



*Embassy of Japan in Israel*  
*Ambassador's Newsletter #4, August 2012*

August 27, 2012

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I am pleased to send you my fourth Ambassador's Newsletter. In this edition, you will find information regarding Japan's position on the sovereignty issue over Takeshima.

Sincerely yours,

Hideo Sato  
Ambassador of Japan

---

**Public Information & Cultural Section**

The Museum Tower 19<sup>th</sup> floor, 4 Berkowitz St., Tel Aviv  
Tel. 03-6957292 Fax. 03-6960380 e-mail: [info@tl.mofa.go.jp](mailto:info@tl.mofa.go.jp)

## Japan's Position on Takeshima Issue

### [Japan's Position]

1. On August 10, President Lee of the Republic of Korea (ROK) illegally set foot on Takeshima. While there exists a territorial dispute over Takeshima between Japan and the ROK, Takeshima is an integral and inherent part of Japanese territory in light of the historical facts and based upon international law. The position of Japan is that we should settle the territorial dispute in a calm, fair and peaceful way based on international law.
2. Japan's position being as above, on August 21, Japan officially presented the ROK with a diplomatic proposal to institute proceedings before the International Court of Justice (ICJ) by a special agreement between the two countries, and requested conciliation based on the "Exchange of Notes constituting an agreement between the two countries concerning the settlement of disputes." This proposal reiterates Japan's stance to settle the dispute over the sovereignty of Takeshima in a calm, fair and peaceful way based on international law.
3. Japan's sincere efforts have not been reciprocally met with faithful responses from the ROK. In 1954 and 1962, Japan proposed to the ROK that the dispute over the sovereignty of Takeshima be referred to the ICJ, which the ROK refused to accept. On August 17 this year, Prime Minister Noda sent a letter to President Lee on the issue of Takeshima. The ROK side refused to even receive the letter, saying that it contained the word "Takeshima." This, in our view, is an inconceivable act which far deviates from usual diplomatic custom. If the ROK believes that the letter contains arguments unacceptable to the ROK, it should fairly reply to the letter to clarify its own positions. Rejecting a letter dispatched at the summit level only because it referred to the word "Takeshima," and refusing the referral of the case to the ICJ only illustrate how little confidence the ROK has in its claim over the sovereignty of Takeshima.
4. The ROK is an important member of the global community, and supports the rule of law of the international society through its activities in the United Nations and other international organizations. As the country has also been claiming itself to be "Global Korea," Japan believes that the ROK should fairly and unequivocally

---

#### Public Information & Cultural Section

The Museum Tower 19<sup>th</sup> floor, 4 Berkowitz St., Tel Aviv  
Tel. 03-6957292 Fax. 03-6960380 e-mail: info@tl.mofa.go.jp

accept Japan's proposal, if it truly believes in its claim to the islands. The best way to deal with an international dispute is, in light of "law and justice" of the international community, to present the case before the ICJ and bring it to a conclusion. The Government of Japan will continue to appeal to the ROK that it stands to reason that we should settle this dispute based on international law.

5. Despite Japan's recent efforts in establishing a forward-looking relationship with the ROK at a variety of levels, President Lee illegally set foot on Takeshima on August 10, which clearly marred our mutual ties. Japan hopes that the ROK will sincerely respond to Japan's good faith.
6. President Lee's action has once again placed the spotlight on the sovereignty issue over the islands. However, the islands are clearly an integral and inherent part of Japan's territory under international law, and Japan's claim is fully supported by the following historical facts.

#### **[Historical Facts]**

7. Multiple historical documents confirm that Japan established its sovereignty over Takeshima at least by the mid 17th century. On the other hand, there is no evidence that Korea had control over Takeshima before the establishment of Japan's territorial sovereignty.
8. In January 1905, our government made a Cabinet decision to incorporate Takeshima into Shimane Prefecture. Later, upon the drafting of the San Francisco Peace Treaty with Japan, the ROK submitted to the US a request to include Takeshima among the territories Japan should renounce. The US declined this request, thereby expressing its position that Takeshima is an integral territory of Japan. This position is further verified by the fact that Takeshima was later designated as a bombing range for US Forces in Japan in 1952 by a bilateral agreement under the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty.
9. In light of the historical facts and based upon international law, Takeshima is an integral and inherent part of Japanese territory. However, in 1952, the ROK unilaterally proclaimed an artificial boundary encompassing Takeshima (which it called the "Syngman Rhee Line") in clear contravention of international law. Since then until 1965, when the "Syngman Rhee Line" was abolished as a result of

---

#### **Public Information & Cultural Section**

The Museum Tower 19<sup>th</sup> floor, 4 Berkowitz St., Tel Aviv  
Tel. 03-6957292 Fax. 03-6960380 e-mail: info@tl.mofa.go.jp

conclusion of the Japan-ROK Fisheries Agreement, a number of Japanese fishing vessels and people were seized or interned by the ROK authorities, causing many casualties. The ROK continues to occupy Takeshima illegally still today.

10. The ROK claims that Usan Island, which is described in old Korean texts such as “Sinjeung Dong Yeoji Seungnam (A Revised Edition of the Augmented Survey of the Geography of Korea: 1531),” is Takeshima of today. However, in the map of “Sinjeung Dong Yeoji Seungnam (A Revised Edition of the Augmented Survey of the Geography of Korea)” <Attachment>, Usan Island is located **west of** Utsuryo Island. But, actually Takeshima is located **east of** Utsuryo Island. This clearly shows that Usan Island is not Takeshima of today.

\* For more details regarding facts and Japan’s position, please refer to the following web site: <http://www.mofa.go.jp/region/asia-paci/takeshima/>

-End-