



Consortium of Indo-Pacific
Researchers

Indo-Pacific Weekly Mail Oct 2 - 8, 2023

Greetings Colleagues,

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

U.S Senators Visits China



A delegation of U.S. lawmakers led by Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer [visits](#) China on Oct 7, 2023. This is the first visit by Congressional members to the country since 2019 amidst escalating tensions between the

two countries. In a reminder of the ongoing tech war between the two countries, on Friday, the U.S. Commerce Department [added](#) 42 Chinese companies to the export control list over the support of Moscow's military and defense industrial base.

On the other hand, after reaching Shanghai, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer said, "We are prepared to compete, but we do not seek to conflict." He also stated, "We believe we need reciprocity allowing American companies to compete as freely in China as Chinese companies are able to compete here."

A successful visit could lead to a Biden-Xi summit at the November Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation meeting in San Francisco. The senators aim to meet Xi during their trip to Beijing; however, it is premature to conclude that the visit will enhance the relationship between the United States and China. The senators have plans to visit South Korea and Japan after their visit to China. [Read More](#)

U.S. is Committed to its Integrated Deterrence Strategy in the Indo-Pacific

The assistant secretary of defense for Indo-Pacific security affairs, Ely S Ratner, said that the U.S. is fully committed to an integrated deterrence strategy to deter the conflict in the Indo-Pacific. He also mentioned that [the Department of Defense \(DOD\) assesses that the Chinese Communist Party is increasingly turning to its military as](#) "an instrument of coercion in support of their revisionist aims," evidenced by China's increasing expansion of its nuclear forces and provocation in the region. He further said, "Conflict in the Indo-Pacific region is neither imminent nor inevitable because deterrence is real and strong today, and we're doing more than ever—together with our allies and partners—to keep it that way by advancing a common vision for regional peace and

stability." It is worth mentioning that the U.S has enhanced its security cooperation with Japan, Australia, S. Korea, the Philippines, and Papua New Guinea, keeping an eye on China's increasing military capabilities and vulnerabilities in the region. [Read More](#)

Japan Defense Minister Visits Washington, D.C., And Speeds up Purchase of Tomahawks

Japanese Minister of Defense, Kihara [met](#) Secretary Austin in Pentagon on his first visit to the United States on Oct 4, 2023. Both leaders [confirmed](#) the mutual commitment and iron-clad alliance of the U.S.-Japan amid historic shared momentum toward peace, stability, and deterrence in a free and open Indo-Pacific. It is stated that given intense military activities and an increasingly uncertain security environment in Asia, Japan will acquire \$ 1.4 billion Tomahawks cruise missiles from the U.S. in FY 2025 as it was initially planned for FY 2026-27. [Read More](#)

Deadly Earthquake Storms Afghanistan

On October 6, 2023, a 6.3 magnitude earthquake struck western Afghanistan, killing over 2,000 people. The disaster further exacerbates the economic, hunger, and health crises that have plagued Afghans since the Taliban takeover in August 2021. [Read More](#)

Indo-Pacific Quiz

Which Countries Participated in Yudh Abhyas 2023?

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| a. India & Japan | b. India & U.S. |
| c. Japan & U.S. | d. Australia & U.S. |

Where are the Senkaku Islands located?

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| a. Yellow Sea | b. Philippines Sea |
| c. East China Sea | d. Sea of Japan |

Consortium Highlights

- Blog Post- U.S. Visa Restriction on Bangladesh: Is the sole intention a free and fair election? [Read Here](#)
- Webinar- Outcome of the G-20 Summit and the Evolving World Order. [YouTube Link](#)
- Upcoming Consortium International Conference, Nov 1-3' 2023

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