



Consortium of Indo-Pacific  
Researchers

## **Indo-Pacific Weekly Mail August 14 - 20, 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.

### **Camp David Diplomacy: Reinvigorating Alliance in the Indo-Pacific**



CNN Photo

President Biden hosts Japan's PM Kishida and South Korea's President Yoon at the historic Camp David summit on Aug. 18, 2023. The U.S. is playing an important role in bringing Tokyo-Seoul together and is termed as a [beginning](#) of the "new era of trilateral partnership". Additionally, it's a defining moment in Japan and ROK's historically fraught relationship due to the border and the forced labor disputes. Now Japan and ROK are not a threat for each other, whilst unite against common threats coming from the North Korea's continuous proliferation of missiles and the assertive behavior of People's Republic of China (PRC) in the region. By this summit the tri-lateral security alliance is elevated for the 'common purpose' of free and open Indo-Pacific and to "ensure that the Indo-Pacific is thriving, connected, resilient, stable, and secure." The three leaders [announced](#) a three-way hotline for communication- a commitment to conduct yearly military exercises, intelligence sharing, and a new annual trilateral summit. It's worth noting that the Biden administration is prioritizing strengthening the Indo-Pacific alliance by hosting the first-ever stand-alone summit with Japan and South Korea. The three leaders reiterate the ASEAN centrality and support for the Pacific Island countries to work collectively for the shared region. In the joint statement three leaders affirm that, "as we embark together in this new era, our shared values will be our guide and a free and open Indo-Pacific, in which our half-billion people are safe and prosperous, will be our collective purpose." [Read More](#)

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## **27 countries participate in the Indo-Pacific Chiefs of Defence (CHODs) Conference, 2023**

The U.S. INDOPACOM and the Republic of Fiji jointly [hosted](#) the 25th annual Chiefs of Defence Conference in Fiji from August 14-16,2023. The [theme](#) of the conference is ‘Preserving the Rules-Based Order to Enable Sovereignty in an Era of Strategic Competition,’ and the purpose of the conference is to bring senior military leaders together across the Indo-pacific to enhance mutual understanding and cooperation. Fiji’s PM Sitiveni Rabuka [said](#), “the Indo-Pacific region has emerged as one of the most important geopolitical arenas in the world,” and emphasized on reinforce the rule-based order to establish global peace and stability. He further stated that the concept of sovereignty is central which grants nations the inherent right to govern themselves without external intervention. On this occasion Adm. John C. Aquilino, Commander, USINDOPACOM said, “A peaceful and prosperous Indo-Pacific depends on the strength of relationships between nations who share common values, and a respect for sovereignty along with the rule of law.” [Read More](#)

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## **Taliban Rule in Afghanistan @2 Years: Obliterating Women’s Rights & Freedom**

Taliban has been celebrating the 2<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of their rule in Afghanistan since the power seized on August 15, 2021. The Islamic regime declared the day as Afghanistan’s National Day and announced a public holiday. In last two years Taliban have failed to form an inclusive

government and to ensure the freedom and rights of women in the country. Furthermore, as per UN [experts](#) “women have been wholly excluded from public office and the judiciary. Today, Afghanistan’s women and girls are required to adhere to a strict dress code and are not permitted to travel more than 75 km without a mahram.” Although human rights organizations and the global community have strongly condemned the Taliban's disregard for women's rights, it appears that they are not making any efforts to improve the situation.

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### **China and Myanmar, Attend Moscow Security Conference**

Top defense officials from over 20 states attended the security conference on August 15, 2023, in Russia, including China's defense minister, Li Shangfu. During the event, Li Shangfu met with officials from Iran, Vietnam, Saudi Arabia, and Kazakhstan. According to the reports, no Western countries received invitations to the meeting. It is worth mentioning that China’s Li warns against “playing with fire” regarding Taiwan in his address in Moscow. [Read More](#)

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### **Indo-Pacific Quiz**

Which country’s Vice President’s stopover in the U.S. made China unhappy?

- a. Vietnam
- b. Cambodia
- c. Taiwan
- d. South Korea

What does the nine-dash line refer to?

- a. A Volcano
- b. A mountain
- c. Set of lines on a map
- d. An Island

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### **Consortium Highlights**

- Consortium launches its blog. [Read Blog](#)
- [Unabated Tyranny of Military Rule in Myanmar: Fueling Human Rights Crisis and Instability in the Indo-Pacific](#)

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