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Indo-Pacific Weekly Mail November 3-9, 2025

Greetings Colleagues,

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

Trump-Xi Summit Held in South Korea



Figure 1: US President Donald Trump with China's President Xi Jinping in Busan / Image/Whitehouse.gov

US President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping met on the sidelines of APEC summit in Busan South Korea. Both leaders seek to anticipate reducing tension between world's two largest economies.

Trump and Xi attempted to diffuse the trade tensions during their 90-minute conversation in Busan. Both leaders stepped forward to manage the relations as China agreed to suspend additional export control on rare earth materials and to end the investigation against US chip companies. Also, China will take strict measures to stop flow of fentanyl in America. Additionally, China will resume purchasing US soybeans and other agricultural products that it had halted in retaliation against US tariffs. The United States suspended the announcement of a 100% tariff on China, but the 47% tariff will remain in effect as usual. However, in the US-China relationship, there is a thaw, but not towards stable relations. It's unclear how the US-China relations will head after this temporary truce. Additionally, China has extended an invitation to Trump to visit China in the spring of next year, signaling more engagement and discussion over the period.

Furthermore, Trump reinforced America's military strength and the US as a pre-eminent superpower in the region. Trump showed strength with East Asian allies South Korea and Japan. He stated that the US and South Korea have finalized the trade, rare earth, and security deals. Trump also signed an agreement with South Korea and Japan to strengthen the US shipbuilding industry, aiming to compete with China. Furthermore, it's reported that the US will [share advanced technology to South Korea](#) to build a nuclear submarine.

Interestingly, there was no discussion about Taiwan, as it was expected that the issue might arise during the negotiation talks. Trump told reporters, “There’s not that much to ask about it. Taiwan is Taiwan.” [Read More](#)

APEC Summit Convene in Gyeongju

Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) leaders’ summit held in Gyeongju, South Korea, highlighted the significant of diplomacy and aspiration to make the momentum in making deals and agreements to keep the global supply chain resilience. The US President Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping’s meeting was the prime attraction despite Trump’s departure of beginning of main forum. Xi Jinping visited South Korea first time in 11 years and held bilateral meetings with South Korean President Lee Jae Myung along with signing of seven Memorandum of understanding (MOU).

Japan's Prime Minister Takaichi and Canadian Prime Minister Carney also met with Xi Jinping, seeking a "mutually beneficial" relationship. Earlier, Canada had fraught relations with China and considered China a strategic threat under the Trudeau administration. APEC leaders signed the Gyeongju Declaration, emphasizing trade, connectivity, and prosperity of the region. Established in 1989, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) is a regional forum comprising 21 members that promotes economic integration and growth throughout the Asia-Pacific region. [Read More](#)

India and Israel Sign Defense Cooperation Pact

India and Israel sign a defense cooperation pact to further deepen the strategic partnership and enhance collaboration in advanced technologies, co-development, and co-production of defense systems. The MoU was signed during the 17th meeting of the India-Israel Joint Working Group (JWG) on Defence Cooperation, held in Tel Aviv. As per the statement of Defense ministry of India, the new MoU provides a unified vision and policy framework to deepen the already robust defense ties between the two nations.

The MoU identifies a wide range of priority areas, including strategic dialogues, training and defense industrial cooperation, and collaboration in Science & Technology, Research & Development, Artificial Intelligence, and Cyber Security. The agreement will enable sharing of advanced technologies and promote joint research, co-development, and co-production of next-generation defense solutions. [Read More](#)

US and Vietnam Strengthen Defense Cooperation

US Secretary of war Pete Hegseth visited Hanoi to strengthen US-Vietnam defense cooperation. He met with Vietnam's General Secretary To Lam, President Luong Cuong, and Minister of National Defence General Phan Van Giang. His visit marks the 30th anniversary of US-Vietnam diplomatic relations. US and Vietnam normalized their relationship in 1995 after the 20 years of Vietnam war.

In 2023, Vietnam and the US elevated their relationship to a comprehensive strategic partnership under former President Joe Biden, aims for a deeper defense partnership. Hanoi has been a significant importer of Russian arms since the US-Vietnam War. Furthermore, Vietnam maintains good relations with China and North Korea. Vietnam's Communist Party chief, To Lam, visited North Korea in early October.

Hegseth's visit aimed to reassure Hanoi about a stronger defense partnership and to draw it away from Russia and China. Hegseth stated that legacies of the war, which ended 50 years ago in April, remain the foundation and a top priority of the countries' defense relationship. He also said that "Both countries will exchange artifacts and information from the war with the goal of helping family members in both countries find peace." [Read more](#)

Indo-Pacific Quiz

Where is Hanwha Ocean located?

- | | |
|--------------|----------------|
| a. Singapore | c. Indonesia |
| b. Vietnam | d. South Korea |

What is Fung Wong?

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| a. A name of Typhoon | c. A name of Delicacies |
| b. A name of city | d. A Name of Island |

Consortium Highlights

- ❖ Podcast: South Korea's Leadership in APEC: Navigating Regional Diplomacy Amid Great Power Rivalry, Nov. 1, 8:30 AM EST
[Podcast Link](#)
- ❖ Webinar: Examining U.S. Grand Strategy and Euro-Atlantic Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific, Oct. 27, 2025 @10:30 AM EST. [Video Link](#)

Indo-Pacific Quiz Key

Here are the **Answers** for October 26 Newsletter Quiz

Q. Where will the next ASEAN Summit be held?

d. Philippines

Q. Why has the South Korean city of Gyeongju been in the news recently?

b. APEC Summit

Contributions: Indu Saxena