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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:
(b) Maritime features

NAMES OF OCEANS AND UNDERSEA FEATURES BEYOND
THE TERRITORIAL WATERS

Paper presented by Japan

Procedures for naming seas and undersea features beyond the territorial waters are as in the following:

1. As for the names of oceans and seas, they are indicated in accordance, in principle, with IHO Special Publication SP 23 "Limits of Oceans and Seas (1953)" published by the International Hydrographic Bureau, which was prepared based on international consensus.

2. As for the names of undersea features:

(1) Those adopted by the GEBCO Sub-Committee on Geographical Names of Ocean Bottom Features as a result of international co-operative work and approved by IAPO are being used unconditionally.

(2) As for other names, the Assembly on Geographical Names of Oceans studies those names as required for nautical and bathymetric charting and adopts names as standardized ones. The Assembly has adopted 46 such names since its Second Meeting.

(3) Objective.

To classify undersea features beyond the territorial waters into the following nomenclature categories, and to give them geographical names or to standardize names of such features.

(a) Primary features (major features)

- (a) Ridge.
- (b) Seamount chain.
- (c) Rise.
- (d) Plateau.
- (e) Fracture zone.
- (f) Trench.
- (g) Basin.

(b) Secondary features (minor features)

- (a) Seamount.
- (b) Bank.
- (c) Knoll.
- (d) Spur.
- (e) Canyon.
- (f) Deep.

- (g) Caldron.
- (h) Shelf channel.
- (i) Trough.
- (j) Deep sea channel.
- (k) Deep sea fan.

(4) General principles for geographical naming.

(a) Geographical names will be given to primary features (viz. features of a large scale).

(1) In the case of a long extending feature, the geographical names of the places located at both extremities of the feature will be quoted in the following manner:

- (i) When it extends in the north-southerly direction the name of the place in the north will be quoted first.
- (ii) When it extends in the east-westerly direction, the name of the place at the western end will be quoted first.

(2) It is desirable to give a ship's or person's name to the deepest or shallowest portion of a feature.

(b) Geographical names should preferably be given to secondary features (viz. features of a medium or small scale).

(c) Where there is no suitable geographical name to be quoted, a ship's or person's name may be given.

(d) In case where there are more than one feature of the same category of nomenclature, they will be distinguished by numbering.

(1) The order of numbering will be in accordance with the chronological order of discovery or survey.

(2) In case of giving a geographical name, the number will be prefixed.

(3) In case of giving a ship's name, the number will be suffixed.

(e) In case where a traditional name or some priority in naming exists, due regard shall be paid to it.