



Consortium of Indo-Pacific
Researchers

Indo-Pacific Weekly Mail Nov 13 - 19, 2023

Greetings Colleagues,

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

U.S. Hosts APEC Summit in California



Figure 1: APEC family photo in San Francisco

San Francisco hosted the biggest number of world leaders, delegates, and executives of big companies at the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit from Nov.11-17; it marks the third time the United States hosted after Blake Island and Honolulu. APEC is an inter-governmental forum of 21 emerging economies. The forum [aims](#) to collaborate on trade and investment to promote economic growth, prosperity, and sustainable development through its three pillars strategy: Trade and Investment Liberalization, Business facilitation, and Economic and Technical Cooperation.

While hosting the APEC meeting, the U.S. had the opportunity to exhibit its strong partnership and eagerness to reconnect with the emerging Pacific economies. The theme of the meeting was "*Creating a Resilient and Sustainable Future for All*," which holds great significance, particularly considering the intensifying competition between the U.S. and China in the Indo-Pacific region. The United States [seeks](#) to advance a free, fair, and open economic policy agenda through APEC that protects U.S. interests in the region. Notably, the APEC economies represent almost 40% of the world's population and nearly half of the global trade and are the [destination for more than 60 percent of U.S. goods exports](#).

The APEC leaders adopted the [Golden Gate Declaration](#), it states, "Our APEC mission and our practical work remain guided by our commitment, as laid out in the Putrajaya Vision 2040 and the Aotearoa Plan of Action, to an open, dynamic, resilient, and peaceful Asia-Pacific community by 2040, for the prosperity of all our people and future generations." There were several ministerial-level deliberations held during the summit: Transportation, Trade, Disaster Management, Food

Security, Health and the Economy, Energy, Women and the Economy, Small and Medium Enterprises, and Finance, including the Non-Binding Just Energy Transition Principles for APEC Cooperation, Principles for Achieving Food Security and Disaster Reduction. Interestingly, the leaders from the 14 member countries of IPEF were also present at the occasion and released a statement on the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity. [Read More](#)

Biden-Xi Meeting- This was a rare moment when the top leaders of the U.S. and China met in California on the sidelines of the APEC summit. The high-level meeting between Biden and Xi reflects the effort to repair the relations between the U.S. and China amid sustained tension. In his [remarks](#), President Biden stated, "We have to ensure that competition does not veer into conflict. And we also have to manage it responsibly — that competition and what the world wants from both of us: candid exchange." On the other side, President Xi [said](#), "For two large countries like China and the United States, turning their back on each other is not an option." Xi denied that "major-country competition is the prevailing trend of current times" and the "Planet Earth is big enough for the two countries to succeed."

There are some positive developments in the meeting as the two leaders [agreed to cooperate in combating the flow of illicit drugs and the resumption of military-to-military communication](#). The two leaders agreed to follow-up meetings on key areas of priority.

When considering the future of U.S.-China relations, it is essential to acknowledge that genuine "win-win cooperation" may be challenging to achieve, given the ongoing tensions and differences between the two

countries and Xi's [ambition](#) for the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. [Read More](#)

Bangladesh Announces Parliamentary Elections

Bangladesh is scheduled to hold its next general elections on January 7, 2024, and preparations have already begun. The current ruling party, the *Awami League*, led by Sheikh Hasina, seeks re-election for a fourth term. Her party has been in power since 2009. However, the opposition party, the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), has organized protests and demonstrations. The observers claimed the lack of transparency in the previous elections. Notably, in September, the U.S. [imposed visa restrictions](#) on Bangladeshi individuals who are involved in undermining the democratic election process in Bangladesh. Bangladesh has 300 parliamentary seats and interestingly, both the leaders of the two major national parties are women. [Read More](#)

U.S.-Philippines Civil Nuclear Deal

U.S.-Philippines signed a civil nuclear cooperation agreement, commonly known as a “123 Agreement,” at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit in San Francisco. The execution of the agreement enables the transfer of nuclear material and equipment to the Philippines for peaceful uses. The two countries can now collaborate on

deploying emerging technologies for civilian use while upholding nuclear non-proliferation commitments. [Read More](#)

Indo-Pacific Quiz

Which Country will Host the APEC summit in 2025?

- a. Peru
 - b. Malaysia
 - c. Vietnam
 - d. South Korea
-

Consortium Highlights

Upcoming Roundtable Discussion:



Consortium of Indo-Pacific Researchers
Invites for
Roundtable Discussion on
U.S.-APEC Summit: Analysis and Assessment
November 22nd, 2023 @ 8:30 A.M. EST





Col. Jeffrey Hollman,
Chief, Mission
Assurance,
INDOPACOM, USA



Dr. Mark Cogan,
Assoc. Professor,
Kansai Gaidai
University, Japan



Dr. Hon-min Yau,
National Defense
University, Taiwan



Capt. Sarabjeet
Parmar (Retd.),
Senior Fellow,
CIPR, India



Dr. Indu Saxena,
Senior Fellow,
CIPR, USA



Mr. Edmund Harty,
Fmr. Intern CIPR

[Zoom Link at Schedule](#)

CIPR Views: **The Luftwaffe’s Guided Weapons at Salerno**
1943: Lessons in Anti-Amphibious Air Operations from Operation
Avalanche. By Consortium Fellow 1st Lt. Grant Willis. [Read Here](#)

CIPR International Conference 2023 Highlights



U.S. – ASEAN Partnership, Free and Open Indo-Pacific

[YouTube Link](#)



U.S. and IOR Region with Reflections on Quad: Strategic Priorities and Partnerships

[YouTube Link](#)

Contributions: Indu Saxena