Eighth United Nations Conference on the
Standardization of Geographical Names
Berlin, 27 August-5 September 2002
Item 15 (b) of the provisional agenda*
Features beyond a single sovereignty: features common to two or more nations

Letter dated 19 July 2001 from the Director of the Hydrographic Department of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea to the President of the Directing Committee of the International Hydrographic Bureau

Submitted by the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea

* E/CONF.94/1.
THIS IS A RETYPED VERSION

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19 July 2001, Pyongyang

Dear Rear Admiral ANGRISANO,

I received the draft of Chapter 7 "Northern Pacific Ocean" in the IHO Publication: S-23: "Limits of Oceans and Seas" which you have sent by letter dated 8 June 2001.

First, I appreciate that you have understood our right and principled requirement for recalling the sea name and have cooperated actively up to dated after the 2nd EIHC.

This time, the name "Japan Sea" was used once again in the draft of Chapter 7 of IHO publication S-23: "Limits of Oceans and Seas".

As you know, the name "Japan Sea" is the result of Japanese colonial rule to Korea.

As the half a century has passed since Japan had been defeated and the Japanese colonial rule to Korea had been gone to end. It is reverse against the history and the times to misname the sea name into "Japan Sea" up to date again.

Therefore, we claim that the sea name in IHO publication S-23: "Limits of Oceans and Seas" should be called not "Japan Sea" but thoroughly "East Sea" or "Oriental Sea" like being called historically for a long time.

I would send a copy of this letter to the Secretariat of the :UN Conference on Standardization of Geographical names" to be held in Berlin, August.

I hope you would accept our suggestion justifiably and deal with it correctly.

Yours sincerely,

Vice Admiral Choe Jun Gil
Director of Hydrographic Department
DPR Korea