



Consortium of Indo-Pacific  
Researchers

## **Indo-Pacific Weekly Mail November 20 - 26, 2023**

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

### **Yoon Visits U.K; Touts on Indo-Pacific Security**



South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol was on a three-day State Visit to the United Kingdom on Nov. 21, 2023. He basked in the glory of a grand procession, seated beside King Charles III in a majestic carriage, flanked by the elite royal guard. During his historical visit he [addressed the U.K. parliament](#), and [stated](#), “Korea will work with the United Kingdom to bolster the political and economic security in the Indo-Pacific region.” Both countries seek to enhance their digital, A.I., cyber security, nuclear energy, defense, and maritime security cooperation. Additionally, green energy, outer space, and semiconductors are the areas of potential partnership as both countries [plan](#) to unveil £21 billion in investments for green energy and infrastructure projects.

In moving forward to strengthen trade and investment, Korea and the U.K intend to modernize the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) that took place in 2021. He also mentioned that the United Kingdom was the first European nation to sign the *Treaty of Friendship and Commerce* with Korea in 1883 and that this year marks the 140th Anniversary of establishing diplomatic ties between the two countries, a significant milestone in their shared history. It is worth mentioning that leaders from both sides of the aisle in parliament joined the President to commemorate the service and honor of 80,000 British Armed Forces soldiers who fought alongside their Korean allies during the Korean War as this year marks the 70th anniversary of the Korean War Armistice Agreement.

President Yoon and British Prime Minister Sunak held a bilateral summit, signing the [Downing Street Accord](#) to elevate the 'Global Strategic Partnership' between the United Kingdom (UK) and the Republic of Korea (ROK). As per the agreement, the two countries will

work together to strengthen an open and resilient international order, promote a rules-based economic system, and ensure a sustainable future. Furthermore, both leaders have agreed to launch a 2+2 Foreign and Defense Ministerial meeting. [Read More](#)

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## **Beijing Conducts Military Drill Along Myanmar Border**

China has [initiated military drills](#) along the northern border of Myanmar. Since October, ethnic groups-led joint forces have launched aggressive attacks resulting in the capture of several posts, towns, and military installations. The U.N. has [reported](#) that over 200,000 people have been displaced due to the violence. The continued conflict and resistance force's actions are becoming increasingly concerning for the security of Chinese companies and entities operating in Myanmar. China has [invested in several projects](#) in Myanmar under the Border Road Initiative (BRI), including a rail project and the Myanmar-China Economic Corridor in Shan province, which have been deeply affected by the conflict. [Read More](#)

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## **India-Australia Holds 2+2 Ministerial Meeting**

India and Australia [called](#) its annual 2+2 Defence and Foreign Ministerial Dialogue in New Delhi on Nov. 20, 2023. Both countries started this crucial dialogue in 2021 to enhance the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. The [joint statement](#) stated that frequent high-

level contacts and ministerial visits have strengthened the relationship between India and Australia. Both countries have expanded their ties into various areas, including defense and security, trade and investment, education and research, agriculture, and water, cyber and space, mining and critical minerals, climate change and renewable energy, people-to-people links, and mobility of people. [Read More](#)

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### **South Korea-Japan-China Foreign Ministers Meet**

South Korea's Park Jin, Japan's Yoko Kamikawa, and China's Wang Yi [met](#) in Busan, South Korea, to normalize the relationship between the three countries. This meeting occurred long after 2019, and relations between the three East Asian countries have not been smooth. Furthermore, in recent times, China has imposed a ban on seafood imported from Japan. However, Kishida and Xi met in person on the sidelines of the APEC summit in San Francisco this month. It is noted that Japan and South Korea are the key partners of the U.S. strategy in the Indo-Pacific, and the three countries elevated their trilateral partnership with the [Camp David Agreement](#) in August 2023. [Read More](#)

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### **Indo-Pacific Quiz**

Which country is associated with Operation 1027?

- a. Afghanistan
- b. Israel
- c. Philippines
- d. Myanmar

In which country is Afghanistan Embassy recently closed?

- a. India
- b. Pakistan
- c. Israel
- d. Sri Lanka

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## Consortium Highlights

- CIPR International Conference 2023 Report: [Read Here](#)
- US-APEC Summit: Analysis and Assessment



Roundtable Discussion

[YouTube Link](#)

- CIPR International Conference 2023 Highlights

CIPW's 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference, November 1<sup>st</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
**Alliances and Partnerships in the Indo-Pacific: Elevating Strategies and Interests**  
 Chair(s) & Speakers  
**Pacific Islands: A Growing Strategic Importance**  
 Nov 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 8:00 AM EST

 Dr. Indu Saxena CIPW, USA	 Mr. Chris Katsouris Senior Fellow, CIPW, USA	 Mr. Paul J. Zelenski Pacific Islands Network, Republic of the Marshall Islands	 Mr. John W. Brennan Special Representative for Western Pacific, USA
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Pacific Islands: A Growing strategic Importance

[YouTube Link](#)

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**Alliances and Partnerships in the Indo-Pacific: Elevating Strategies and Interests**  
 Chair(s) & Speakers  
**The AUKUS Partnerships: Strengthening Security and Alliances**  
 Nov 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 8:00 AM EST

 Prof. Peter Dombrowski U.S. Naval War College, USA	 Prof. Rajat Ganguly Murdoch University, Perth, Australia	 Prof. Stephen R. Nagy International Christian University, Tokyo, Japan	 Capt. Brendan Donnelly, Fellow, CIPW, USA
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The AUKUS Partnerships: Strengthening Security and Alliances

[YouTube Link](#)

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Contributions: Indu Saxena