



Consortium of Indo-Pacific
Researchers

Indo-Pacific Weekly Mail Aug 28 - Sep 3, 2023

Greetings Colleagues,

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

China's New National Map: Protest and Debate Across the Indo-Pacific Region. Why?



Photo Courtesy: Hindustan Times

China [released its new national map](#) on August 28, 2023, and claims most of the disputed territory in the Himalayan region and in the South China Sea. The new map shows a U-shaped line consisting of 10 dashes. However, the “nine-dash line” encircles the South China Sea in the previously updated map. India, the Philippines, Malaysia, and Vietnam expressed strong opposition and rejected the map. India’s Foreign Secretary, Arindam Bagchi, [said](#), “We reject these claims as they have no basis and lodged a complaint through diplomatic channels with the China side on the so-called 2023 ‘standard map’ of China that lays claim to India’s territory. Malaysia’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs also rejects China’s “unilateral claims.” Furthermore, the Philippines Foreign Affairs office says, the map is the “latest attempt to legitimize China’s purported sovereignty and jurisdiction over Philippine features and maritime zones (and) has no basis under international law.” In response, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin stated that updating the map is a "routine exercise," and its purpose is to "educate the public on the correct use of maps."

It is worth mentioning that the ASEAN Summit and G-20 Summit are taking place next week. It remains to be seen what the joint reaction from these two major groups will be and what China is trying to signal by releasing the map at this time.

U.S. Commerce Secretary Reiterates "Small Yards High Fence" Approach in her Visit to China

Secretary Gina Raimondo met China's Commerce Minister Wang Wentao on August 28, 2023, to improve bilateral ties and to [advance U.S. commercial and strategic interests](#). She is the fourth high-level official to visit China this year and the first Commerce Secretary to travel to the country in the last five years. Both leaders agreed to establish a new commercial issue working group to address trade and investment issues in China. The working group will meet twice annually, with the U.S. hosting the first meeting in early 2024. She also [exchanges](#) her views and concerns with PRC's Premiere Li Qiang and Vice Premier He Lifelang. The Secretary reiterated the United States' unwavering commitment to its national security and emphasized the administration's "small yard, high fence" approach. She noted that export controls are designed to target only those technologies that pose clear threats to national security or human rights and not to impede China's economic growth. In a program "Meet the Press," she [said](#), "We are in fierce competition with China at every level, and anyone who tells you differently is naive." She also stated, "We need to manage this competition; conflict is in no one's interest." [Read More](#)

U.K.'s Foreign Affairs Committee Assesses its Indo-Pacific Strategy, Calls to Expand AUKUS and the Quad

U.K. Foreign Affairs Committee has recently [released](#) a report titled "Tilting Horizons: The Integrated Review and the Indo-Pacific." The report acknowledges and appreciates the Government's emphasize on the Indo-Pacific region, which is becoming the focal point of global geopolitics and economy. However, the report also cautions that this

new policy should not come at the cost of regions such as the Middle East, where the U.K. has long-standing commitments and responsibilities. The Committee recognizes “the activities of the Chinese Communist Party as a threat to the UK and its interests” and that “the behavior of the Chinese Communist Party is currently characterized by increased aggression towards the U.K.” The report recommends that the Government suggest to Australia and the United States that Japan and South Korea should be included in an AUKUS technological defense cooperation agreement. Additionally, the U.K. should strive to join the Quad. [Read More](#)

Indo-Pacific Quiz

When was ASEAN Founded?

- a. 1955
- b. 1965
- c. 1967
- d. 1991

Which country has elected Tharman Shanmugaratnam as its Prime Minister?

- a. Thailand
 - b. Sri Lanka
 - c. Vietnam
 - d. Singapore
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Consortium Highlights

Consortium Member Nasim Khan writes- Is Pakistan's internal turmoil costing its strategic Relevance? [Read Blog](#)

Consortium Senior Fellow Chris Kolakowski Talks on Vietnam: Colonialism to Communism [YouTube Link](#)

Consortium members, Jessica Burton and Indu Saxena presented their papers at the APSA Annual Conference 2023 in Los Angeles.

Contributions: Indu Saxena