



Consortium of Indo-Pacific

Researchers

## Indo-Pacific Weekly Mail March 9-15, 2026

Greetings Colleagues,

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

### **Strait of Hormuz V/s Kharg Island: Energy Crisis Unfolds**



Figure 1: Strait of Hormuz (prominent waterway) and Kharg Island (Iran's Primary oil hub)

The new Iranian leader, Mojtaba Khameni, son of the deceased Ali Khanemini, in his [first written statement](#), has vowed to maintain the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, a vital passage for global oil transportation. The regime's motive is to gain control over the 24-mile route that supplies 20 % of the world's oil and continue attacks on US and allies' military, commercial, and diplomatic institutions in revenge for "the blood of martyrs." It is important to note that 80 % of the total volume of oil goes to Asia-Pacific countries, with nearly 6 % to the US and Europe, while the rest goes to other countries. Mojtaba said in his statement that he wants "warm and constructive relations" with neighboring countries and urged them to close US bases in their countries. However, the Iranian military has been targeting United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Iraq, and other Gulf countries.

US Launched "[Operation Epic Escort](#)" and attacked Iran's Kharg island, Iran's primary energy export hub, for the safe Passage of oil from the Strait of Hormuz. US President Trump [calls other countries](#), particularly, who are reliant on the Strait for their energy needs, to join the naval coalition to safeguard the vital shipping lane. He stated, "Many Countries, especially those who are affected by Iran's attempted closure of the Hormuz Strait, will be sending War Ships.... Hopefully China, France, Japan, South Korea, the UK, and others, that are affected by this artificial constraint, will send Ships to the area so that the Hormuz Strait will no longer be a threat by a Nation that has been totally decapitated."

More than 100 oil vessels and cargo ships are stranded due to the blockade of Strait. With the Strait of Hormuz closed, gas prices are hiked in the US and Asian countries will be facing a terrible shortage of oil and gas if the war goes longer. While both parties have denied any negotiation talks. It is reported that French President Macron and Russian President Putin have initiated the peace resolution if the fighting countries have to agree on. [Read More](#)

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## **Japan Deploys First Long-Range Missile**

Japan prepares domestically-developed long-range missile as the country faces critical challenges in the regional security landscape. The upgraded Type-12 land-to-ship missiles will be deployed at Camp Kengun in Japan's southwestern prefecture of Kumamoto by the end of March.

Japan's Prime Minister Sane Takaichi have stressed to build up offensive capabilities as per her statement China is existential threat for Japan. Takaichi has committed to reviewing security and defense policies by the end of the year and aims to enhance Japan's military capabilities through the introduction of unmanned combat systems and long-range missiles.

The enhanced Type-12 missile, designed and manufactured by Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, possesses an approximate range of 620 miles—an expansion from the original model's 125-mile capability—and is capable of reaching mainland China. [Read More](#)

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## **Indo-Pacific Energy Security Summit Take Place in Japan**

The Indo-Pacific Energy Security Ministerial and Business Forum (IPEM) was held in Tokyo, Japan. The forum provides a distinguished platform for ministers, chief executive officers, and senior leaders who are shaping the direction of energy security throughout the Indo-Pacific region.

Delegates and officials from the region have affirmed their support to secure the energy supply as the war in Middle-East intensifies. US Interior Secretary Doug Burgum said that Strengthening partnerships across the Indo-Pacific is essential to global security and prosperity. He announced that Asia-Pacific allies agree to \$56 billion in deals with US.

Furthermore, Japan's industry minister Ryosei Akazawa said at a press conference "the importance of investment in stable and reliable infrastructures, such as those for nuclear power and liquefied natural gas, to cope with the vigorous energy demand in Asia." The summit was co-hosted by Japan and the United States, with participation from 18 countries. [Read More](#)

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## **Vietnam Holds Parliamentary Election**

Nearly 79 million voters will cast their vote in Vietnam for the National Assembly of a single party rule in Vietnam. Vietnam operates as a one-party

state governed by the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV), with elections functioning to reaffirm the longstanding political leadership of the CPV. The National Assembly election will determine the 500 members of Vietnam's legislative body. As per reports, all candidates are vetted and pre-approved by the Communist Party, ensuring the assembly remains aligned with the party's political direction. The Communist Party tightly controls political activity, arguing that centralized leadership allows the country to pursue long-term development goals without disruptions. It is noted that Communist Party of Vietnam re-elected To Lam it's Chief earlier this year. [Read More](#)

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## **Indo-Pacific Quiz**

When is the Communist Party of Vietnam founded?

- |         |         |
|---------|---------|
| a. 1926 | c. 1927 |
| b. 1929 | d. 1930 |

Where is Fujairah Port located?

- |             |                         |
|-------------|-------------------------|
| a. Malaysia | b. United Arab Emirates |
| c. Qatar    | d. Sri Lanka            |

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## **Consortium Highlights**

- ❖ [New Read](#): Non-Standard Aviation: The Bamboo Fleet Informs 21st Century Tactics

- ❖ [Web Recording](#) **Iran War: Implications for the Indo-Pacific.**
  - ❖ Upcoming webinar **Dynasty, Power, and Stability: Post Election Bangladesh and Nepal**, March 19, 2026, 10:00 AM EST
  - ❖ Upcoming podcast on **Meiji Japan and what it teaches about rising Asian powers**
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## Indo-Pacific Quiz Key

Here are the **Answers** for March 8 Newsletter Quiz

Q. When is China's National People Congress (NPC) founded?

a. 1954

Q. Which Southeast Asian country hosts US bases?

a. The Philippines

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Contributions: Indu Saxena