

Japan has been actively supporting the work of UNGEGN and supports its aim to promote discussion on the standardization of geographical names through technical contribution. It is needless to say that UNGEGN is a forum for technical discussions and not for political issues.

In this sense, Japan considers it inappropriate that the presentation based on the report GEGN.2/2025/85/CRP/85, made by the Russian delegation at the 2025 session of UNGEGN, during National Dialogue, item 4 (b), contains politically controversial references, including a reference to the "Knorozov Rock" as an example of Russia's efforts to assign names of historical figures to unnamed geographical objects.

To the best of Japan's knowledge, Russia apparently identifies a rock located in Etorofu Island as the "Knorozov Rock, as if it was a part of Russia's territory. However, the fact is that Etorofu Island as well as Kunashiri Island, Shikotan Island and Habomai Islands is an inherent part of the territory of Japan and has been illegally occupied by Russia. Japan and Russia have been holding negotiations to resolve this territorial issue.

Against this backdrop, even though Japan has no intention to bring this bilateral territorial issue to any international arena, it has to rebut the above-mentioned presentation made by the Russian delegation, which would impair Japan's position on the said territorial issue. It is quite regrettable that the Russian delegation made a presentation with politically controversial references at a meeting of technical nature like UNGEGN.

Japan would like to request the Russian Federation to respect the technical nature of UNGEGN and refrain from presentations of the same kind in the current and future sessions of UNGEGN.