

TAKESHIMA (an island disputed between Japan and Korea) Fact Sheet

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Embassy of Japan in Pakistan

1. Japan's Position on the Sovereignty of Takeshima

- (1) Takeshima is an integral and inherent part of Japanese territory based on historical facts and international law. A territorial dispute exists over Takeshima with the Republic of Korea (ROK), and recently President of the ROK, Lee Myung Bak landed on the island unprecedentedly, which has inflamed the situation and tarnished our mutual ties. The position of Japan is that the two countries should settle the territorial dispute in a calm, fair, and peaceful manner based on international law.
- (2) On August 21, Japan, therefore, officially presented the ROK with a diplomatic proposal to institute proceedings on this issue before the International Court of Justice (ICJ). Japan was hoping that the ROK would accept the proposal and state its assertions fairly and unequivocally at the ICJ. This was because the ROK would be a responsible member of the international community, who adhere to the principle of the rule of law; in fact, the ROK has been positioning itself as "Global Korea." However, the ROK declared that it did **not** accept the proposal via a note verbal on August 30.
- (3) The ROK is an important neighboring partner that shares common values with Japan. In fact, Japan has made efforts in sustaining a forward-looking relationship with the ROK at a variety of levels. For our friendship, Japan suggests that the best way to deal with such an international dispute is, in light of "law and justice" of the international community, to argue before the ICJ.

2. Facts about the Rightful claim of Japan/ Questionable claim of ROK

- (1) Multiple historical documents confirm that Japan established its sovereignty over Takeshima. For example, on many maps, including "Kaisei Nippon Yochi Rotei Zenzu (Revised Complete Map of Japanese Lands and Roads: first published in 1779)," which is the most prominent published cartographic projection of Japan, the location of Takeshima is accurately recorded at its current position. In January 1905, the Japanese government made a Cabinet decision to incorporate Takeshima into Shimane Prefecture, reaffirming our sovereignty over the island. Furthermore, during the drafting of the San Francisco Peace Treaty just after World War II, the ROK's request to include Takeshima among the territories Japan should renounce was declined by the US expressing its position that Takeshima is an integral territory of Japan.
- (2) On the other hand, there is no clear cut evidence that the ROK identified the existence of the island before the establishment of Japan's territorial sovereignty. For example, the ROK has claimed that "Usan Island" is Takeshima of today, referring to a 16th century document "Sinjeung Dong Yeoji

Seunghnam (A Revised Edition of the Augmented Survey of the Geography of Korea: 1531).”

However, the claimed island locates in a different geographical position to Takeshima of today. In the map, “Usan Island” is located **west** of Utsuryo Island. But, Takeshima is actually located **east** of Utsuryo Island. This clearly shows that Usan Island is **not** the present Takeshima.(Please see the map at the bottom of the sheet)

- (3) However, in 1952, the ROK disregarded international law and unilaterally proclaimed an artificial boundary encompassing Takeshima (which it called the “Syngman Rhee Line”). Since then, Takeshima has been illegally occupied by the ROK. The Takeshima issue is the question of whether the unilateral occupation by the ROK is consistent with the law and justice of the international community.
 - (4) Japan, therefore, had twice, in 1954 and 1962, proposed to the ROK to bring the case to the ICJ. The ROK rejected those proposals. Also, this time Japanese Prime Minister Noda's suggestion was not even accepted by the Korean President Lee. This clearly shows that the ROK does not have confidence in the sovereignty over Takeshima.
3. (For more details regarding facts and Japan's position, please refer to the following website: <http://www.mofa.go.jp/region/asia-paci/takeshima/>)

***Takeshima**





- Takeshima is a group of islands that is situated on the Sea of Japan at a latitude of $37^{\circ} 14'N$ and a longitude of $131^{\circ} 52'E$, 157 kilometers northwest of Oki Island, Shimane Prefecture. Takeshima is part of Okinoshima (Oki Islands) Town of Shimane Prefecture.
- The combined area of the two main islands, the East Island (Onnajima) and the West Island (Otokojima), and numerous small reefs is 0.21 square kilometers.
- Both are precipitous volcanic islands, and cliffs abut the coastline on all sides. The islands have scarce vegetation and drinking water resources.

