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Geographical Names**

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**National and international meetings, conferences
(Information paper)**

International Seminar on Sea Names, 2017-2018

Submitted by the Republic of Korea**

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Summary:

The International Seminar on Sea Names, which began in 1995, continued its annual meeting in 2017 and 2018. 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 23rd Seminar in 2017 broadened its scope into universal human values under the title *Achieving Peace and Justice through Geographical Naming*. The 24th Seminar in 2018, titled *Dual Naming: Feasibility and Benefits*, covered the issue of dual naming as a practical measure to solve the naming disputes. The papers and discussion points were published in a book each year. A total of 375 papers have been presented since the 1st Seminar.

International Seminar on Sea Names, 2017-2018¹

The International Seminar on Sea Names continued its annual meeting in 2017 and 2018; in Berlin (23rd, October 2017) and Gangneung (24th, August 2019). 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 thirty-two papers were presented during this period. This annual seminar has been co-organized by The Society for East Sea and the Northeast Asian History Foundation. The 23rd Seminar was held in conjunction with the Geographisches Institut, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin.

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 23rd Seminar in 2017 broadened its scope into universal human values under the title *Achieving Peace and Justice through Geographical Naming*. The 24th Seminar in 2018, titled *Dual Naming: Feasibility and Benefits*, dealt with the topic of dual naming as a practical measure to address naming issues. 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 for a resolution to the ongoing lack of agreement on a common name for the sea between the Korean Peninsula and the Japanese Archipelago. It has, however, now developed as an international forum to discuss the general issues on the international standardization of geographical names. A total of 375 papers have been presented so far. More information is available at the seminar website: <http://www.eastsea1994.org/eng>.

The 25th International Seminar on Sea Names is scheduled to be held in Alexandria, Virginia, U.S.A. in July 2019. Any experts interested in participating are welcome to contact Professor Young-Hoon Kim at: gis@knue.ac.kr.

¹ This working paper pertains to the UNCSGN resolution I/7 (Regional meetings).

Table 1. Main themes and sub-themes of the International Seminar on Sea Names, 2017~2018

Year	Venue	Main Theme	Sub-theme
2017 (23 rd)	Berlin, Germany	Achieving Peace and Justice through Geographical Naming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peace, justice, cooperation, and geographical naming • Geographical names as indicators of cultural heritage and history • Historical traces remaining in names • Geographical naming as a process of materializing ideas, powers, and politics • Way forward to the naming issue between Korea and Japan
2018 (24 th)	Gangneung, Korea	Dual Naming: Feasibility and Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The nature of dual naming • Dual naming in the cultural and historical contexts • Dual naming in education • Dual naming and international relations • Dual naming in practice

References

The Society for East Sea, ed., 2017, *Achieving Peace and Justice through Geographical Naming: Proceedings of the 23rd International Seminar on Sea Names, Berlin, Germany, 22-25 October 2017*. Seoul: Seojeon Printech (ISBN 979-11-951305-6-6).

The Society for East Sea, ed., 2018, *Dual Naming: Feasibility and Benefits: Proceedings of the 24th International Seminar on Sea Names, Gangneung, Korea, 26-29 August 2018*. Seoul: Seojeon Printech (ISBN 979-11-951305-8-0).