



Consortium of Indo-Pacific
Researchers

Indo-Pacific Weekly Mail Oct 16 - 22, 2023

Greetings Colleagues,

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

Putin-Xi Meet at BRI Forum



Figure 1: Russia's President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping during a welcoming ceremony at the Third Belt and Road Forum in Beijing on October 17, 2023. CNBC

Russian President Putin attended the BRI summit in China on Oct. 17, 2023, [joined](#) leaders from 130+ countries to celebrate the 10th anniversary of China's Belt and Road Initiative project. China has expanded its influence in the Global South through its massive BRI project. On the occasion, [China released two white papers positioning the BRI as the bedrock of a new world order, one that it casts as more just and inclusive](#). On the other hand, some analysts [argue](#) that projects under the Belt and Road Initiative have led to disappointment and negative consequences, amounting to broken promises in many emerging economies and trading partners who have been part of the program.

The meeting between Xi and Putin could be crucial amid the Israel-Hamas conflict, further dividing the already fragmented world after the Russia-Ukraine war. Both Russia and China intend to lead an anti-West coalition, with their "no limits" partnership offering an alternative world order that diminishes U.S. influence globally. What is the broader agenda of the Putin-Xi meeting at the sidelines of the BRI summit is yet to be revealed. Though U.S. and its allies support Israel and Ukraine's right to self-defense while engaged in a two-front conflict. [Read More](#)

China's Increasing Military Expansion & Capabilities— U.S. DoD Report Details

The U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) report on China's military and security developments states that China is heavily investing in military

build-up and increasing its military capabilities. [The report](#) "charts the current course of the PRC's national, economic, and military strategy, and offers insight on the People's Liberation Army's (PLA) strategy, current capabilities, and activities, as well as its future modernization goals."

"In 2022, the PRC turned to the PLA as an increasingly capable instrument of statecraft. Throughout the year, the PLA adopted more coercive actions in the Indo-Pacific region while accelerating its development of capabilities and concepts to strengthen the PRC's ability to "fight and win wars" against a "strong enemy," counter an intervention by a third party in a conflict along the PRC's periphery, and to project power globally." as per the report. China's military modernization includes investments in advanced weaponry, cyber capabilities, and military infrastructure. These efforts have raised concerns among some countries in the region and beyond. [Read More](#)

Taliban plans to join China's Border Road Initiative (BRI)

The acting commerce minister of Afghanistan, Haji Nooruddin Azizi, has [announced](#) that the Taliban administration is planning to participate in China's Belt and Road infrastructure initiative. Taliban aims to improve Afghanistan's economic situation by attracting Chinese investment in infrastructure and development projects. It is essential to understand how China will benefit from investing in Afghanistan, which is still recovering from war. Additionally, it is crucial to see how China intends to deal with the Taliban's opponent, the Islamic State of Khorasan Province (ISKP). [Read More](#)

Trilateral Aerial Drill near Korean Peninsula

U.S., South Korea, and Japan conducted their first-ever aerial military exercise. The aerial military drill [aims to strengthen defense cooperation](#) and enhance the joint military capability to counter North Korea's evolving nuclear threat, per the defense official's statement. It includes U.S.B-52 nuclear bomber and fighter jet from South Korea and Japan. [Read More](#)

U.S. and Marshall Islands Sign Agreements

U.S.-Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) signed three agreements on Oct. 16, 2023, called the Compact of Free Association (COFAs). The U.S.-RMI Compact underscores the deep and enduring relations between the United States and the RMI and furthers the U.S. commitment to a Pacific that is secure, free, and open, and more prosperous. [Read More](#)

Indo-Pacific Quiz

With which country has India recently launched a ferry service?

- a. Maldives
- b. Sri Lanka
- c. Bangladesh
- d. Myanmar

Which country has recently revoked the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT)?

- a. China
- c. Russia

- b. Ukraine
- d. Israel

Consortium Highlights

- Upcoming: Consortium International Conference, Nov 1-4' 2023



The poster features a blue sky and ocean background. At the top left is a circular logo with a stylized 'IP'. The main title is 'Consortium of Indo-Pacific Researchers 2nd International Conference 2023 (Virtual)' in black text. Below it, the theme 'Alliances and Partnerships in the Indo-Pacific: Elevating Strategies and Interests' is written in yellow. The dates 'November 1st - 4th, 2023' are centered. A list of sessions is on the left, and 'Knowledge Partners' with logos for WVM, Amity University, and AIUB are on the right. A 'Register Here' link is at the bottom right.

Consortium of Indo-Pacific Researchers
2nd International Conference 2023 (Virtual)

Alliances and Partnerships in the Indo-Pacific: Elevating Strategies and Interests

November 1st - 4th, 2023

Plenary Session: The Emerging World Order and Ukraine War
Panel: U.S. and IOR Region with Reflections on Quad: Strategic Priorities and Partnerships
Panel: U.S.-ASEAN Partnership, Free and Open Indo-Pacific
Panel: The AUKUS: Strengthening Security and Alliances
Panel: U.S-Japan-Korea: Trilateral Security Alliance and regional challenges
Panel: U.S. and Taiwan Partnership Amidst Geopolitical Competition
Panel: Pacific Islands: A Growing strategic Importance
Panel: Historical Lessons from the Pacific Alliances
Panel: India-Israel-U.S.-U.A.E.(I2U2): Expanding Partnership
Panel: Students /Interns Panel

Knowledge Partners:

 Wisconsin Veterans Museum, USA

 AIIS, Amity University, India

 American International University-Bangladesh(AIUB)

[Register Here](#)

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