



Consortium of Indo-Pacific
Researchers

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Greetings Colleagues,

The Consortium is pleased to share its latest newsletter for the Indo-Pacific. Press reply button for your feedback and comments.

Two-Year Anniversary of AUKUS

In Sept. 2021, the United States, the United Kingdom, and Australia established the AUKUS security alliance. The trilateral military pact aims to boost military and industrial capacity among the three countries. The AUKUS agreement supports Australia's acquisition of a conventionally armed nuclear-powered submarine through this partnership. The Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin [said](#) on the occasion, "AUKUS is breaking down barriers to strengthen cooperation among the U.K. and Australia and their defense industries and reaffirms our three democracies' bedrock commitment to an international system that upholds the rule of law and insists on the peaceful resolution of disputes, free from coercion, threats, or violence." [Read More](#)

Dhaka Matters for Macron's Indo-Pacific Impetus



French President Emmanuel Macron visited Bangladesh on Sept. 10-11 after attending the G-20 summit in Delhi. Both countries look forward to enhancing trade and defense relations; deals of buying satellite and Airbus from France are signed. Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina [said](#), "We both hope that this new strategic move between Bangladesh and France will play an effective role in establishing regional and global stability and peace. Macron praised Bangladesh's "leading contribution" to the U.N. peacekeeping missions and to providing humanitarian assistance and shelter to Rohingya Refugees in the country. He also announced the aid of 1 million Euros to World Food Program activities in Rohingya camps in Bangladesh.

Both leaders issued a joint statement- 'Partnership for Peace, Prosperity and People' to strengthen bi-lateral relations and reiterate their vision of a free, open, inclusive, secure, and peaceful Indo-Pacific. Notably,

Bangladesh has been serving as the Chair of Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), an inter-governmental organization that is aimed at the development and cooperation between the Indian Ocean region countries. [Read More](#)

The significance of the Maldives Election Results for the Indo-Pacific region

Maldives is gearing up for a presidential run-off on September 30th, as none of the top candidates managed to secure 50% of the votes in the first round. Maldives is crucial in the competition between India and China in the Indian Ocean. The incumbent leader and the leader of the opposition are both seen as having inclinations towards China and India, respectively. It is worth mentioning that China's increasing influence in the Indian Ocean region is causing security concerns for India. [Read More](#)

U.S. and Philippines agree to conduct 500 joint activities in 2024

The U.S. and Philippines held Mutual Defense Board and Security Engagement Board (MDB-SEB) meetings on Sept. 14. The engagement meetings were led by Gen. Romeo Brawner Jr., Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, and Adm. John Aquilino, Commander of U.S. Indo-Pacific Command. Both leaders agreed to conduct over 500 joint activities next year, including exercises, high-level exchanges between the allied nations, capability building in maritime security, combatting terrorism and transnational crime, cyber security, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, and many other national security interests. It is worth mentioning that the U.S. and the

Philippines have established the Mutual Defense Treaty (MDT) in 1951. [Read More](#)

U.S. top Diplomat meets China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi

The U.S. National Security Advisor, Jack Sullivan, met with Wang Yi in Malta. It is reported that the meeting was part of an ongoing effort to ease tensions between the United States and China. This marks the fourth in the list of high-level meetings between the two countries' top officials following Secretary Blinken's visit to Beijing in July 2023. [Read More](#)

Indo-Pacific Quiz

How many member states are in the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)?

- a. 23
- b. 20
- c. 18
- d. 26

When is International Day of Democracy celebrated?

- a. Sept 14
 - b. Sept 15
 - c. Oct 2
 - d. Sept 18
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Consortium Highlights

A Conversation on ***Eroding Women's Rights and Freedom @ 2 Years of Taliban Rule***: By Dr. Hayat Alvi and Consortium Intern Vinuri Perera. [Tune in to the podcast here.](#)

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