics, peace, and traditions of toponymy
- Ojārs Bušs (Latvia), Baltic Sea from the point of view of Latvians and Latvian language
- Tjeerd Tichelaar (The Netherlands), The pre-nationalist background of European sea naming: A historical survey
- Discussants: Sang-Hyun Chi (Republic of Korea) and Shin Kim (Republic of Korea)

**SESSION V: Way Forward to Resolving the *East Sea/Sea of Japan* issue**

- Yeon-Taek Ryu (Republic of Korea), International Hydrographic Organization and the *East Sea/Sea of Japan* issue
- Rainer Dormels (Austria), Some hypotheses regarding the *East Sea/Sea of Japan* issue: Based on examinations of sea names in maps of Central and Eastern European atlases
- Jino Kwak (Republic of Korea), The Korean perspective on The East Sea through old maps
- Sang-Tae Lee (Republic of Korea), Japan also had dual marks of the *East Sea* and *Sea of Japan*
- Jung-Chul Soh and In-whan Kim (Republic of Korea), An advocacy for the dual name of *East Sea/Sea of Japan*
- Discussants: Penny Anderson (U.S.A.) and Mary Lyne Everhart (U.S.A.)

**SESSION VI: Panel Discussion**

- Discussants: Sungjae Choo (Republic of Korea, Moderator), Penny Anderson (U.S.A.), Jaejeong Chung (Republic of Korea), Mary Lyne Everhart (U.S.A.), Peder Gammeltoft (Denmark), Young-Hoon Kim (Republic of Korea), Young Won Kim (Republic of Korea), Myung-Ho Moon (Republic of Korea), Tai Kyu Oh (Republic of Korea), Peeter Päll (Estonia), Nohyoung Park (Republic of Korea), Jani Vuolteenaho (Finland)