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Item 4(d) of the provisional agenda*

National and international meetings and conferences

International Seminar on Sea Names, 2021–2022

Submitted by Republic of Korea**

Summary

The International Seminar on Sea Names, which began in 1995, continued in 2021 and 2022. More than 40 participants in gatherings of a few days each year discussed the issues of geographical naming in paper presentations and panel discussions, with a specific focus on maritime names. In continuation of the main topics of the recent years, the 27th Seminar in 2021 broadened its scope to cover the dynamic environment of naming in the digital era under the title “Geographic Naming in the Digital Era – Season Two.” The 28th Seminar in 2022, titled “A New Horizon Toward the Resolution of Disputed Names,” was aimed at looking ahead to a new horizon for resolving disputed geographical names. The papers and discussion points were published in a book each year. A total of 417 papers have been presented since the 1st Seminar.

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International Seminar on Sea Names, 2021–2022¹

The International Seminar on Sea Names continued in 2021 (Gangneung, Korea; 27 October 2021) and 2022 (Pohang, Korea; 28 September 2022). More than 40 participants in each year discussed the issues of geographical naming in paper presentations and panel discussions, with a specific focus on maritime names. As many as 16 papers were presented during this period. While the 27th Seminar was held in a hybrid format, combining online and offline participation with broadcasting by live streaming, the 28th Seminar adopted an offline format with in-person participants. This annual seminar was co-organized by the Society for East Sea and the Northeast Asian History Foundation.

Each seminar was titled with a main theme and divided into issue-oriented sub-themes (Table 1). In continuation of the main topics of recent years, the 27th Seminar in 2021 broadened its scope to cover the dynamic environment of naming in the digital era under the title *Geographical Naming in the Digital Era – Season Two*. The 28th Seminar in 2022, titled *A New Horizon Toward the Resolution of Disputed Names*, was aimed at looking ahead to a new horizon for resolving disputed geographical names. 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 into an international forum to discuss general issues on the international standardization of geographical names. To date, a total of 417 papers have been presented. A digital copy of the documents submitted is available upon request. More information is accessible at the seminar website: <http://www.eastsea1994.org/eng>.

The 29th International Seminar on Sea Names is scheduled to be held in the East Asia region in October 2023. An offline format and in-person participation will be adopted. 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 United Nations Committee on Geographical Names (UNCSGN) resolutions I/7 (Regional meetings).

Table 1. Main themes and sub-themes of the International Seminar on Sea Names, 2021~2022

Year	Venue	Main Theme	Sub-themes
2021 (27 th)	Gangneung, Korea	Geographical Naming in the Digital Era – Season Two	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Various aspects of digital technology and geographical naming • Geographical naming in the digital era: various perspectives • Resolving the East Sea/Sea of Japan dispute in the digital era
2022 (28 th)	Pohang, Korea	A New Horizon Toward the Resolution of Disputed Names	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New dimensions facing naming disputes • Various perspectives on the new dimensions • New dimensions with specific focus on the East Sea/Sea of Japan dispute • The East Sea and Koreans' life

References

The Society for East Sea, ed., 2021, *Geographical Naming in the Digital Era II: Proceedings of the 27th International Seminar on Sea Names*, Gangneung, Korea, 14-16 October 2021. Seoul: Seojeon Printech (ISBN 979-11-951305-7-3).

The Society for East Sea, ed., 2022, *A New Horizon Toward the Resolution of Disputed Names: Proceedings of the 28th International Seminar on Sea Names*, Pohang, Korea, 22-24 September 2022. Seoul: Seojeon Printech (ISBN 979-11-981893-0-1).