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Geographical Names**

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Item 4 (d) of the provisional agenda*

Reports: National and international meetings and conferences

International seminar on sea names, 2023–2024

Submitted by the Republic of Korea**

Summary

The International Seminar on Sea Names, which commenced in 1995, continued its proceedings in 2023 and 2024. Each year, over 40 participants engaged in discussions on geographical naming through paper presentations and panel discussions, with a particular emphasis on maritime names. Both seminars aimed to expand discourse on sea naming issues, including disputes over geographical names, and their implications in a changing digital landscape. It also sought to broaden their focus to encompass issues such as the sustainability of geographical naming, universal values of peace and tolerance, cultural heritage, inclusion, digital development, and other toponymic concerns. The 29th Seminar in 2023, held in the University of Indonesia, successfully involved academic groups from Indonesia as co-organizers and participants, alongside experts from other Southeast Asian countries. The 30th anniversary of the International Seminar on Sea Names was celebrated at the 2024 seminar in Busan, a southeastern coastal city in Korea. It reflected on the achievements of the 30-year dialogue on sea naming issues and explored pathways for future progress. Since the inaugural seminar, a total of 435 papers have been presented.

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** Prepared by Young-Hoon Kim, Jihwan Yoon and Sungjae Choo (Republic of Korea).

International Seminar on Sea Names, 2023–2024¹

The International Seminar on Sea Names continued its proceedings in 2023 (Depok, Indonesia; 18-21 October 2023) and 2024 (Busan, Korea; 25-28 September 2024). Each year, over 40 participants engaged in discussions on geographical naming through paper presentations and panel discussions, with a particular emphasis on maritime names. During these periods, 32 papers were presented. This annual seminar was co-organized by the Society for East Sea and the Northeast Asian History Foundation.

Both seminars aimed to expand discourse on sea naming issues, including disputes over geographical names, and their implications in a changing digital landscape. It also sought to broaden their focus to encompass issues such as the sustainability of geographical naming, universal values of peace and tolerance, cultural heritage, inclusion, digital development, and other toponymic concerns. Each seminar was held under a main theme and issue-specific sub-themes (Table 1).

The 29th Seminar in 2023, hosted by the University of Indonesia, successfully involved academic groups from Indonesia as co-organizers and participants, alongside experts from other Southeast Asian countries. Notably, this seminar aimed to provide comparative perspectives on sea names in East Asia and Southeast Asia. Toponymic issues in Indonesia were thoroughly introduced and elaborated upon in a special session on the cultural values of geographical naming, featuring participation by experts from the University of Indonesia and Badan Informasi Geospasial. This marked the first congregation for the seminar following recovery from the global coronavirus pandemic.

The 30th anniversary of the International Seminar on Sea Names was celebrated at the 2024 seminar in Busan, a southeastern coastal city in Korea. It reflected on the achievements of the 30-year dialogue on sea naming issues and explored pathways for future progress. The seminar confirmed that the dialogue had evolved from historical discussions on concerned names to generalized discussions on disputed names, along with discourses and methods of resolution based on cases and contexts. The tentative conclusion to date is that recognizing and using multiple names with their respective identities is a means to realize social justice and ultimately achieve peace.

Since the inaugural seminar, a total of 435 papers have been presented, followed by a series of discussions. Digital copies of the submitted documents are available on the seminar website: <http://www.eastsea1994.org/eng>.

The 31st International Seminar on Sea Names is scheduled to take place in the second half of 2025. Further information will be announced on the seminar website. 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, 2023-2024

Year	Venue	Themes
2023 (29 th)	Depok, Indonesia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Geographical Naming at the Border Region for Peace and Tolerance: Asian Perspectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Geographical naming issues in Asia: A comparative perspective ➤ Resolving naming disputes ➤ Cultural values of geographical naming ➤ New dimensions of sustainable geographical naming ➤ Looking ahead: What should be done further? (Panel Discussion)
2024 (30 th)	Busan, Korea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Geographical Naming Toward the Future: Achievements and Challenges During 30 Years of the Seminar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ New dimensions facing naming disputes ➤ Various perspectives on disputed names ➤ New dimensions of the East Sea Naming Issues ➤ The East Sea and Koreans' life

References

The Society for East Sea, ed., 2023, *Sustainable Geographical Naming at the Border Region for Peace and Tolerance: Asian Perspectives*. Proceedings of the 29th International Seminar on Sea Names, Universitas Indonesia, Indonesia, 18-21 October 2023. Seoul: Sejeon Printech (ISBN 979-11-981893-1-8).

The Society for East Sea, ed., 2024, *Sustainable Geographical Naming Toward the Future: Achievements and Challenges During the 30 Years of the Seminar*. Proceedings of the 30th International Seminar on Sea Names, Busan, Korea, 25-28 September 2024. Seoul: Sejeon Printech (ISBN 979-11-981893-2-5).