

Consortium of Indo-Pacific

Researchers

## **Indo-Pacific Weekly Mail April 27-May 3, 2026**

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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.

### **Takaichi Tours Asian Nations to Advance Indo-Pacific Strategy**

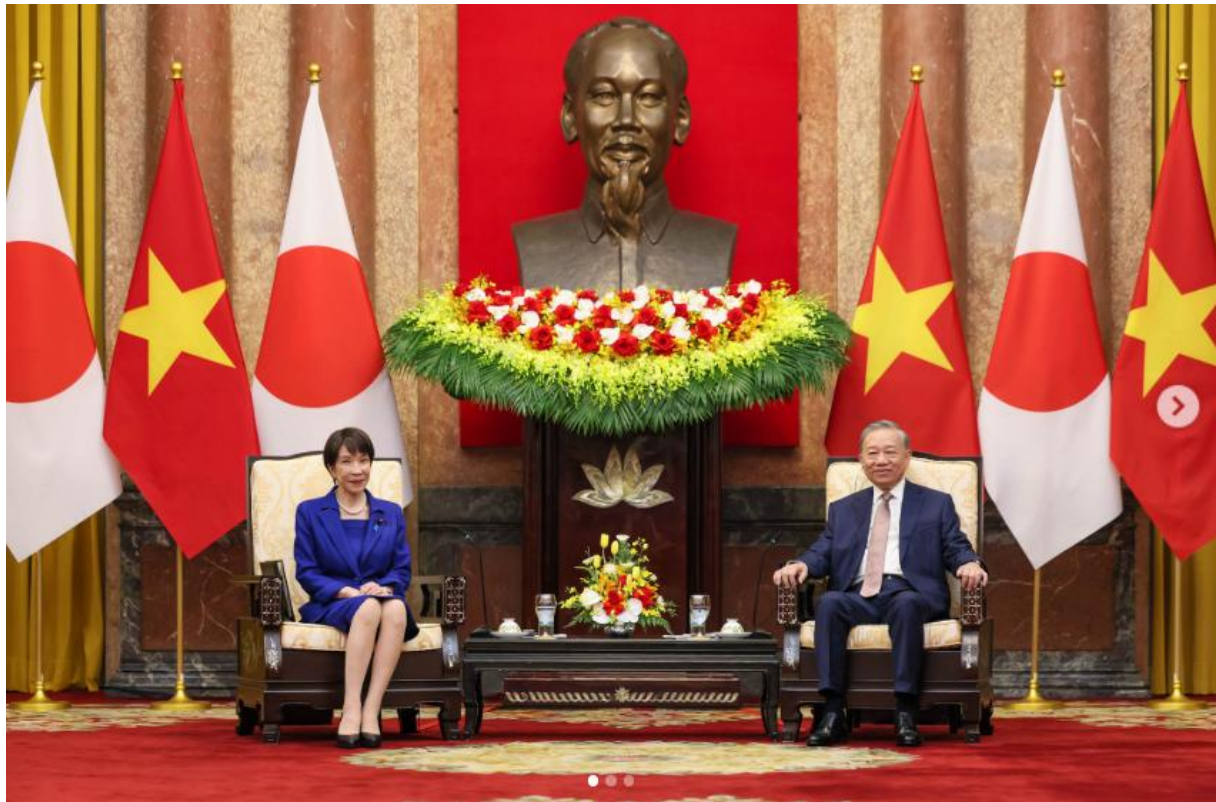


Figure 1: Japan PM TAKAICHI held a meeting with H.E. Mr. To Lam, General Secretary of the Communist Party and President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, during her visit to Viet Nam May 2, 2026. (mofa.JP photo)

Japan's Prime Minister Sane Takaichi visits Vietnam and Australia to advance the Indo-Pacific Strategy. Takaichi met with the General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee and State President To Lam, held talks with Prime Minister Le Minh Hung. The two sides discussed economic security and announced a [joint document](#) to strengthen cooperation in ensuring supply chains for energy and strategic minerals, aiming to diversify sources amid intensifying geopolitical competition.

Japan and Vietnam maintain a comprehensive strategic partnership focused on enhancing collaboration and fostering prosperity in the region. Japan provides support to Vietnam's energy sector and promotes technological cooperation in areas such as artificial intelligence, semiconductors, and space technology, thereby contributing to regional stability., to reinforce regional stability. A key development is Japan's commitment to support crude oil supply for Vietnam's refinery. Last month, Japan launched the USD 10 billion "Power Asia" initiative to offer energy assistance to Southeast Asian nations due to the ongoing disruption caused by Strait of Hormuz crisis.

Furthermore, [Takaichi delivered a speech at Vietnam National University](#), Hanoi, on the Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP) strategy. She recalled Shinzo Abe's vision of Free and Open Indo-Pacific and Japan's active role in "upholding freedom from coercion, the rule of law, and market economies" in contribution to peace and stability in the region. She said Japan will update FOIP with three priorities. First, develop economic infrastructure for AI and

data by bolstering energy and critical materials supply chains. Second, foster growth through public-private collaboration and rule sharing. Third, strengthen security cooperation to promote regional stability.

