

**United Nations Group of Experts on
Geographical Names
2021 session
New York, 3 – 7 May 2021
Item 4(d) of the provisional agenda*
National and international meetings
and conferences**

International Seminar on Sea Names, 2019~2020

Submitted by Republic of Korea**

* GEGN.2/2021/1

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

International Seminar on Sea Names, 2019~2020¹

Summary

The International Seminar on Sea Names, which began in 1995, continued its annual meeting in 2019 and 2020. More than forty participants each year discussed the issues of geographical naming in paper presentations and panel discussions, with specific focus on maritime names. In continuation of the main topics of the past few years, the 25th Seminar in 2019 broadened its scope into education under the title *Educating for Diversity through Geographical Names*. The 26th Seminar in 2020, titled *Geographical Naming in the Digital Era*, took specific note of the changing environment of naming in the digital era. The papers and discussion points were published in a book each year. A total of 398 papers have been presented since the 1st Seminar.

The International Seminar on Sea Names continued its annual meeting in 2019 and 2020; in Alexandria, Virginia, U.S.A. (25th, July 2019) and Gangneung (26th, September 2020). More than forty participants each year discussed the issues of geographical naming in paper presentations and panel discussions, with specific focus on maritime names. As many as twenty-three papers were presented during this period. The 26th Seminar was held in a hybrid format combining online and offline participation. It was broadcast by live streaming. This annual seminar has been co-organized by The Society for East Sea and the Northeast Asian History Foundation. The 25th Seminar was held in conjunction with the Virginia Geographic Alliance, a teachers' group in Virginia and adjacent areas.

Each seminar was titled with a main theme and divided into a few issue-oriented sub-themes (Table 1). In continuation of the main topics of the past few years, the 25th Seminar in 2019 broadened its scope into education under the title *Educating for Diversity through Geographical Names*. The 26th Seminar in 2020, titled *Geographical Naming in the Digital Era*, took specific note of the changing environment of naming in the digital era. The results of each seminar, including revised papers and discussion points, were published in a book with the title of the main theme.

When launched in 1995, the initial motivation of the seminar was to seek a resolution to the disagreement on the naming of the sea between the Korean Peninsula and the Japanese Archipelago. It has meaningfully developed as an international forum to discuss the general issues on the international standardization of geographical names. A total of 398 papers have been presented so far. A digital copy of proceedings books is available upon request. More information is accessible at the seminar website: <http://www.eastsea1994.org/eng>.

The 27th International Seminar on Sea Names is scheduled to be held again in Gangneung, Korea, in October 2021. A hybrid format combining online and offline participation will be adopted with live streaming. Any experts interested in participating are welcome to contact Professor Young-Hoon Kim at: gjs@knue.ac.kr.

¹ This working paper pertains to the UNCISG resolutions I/7 (Regional meetings).

Table 1. Main themes and sub-themes of the International Seminar on Sea Names, 2019~2020

Year	Venue	Main Theme	Sub-themes
2019 (25 th)	Virginia, U.S.A.	Educating for Diversity through Geographical Names	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Philosophy of education, diversity and geographical naming • Geographical naming as an educational objective • The 2014 Virginia legislation: a reflection, progress and influences • The East Sea/Sea of Japan issue: status quo and benefits to resolve the problem
2020 (26 th)	Gangneung, Korea	Dual Naming: Feasibility and Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of digital technology and geographical naming • Geographical naming in the digital era: various perspectives • Solution of the East Sea/Sea of Japan dispute in the digital era

References

The Society for East Sea, ed., 2019, *Educating for Diversity through Geographical*: Proceedings of the 25th International Seminar on Sea Names, Virginia, U.S.A., 28-31 July 2019. Seoul: Seojeon Printech (ISBN 979-11-951305-9-7).

The Society for East Sea, ed., 2020, *Geographical Naming in the Digital Era*: Proceedings of the 26th International Seminar on Sea Names, Gangneung, Korea, 17-19 September 2020. Seoul: Seojeon Printech (ISBN 979-11-951305-5-9).