



Consortium of Indo-Pacific

Researchers

## **Indo-Pacific Weekly Mail Sept. 23-29, 2024**

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Greetings Colleagues,

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

### **Indo-Pacific Leaders at UN: Emphasized Global Leadership to Global Responsibility**



*Figure 1: A wide view of the General Assembly Hall at the seventy-ninth session/ IMAGE/ <https://media.un.org/photo>*

The world leaders have gathered to address the United Nations 79<sup>th</sup> General Assembly Session in New York City. The world leaders are increasingly urging for greater international cooperation to effectively address the ongoing conflicts in Ukraine, the Middle East, and Sudan. Additionally, world leaders are engaging in discussions to confront the pressing issues of climate change, terrorism, and extremism. U.S. President Biden [emphasized](#) the “commitment to the principles of the U.N. Charter, to stand up against aggression.” He slammed Russia for invading the free state Ukraine, criticized China for using coercive measures in the South China Sea, and condemned Hamas terrorist’s heinous act of massacring more than 1200 people and invading sovereign state Israel. He further reiterated that the U.S. would continue strengthening the network of alliances and partnerships to ensure a free, open, secure, and peaceful Indo-Pacific.

In his [speech](#) Singaporean Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan said, the “trust between major powers and the resulting deficit of global leadership makes it very difficult to find effective peaceful solutions to the ongoing conflicts.” India’s Foreign Minister expressed his concern about the conflicts in Eastern Europe and the Middle East.

He [stated](#) that the erosion of trust and breakdown of processes have had a detrimental impact on the international system, as some countries

have been extracting more from it than they have been contributing, thereby weakening its effectiveness. He further added that multilateralism and a more representative UN is needed to tackle contemporary challenges. Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong raised concerns against brutal wars from Ukraine to Gaza and Sudan and called the international community to “contribute new ways to break the cycle of conflict.”

In addition, Pacific leaders from Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Tuvalu and Tonga urged the international community to work and support for climate resilience to mitigate the threat and to save their countries from the risk of marginalization. [Read More](#)

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### **China Tests Missiles in Pacific Ocean**

As per [media reports](#) China tested Inter-Continental Ballistic missile (ICBM) in the Pacific Ocean this week. The People Liberation Army’s (PLA) rocket and missile force wing said that the test is not targeted to any other country and the advance information was given to the relevant countries. The Pentagon officials said that they received some “advance

notification” to avoid any “misperception”, and it would help to maintain the confidence building measures between two countries.

It is worth mentioning that China's last such deployment was in May 1980, when Beijing launched a DF-5 missile into the South Pacific. By this test it is obvious that China demonstrates its military strength to the United States and its allies in the Indo-Pacific region. This display of power has contributed to escalating tensions with the Philippines, Taiwan, and Japan, which could have significant regional implications. [Read More](#)

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### **Secretary Blinken Meets with Chinese Foreign Minister**

U.S. Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken met the Chinese Foreign Affairs Commission and Foreign Minister Wang Yi on the margins of the 79th UN General Assembly in New York City. [Reports say](#) the two leaders had open, honest, and productive talks about different issues affecting bilateral relations between their countries and the world. They talked about carrying out the promises made at the 2023 Woodside Summit. This involved working together to stop synthetic drugs and precursor chemicals from entering the United States, improving

communication between military groups, and having conversations about the risks and safety of artificial intelligence. They also stressed the importance of keeping communication channels open.

Furthermore, Secretary Blinken emphasized the United States' ongoing concern about China's support for Russia's defense industry and its aggression against Ukraine. He also stressed the importance of China addressing Russia's threat to transatlantic security. Additionally, he highlighted the significance of maintaining peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait and raised concerns about China's risky and destabilizing actions in the South China Sea.

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## **U.S. State Department Launches Young South Asian Leaders Initiative**

The United States Department [launched the Young South Asian Leaders Initiative \(YSALI\)](#), and the announcement came on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly session. This initiative will bring together youth from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka to address shared issues of importance, including economic opportunity, environmental resilience, and civic participation. YSALI will

give networking opportunities, leadership training, professional exchanges, and academic fellowships to more than 420 million young people in South Asia. This support aims to help them make a positive impact in their home countries and the region.

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### **Indo-Pacific Quiz**

Who is elected as the next Prime Minister of Japan?

- a. Fumio Kishida
- b. Shigeru Ishiba
- c. Sane Takachi
- d. Shinjiro Koizumi

In which Ocean China tested ICBM missile this week?

- a. South China Sea
  - b. Indian Ocean
  - c. Pacific Ocean
  - d. East China Sea
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### **Consortium Highlights**

- ❖ A Commentary by Amb. Alfredo Toro Hardy, [What would a War Between the U.S. and China Look Like?](#)

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