



Consortium of Indo-Pacific  
Researchers

## **Indo-Pacific Weekly Mail July 24 - 30, 2023**

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Greetings Colleagues,

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

### **Prioritizing Pacific Islands in the Indo-Pacific**



The U.S. Secretary Blinken Visits Tonga on July 24, 2023. This is the first visit to any high-level official to the island country in Polynesia, a part of

Oceania. In a historic moment the U.S. has [recently](#) opened its new embassy in Tonga's capital Nuku 'alofa, a largest city and main port of the country. As the Secretary mentioned in his remarks to appoint a permanent U.S. diplomat soon and the new embassy would work and support the U.S. new missions in Solomon Islands, Kiribati, and Vanuatu. The new embassy has already started working with local organizations, students, youth leaders to bolster people to people tie and to advance the shared future of free and open, prosperous, and connected for the region. The current U.S. administration is placing great emphasis on public diplomacy and promoting people to people tie to counter China's growing influence in island nations. Given that it is the third embassy established after Maldives and Seychelles.

It is worth mention that to strengthen the relationship and prioritize the Pacific Islands President Biden hosted the first ever U.S.-Pacific Island Summit in September 2022 in Washington and is planning to host the leaders of the region again in the fall.

Notably, the Biden administration has intensified its diplomatic endeavors and involvement in Pacific Island nations to counter China's strategic competition in the Indo-Pacific region. As the first time the Pacific Island countries -Fiji, Indonesia, PNG, and Tonga has been participating in the U.S.-Australia led TALISMAN SABRE Exercise 2023. The U.S. has reaffirmed, jointly with Australia, its commitment to 'Pacific Island Forum's 2050 Strategy for Blue Pacific Continent' in [Australia-U.S. Ministerial Consultations \(AUSMIN\) 2023](#) as Secretary Blinken concludes his trip (July 24-29) to the region with a visit to Australia and New Zealand. This unequivocally demonstrates Washington's unwavering dedication to the

region and the importance of Pacific Island States in shaping the future of free and stable Indo-Pacific. [Read More](#)

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## **Taiwan Conducts Annual Defense Drills July 24-28, 2023. US Provides \$345 million Defense Assistance**

Taiwan recently carried out a five-day [military exercise](#) near the Port of Taipei City to prepare for any potential offensive attacks from China and strengthen its defense capabilities. Taiwan's sovereignty and security faces a serious challenge as China's attempts to increase its dominance in the East China Sea and its assertion that Taiwan is a breakaway province of China.

Notably, in a major [defense package](#) the United States announces more than three hundred million military aids included military education and training to Taiwanese to defend the country against any aggression. It is worth to point out that the U.S. maintains 'one China' policy about regarding China-Taiwan relations. [Read More](#)

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## **Yoshimasa Hayashi Visits India**

Japan's FM visits India on July 28 and chaired the strategic dialogue and business forum with his counterpart Mr. Jaishankar. He said that India is 'indispensable' partner in free and open Indo-Pacific. [Read More](#)

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## **Joko Widodo Meets China's Xi**

Indonesia President Widodo traveled to China this week and discussed business and investment in different areas. Indonesia is the biggest supplier of nickel and other raw material to China. Chinese firm will invest approx. \$12 billion in glass and solar panel industry in Indonesia. [Read More](#)

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## **Japan is facing the most severe and complex security environment since the end of WWII-says White Paper 2023**

Japan's latest released White paper shows severe security concerns on the rise of military activity of China in East China Sea and Sea of Japan, Russia's military activities in the Indo-Pacific region, and the nuclear proliferation of North Korea. [Read More](#)

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## **Indo-Pacific Quiz**

Which country has released its defense paper this week?

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

Where is Ten Degree Channel Located?

- |                  |                 |
|------------------|-----------------|
| a. Bay of Bengal | b. Arabian Sea  |
| c. Mekong Region | d. Sea of Japan |

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### **Consortium highlights**

- CIPR welcomes its Interns from Korea University

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