

# Google urged to drop China name for disputed isles

October 14 2010



Map showing the disputed islands in the East China Sea known as Senkaku in Japanese and Diaoyu in Chinese. Japan said on Thursday that Internet giant Google should drop from its map service the Chinese name for a disputed island chain at the centre of a bitter feud between Tokyo and Beijing.

Japan said on Thursday that Internet giant Google should drop from its map service the Chinese name for a disputed island chain at the centre of a bitter feud between Tokyo and Beijing.

Google Maps shows both the Japanese and Chinese names of the group of uninhabited islands in the East [China](#) Sea that lie near possible energy deposits and are claimed by Japan, China and Taiwan.

"I want to make a representation from the foreign ministry to Google," Foreign Minister Seiji Maehara told parliament after the conservative

opposition complained to the company.

Itsunori Onodera, the Liberal Democratic Party's shadow foreign minister, visited the Japan head office of Google on Wednesday with a letter of protest and demanding the company drop the Chinese name.

Maehara said "the Senkaku (islands) are Japanese territory and there is no territorial dispute in the East China Sea," using the Japanese name for the islands which China refers to as Diaoyu.

"I think what lawmaker Onodera did was a totally reasonable, fair action. The government would like to take coordinated action if necessary," he said.

Japan's arrest of a Chinese skipper near the [islands](#) last month sparked the worst diplomatic row in years between the Asian giants, although both sides are now working to improve ties and arrange a premiers' summit.

Prime Minister Naoto Kan, also speaking in parliament, only said his government would investigate the issue and deal with it in a firm manner.

Google Japan said in a statement: "We have not yet received any letters from Minister Maehara, but we are willing to take a look into his request.

"We work to make information in [Google](#) Maps and Earth as discoverable as possible. This is especially important for disputed features that have conflicting claims."

(c) 2010 AFP

Citation: Google urged to drop China name for disputed isles (2010, October 14) retrieved 18 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2010-10-google-urged-china-disputed-isles.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.