# Japan's Position that Respects Law and Order in the International Community

The Northern Territories and Takeshima are parts of Japan's territory. However, in reality, Japan is not able to exercise a part of its jurisdiction therein.

The Senkaku Islands are part of Japan's territory. The Senkaku Islands are under the valid control of Japan and there exists no issue of territorial sovereignty to be resolved concerning the Senkaku Islands. However, the situations in the maritime areas surrounding the islands have become complex.

Amid the Russia's aggression against Ukraine, which is shaking the very foundations of the current international order, Japan is determined to uphold and reinforce the free and open international order based on the rule

of law by taking action based on rules, such as peaceful resolution of disputes, and encouraging other countries to do the same.

Japan has responded to various situations pertaining to its territory and sovereignty in an appropriate manner and in line with the nature of each situation, based on a policy of acting calmly and firmly to protect Japan's territory as well as territorial sea and airspace, while respecting law and order in the international community.

### The Northern Territories

### Nature of the Situation

#### Territorial issue exists.

### Background to date

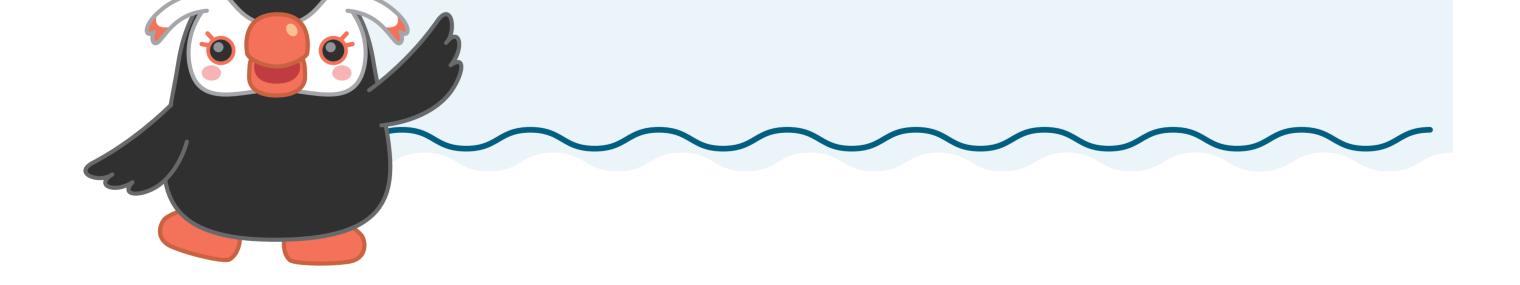
Almost 70 years have passed since the resumption of diplomatic relations through the conclusion of the Japan-Soviet Union Joint Declaration in 1956. The Japanese Government persistently engaged in negotiations with the Soviet Union and Russia, consistently upholding its basic policy of establishing stable relations based on genuine mutual understanding with its important neighbor, the Soviet Union and Russia, by concluding a peace treaty through the resolution of the greatest issue of concern between Japan and Russia, namely the Northern Territories issue.

However, the Government of Russia, using the measures taken by Japan in relation to Russia's aggression against Ukraine as an excuse, announced measures such as discontinuing negotiations on a peace treaty, suspending the Four-Island Exchange Program and free visits, and withdrawing from the dialogue on joint economic activities on the Four Northern Islands.

### Japan's response

Although Japan-Russia relations are in a difficult situation due to Russia's aggression against Ukraine, the Japanese Government will firmly maintain its policy of concluding a peace treaty through the resolution of the territorial issue.

The territorial issue with Russia has not been resolved since the end of WWII.



### Takeshima

#### Territorial issue exists.

Takeshima is an inherent territory of Japan. As seen in the drafting history of the San Francisco Peace Treaty, it is clear that Japan retains Takeshima under the treaty. However, from 1953 to 1954, the Republic of Korea (ROK) illegally occupied Takeshima by physical force, including firing on Japan's patrol vessels.

Japan and the ROK expressed their respective claims to each other via diplomatic notes in the 1950s and 1960s. Takeshima has remained illegally occupied by the ROK up until the present

With no bilateral solution forthcoming, Japan proposed to the ROK to refer the case to the International Court of Justice in 1954, 1962 and 2012.

The ROK has continually rejected these proposals.

Any measures or actions the ROK takes regarding Takeshima based on illegal occupation have no legal justification under international law. The Japanese Government will respond firmly with the determination to resolutely defend Japan's territory as well as territorial sea and airspace.

So, the ROK has rejected referring the case to the ICJ. Japan is trying to resolve the issue in accordance with international law, but the ROK is deliberately ignoring it?



### The Senkaku Islands

## There exists no issue of territorial sovereignty to be resolved.

Although the Chinese Government did not contest Japan's sovereignty over the Senkaku Islands for approximately 75 years, in December 1971, it suddenly began claiming that China has historically held the Senkaku Islands since the Ming Dynasty.

China's claims are based on its own interpretation of the relevant facts and laws and are not supported by any grounds based on international law.

China Coast Guard vessels have repeatedly intruded into Japan's territorial seas around the Senkaku Islands. The frequency of the intrusions has sharply risen since 2012. China is maintaining and strengthening its unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force.

In response to attempts to unilaterally change the status quo by force, the Japanese Government has responded firmly and calmly based on its policy of resolutely protecting Japan's land, sea, and airspace. At the same time, the Government has urged China to act with respect for the law and order of the international community and has explained the situation to the rest of the international community to gain understanding.

For about 75 years, China did not raise any objections about the Senkaku Islands being Japanese territory, but then suddenly claimed that they had been its territory for hundreds of years!

