



Consortium of Indo-Pacific
Researchers

Indo-Pacific Weekly Mail Dec 4 - 10, 2023

Greetings Colleagues,

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

Diego Garcia Plays a Vital Role in the Indo-Pacific Region - Secretary Blinken



Figure 1: Image / State.gov

U.S. Secretary of State Anthony Blinken met with British Foreign Secretary David Cameron in Washington on December 7. In their broader conversation, they also discussed the 'vital' U.S. airbase at Diego Garcia. Secretary Blinken said that [Diego Garcia is a joint U.S.-U.K. military facility that plays a vital role in the Indo-Pacific and global security](#). He further stated that the U.S. recognizes U.K. sovereignty over the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT), but it's a bilateral matter for the U.K. and Mauritius.

It is important to note that Chagos Archipelago is a chain of fifty-five small islands where BIOT comprises of six islands, and Diego Garcia is the largest island. The U.K. has extended the lease for Diego Garcia to the U.S. until 2036. However, the sovereignty of Chagos still lies with the U.K. In 2019, the U.N. General Assembly voted to end the colonial administration by the U.K. and return it to Mauritius. According to [recent news reports in The Telegraph](#), British top officials and Defense Secretary Grant Shapps have discussed canceling plans to hand over control of the islands to Mauritius. Notably, China's increasing influence in Mauritius and the wider Indian Ocean region has become a cause of concern for the U.S. Given the intense geopolitical competition with China, the U.S. has recently taken steps to counter this by [opening its embassy](#) in Seychelles and a [new embassy campus](#) in Moka, Mauritius. China has advanced its diplomatic and economic relations with the IOR countries and maintains embassies in every island nation in the IOR, including Sri Lanka, Maldives, Mauritius, Seychelles, Madagascar, and Comoros. Talking about the significance of Diego Garcia, the Secretary stated, "It gives us an ability to respond rapidly to crises, and also to counter some of the most challenging threats that we face." This Cold War military base serves as a logistics and support facility for navy vessels, warplanes, and special forces with access to bombers. [Read More](#)

Japan Hosted Extended Deterrence Dialogue

Japan and U.S. delegates [participated in the Extended Deterrence Dialogue](#) (EDD) in Japan. The EDD was established in 2010 to discuss ways to strengthen extended deterrence, which lies at the core of the Japan-U.S. Alliance. Amidst growing security concerns in the region, North Korea has been frequently launching ballistic missiles. Meanwhile, Russia and China have been increasing their military cooperation, and Russia has also been collaborating with North Korea. Both sides have agreed to strengthen deterrence and fortify their alliance to ensure peace and stability in the region. The EDD aims to enhance deterrence capabilities as stated in the [U.S. Nuclear Posture Review of 2022](#). The 1960 U.S.-Japan Security Treaty commits the U.S. to provide defense and security to Japan, enhancing their alliance to deter regional threats.

Additionally, in August 2023, the United States, Japan, and South Korea signed the [Camp David Agreement](#), aimed at enhancing security cooperation and strengthening deterrence in the Indo-Pacific region. In a [recent development](#), **National Security Advisors of U.S.-Japan-R.O.K met in Seoul** to discuss progress on various trilateral initiatives. These initiatives include the Commitment to Consult on regional crises, sharing ballistic missile defense data, and our collective efforts to respond to the DPRK's use of cryptocurrency for generating revenue for its illicit WMD programs.

Undoubtedly, one can count on the progress and advancement of the alliances and partners in the Indo-Pacific; a [DoD official](#) says that 2023 has been the 'most transformative' year in the Indo-Pacific. [Read More](#)

Singapore Defense Minister Visits Washington

Secretary Austin [met](#) with Singapore's Minister for Defence Ng Eng at Pentagon. Both officials discussed strengthen defense and security cooperation and the newly launched [U.S.-Singapore Critical and Emerging Technologies](#) Dialogue. U.S.-Singapore regularly participates in a joint military exercise and force posture cooperation, cementing its status as a highly valued defense partner of the United States. On the other hand, Singapore Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance [visits China on a four-day official tour](#) to deepen the bilateral relations.

Indo-Pacific Quiz

Where are Chagos Islands located?

- a. South China Sea
- b. Indian Ocean
- c. Sea of Japan
- d. Pacific Ocean

When was the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) adopted?

- a. 1945
 - b. 1948
 - c. 1951
 - d. 1955
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Consortium Highlights

- Human Rights Day Special: “Declining Women’s Rights and Freedom: Afghan Women at Two Years of Taliban Rule”. A commentary by Consortium Intern, Vinuri Perera. [Read Here.](#)
- CIPR International Conference 2023 Highlights

**CONSORTIUM OF INDO-PACIFIC RESEARCHERS
2ND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2023
(ONLINE)**

[Register Here](#)

**PANEL TOPIC:
U.S. AND TAIWAN PARTNERSHIP
AMIDST GEOPOLITICAL
COMPETITION**

**03 Nov, 2023 | 9:00 am New York
9:00 pm Taipei**

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<http://indopacificresearchers.org/>

U.S. and Taiwan Partnership A
Geopolitical Competition

[YouTube Link](#)

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