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THIRD UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE
STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

Athens, 17 August-7 September 1977

Item 14 of the provisional agenda.

Policies, procedures and co-operative
arrangements for the naming of features
beyond a single sovereignty:

(a) Features common to two or more
nations

ANTARCTIC GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

Paper presented by Japan

The naming of places in the Antarctic is carried out in Japan according to the following principle and procedure. Since 1957, the names of 188 places have been drafted, and on the basis of these drafts, the formal names were selected.

1. Procedure

In case where there is a need to prepare names for new places in the Antarctic for the preparation of Antarctic maps and its observation and survey, the director of the National Polar Research Institute, seeking counsel from the Antarctic Place-Names Committee of Japan established in the Institute, prepares drafts of the names. On the basis of these drafts, the formal names are decided at a general convention of the Headquarters of Japanese Antarctic Research Expedition.

2. Antarctic Place-Names Committee of Japan

Established in the National Polar Research Institute, the Antarctic Place-Names Committee of Japan are organized with membership of not more than 20 persons, including men of learning and experience associated with Antarctic observation or geographical names and staff officials of the administrative agencies related to Antarctic observation (Ministry of Education, Ministry of Construction, Ministry of Transport and Ministry of Foreign Affairs).

3. Subjects for Names

Excluding names which have already been selected by foreign countries and internationally announced or used, the topographical features and important points which are situated south of latitude 60° S. and which have been discovered and surveyed by participants in Japan's Antarctic observation are classified and named according to the following guideline:

(1) Class I Features

a. Area or Land; b. Coast; c. Sea; d. Up-land;
e. Large mountain range; f. Large sea trench, Peak, Plateau and Swell. g. Ice shelf h. Large glacier

(2) Class II Features

a. Peninsula; b. Mountain range (excluding large mountain range); c. Large or conspicuous mountain; d. Glacier (excluding large glacier); e. Conspicuous cape; f. Chain of islands; g. Large gulf or bay; h. Strait or Channel; i. Anchorage; j. Large sunken rock, Sandbank or Shallow.

(3) Class III Features

a. Small land or hill; b. Nunatak; c. Cliff;
d. Rock; e. Small seacoast features; f. Point or Cape;
g. Glacier (excluding larger or more conspicuous glaciers);
h. Bay; i. Cove; j. Berth; k. Small sunken rock on the seabed, sandbank or shallow; j. Camping area and supply storage area (artificial and not necessarily permanent); m. Parts of these features.

4. General Principles for Names

(1) Class I and III features shall not be named after persons.

(2) Class II features may be named after persons only in the following cases;

a. A person who has rendered extraordinary meritorious service for Japan's Antarctic observation and is to be commended.

b. Naming after the representative of the Japanese Antarctic Research Expedition and crew members, such as the Chief of the Japanese Antarctic Research Expedition, Chief of the Winter Expedition and Captain of the Observation Ship.

When a place is to be named after a person still living, there is a need to obtain prior approval from the person.

(3) As for names other than those given after persons, there are the following cases:

a. Name giving a specific description of a given feature.

b. Spontaneously given name on the basis of a topographical feature, impression, etc.

c. Name of ship or aircraft used at the time of a discovery.

d. Other names deemed appropriate.

(4) The following names which are internationally considered inappropriate shall be avoided:

a. Name proposed with consideration given to a family relationship or friendship.

b. Name of a person who has donated money, equipment or commodities and is likely to take advantage of the naming in making commercial profits.

c. Name of a product, sleigh dog, pet animal and others.

d. Reuse of a name in the Antarctic already well-known in other parts of the world. The use of such a name is undesirable, even if it is preceded by such an adjective as Sin (New), Minami (South) and Syō (small).

(5) The following names shall be avoided;

a. Name almost indistinguishable from an already existing name.

b. Names which are equivocal.

c. Use of the name of one and the same person twice for one and the same kind of feature.