Takaichi will meet Prime Minister Anthony Albanese on her Australia tour to mark the 50th anniversary of bilateral relations and upgrade ties to a "special strategic partnership." Japan and Australia have strengthened defense partnership. As a contract was recently signed, Japan will deliver 11 Mogami-class frigates to Australia. Both countries are members of the Quad grouping with the US and India. Quad is a non-military group that promotes Free and Open Indo-Pacific. [Read More](#)

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## **His Majesty's US visit Pivots Atlantic Partnership**

Britain's King Charles visited Washington to commemorate America's 250th anniversary. His Majesty's visit occurred at a time of a shift in geopolitical and International Order. This occasion is historic as it marks the first official visit by a British King to Washington. US President Donald Trump warmly welcomed King Charles and Queen Camila at White House with a full military ceremony.

On King's visit the diplomacy was high as he [addressed the US Congress](#) in honor of the semi-quincentennial year of the Declaration of Independence. King emphasized the foundation and strength of the US-UK relationship, recalling its past and how colonial history has shaped it, along with common

democratic, legal, and social traditions, values, and Institutions. He reconnected the shared history of two countries with 'A Tale of Two Georges': the first President, George Washington, and King George III.

Furthermore, during his speech, he recalled how the United States joined the United Kingdom in 1939 to combat fascist forces in Europe and uphold democracy. He warned of a "new era" that is "more volatile and more dangerous," and that no country can face these unpredictable challenges. He talked about the solidarity of the indispensable US-UK alliance and the strength of NATO that brought trans-Atlantic countries together in the 9/11 terrorist attack and in the Afghanistan war to preserve shared security. King emphasized NATO's unity to safeguard shared interests from the Atlantic to the Arctic against common adversaries. However, European leaders have not refrained from making comments, particularly on the Iran War, which has hurt US President Trump. The recent remark of German Chancellor Merz made Trump angry, and he announced of withdrawal of 5000 soldiers from Germany. (as per order of Pentagon) [Read More](#)

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## **India and Germany Boost Defense Cooperation**

India's Defense Minister Mr. Rajnath Singh [met his German counterpart](#) Mr. Boris Pistorius in Berlin. The two leaders discussed enhancing defense industrial collaboration, strengthening military-to-military engagements. India and Germany seek cooperation in emerging domains like cyber security,

artificial intelligence, and drones. Both countries signed the “Defense Industrial Roadmap and Implementing Arrangement for Cooperation in UN Peacekeeping.” India is set to acquire next generation German submarines of expected value of USD 8 billion to build its naval capability. India’s Mazagaon Dock Shipbuilders has partnered with German company Thyssenkrupp Marine Systems. India has strategic competition with China in its naval presence in the region and therefore advancing its capability. [Read More](#)

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## **Australian Foreign Minister meets Northeast Asian leaders amid Energy Crisis**

Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong visited Japan, South Korea, and China amid the looming energy crisis due to the closure of the Strait of Hormuz. In Japan, talking to her counterpart, she expressed concern about the energy shortage and shocks in Asia, as countries in Asia are heavily dependent on the Gulf Countries. Most of Australia's petrol, jet fuel, and diesel comes from Japan, South Korea, China, and Singapore. Whilst these Asian countries are also dependent on Gulf countries for crude oil, this creates a major rupture in the supply chain due to the conflict in the Middle East. Furthermore, Asian countries have a big demand for energy for domestic needs and cannot sustain their exports for long as the conflict stretches day by day. Australia and Japan have been celebrating fifty years of a [special strategic partnership](#). The two leaders seek "mutual reliability" and continued cooperation to deal with the

energy crisis. Wong appreciates Japan's role in peace and stability and reiterated the support for a free and open Indo-Pacific.

In interaction with her Chinese counterpart, Wang Yi, she expressed hope to engage in candid discussion on cooperation in bilateral, regional, and multilateral issues. Australia is a buyer of Aviation fuel from China as well. However, Australia has a deepening security partnership with Japan. [Read More](#)

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## Indo-Pacific Quiz

Why does Japan's Yasukuni Shrine create diplomatic strain between Japan and its neighboring countries (China and South Korea)?

- a. Association with Imperialism
- b. Enshrines war criminals from WWII
- c. Open only for Japanese
- d. Prohibition of trade relations

Which country exited Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)?

- a. Saudi Arabia
  - b. United Arab Emirates
  - c. Qatar
  - d. Oman
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## Consortium Highlights

- ❖ Upcoming Book-Talk **Japan's Grand Strategy: Liminal Power in an Uncertain World**, May 4, 2026, 9:00 AM EST

- ❖ Upcoming podcast on **Meiji Japan and what it teaches about rising Asian powers**, May 11, 9:00 AM EST
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## **Indo-Pacific Quiz Key**

Here are the **Answers** for April 26, 2026, Newsletter Quiz

Q. What does Article 9 of Japan's constitution pertain to?

b. Renounce of war

Q. In which year did Australian and New Zealand troops land on Turkey, as commemorated by ANZAC Day?

c. April 25, 1915

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