



Consortium of Indo-Pacific
Researchers

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Greetings Colleagues,

The Consortium is pleased to share its latest newsletter for the Indo-Pacific.

Year 2023, 'A Decisive year for Implementing U.S. Defense strategy in Asia'-Defense Secretary



Figure 1: Image/ DOD/

During his speech at the Reagan Defense Forum, U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III highlighted the significant challenges America is currently facing with its allies and partners. He emphasized the importance of defending Ukraine's freedom and Israel's survival while also acknowledging the ['bullying and coercion from an increasingly assertive China'](#) in the Indo-Pacific. “The PRC is our only rival with the intent—and, increasingly, the capacity—to reshape the international order,” he said. However, he asserts that the U.S., with allies and partners, has been able to make a more robust and diverse force posture to meet the China challenge. He mentioned that his four significant trips to the region this year are resulting in tremendous progress and strengthening the partnership towards a more secure Indo-Pacific.

The Secretary elaborated on the major strategies that the U.S. has successfully implemented in the Indo-Pacific, such as the Defense Cooperation Agreement with Papua New Guinea. Additionally, the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement with the Philippines allows the U.S. to use more bases in Philippines. Furthermore, the trilateral alliance between the United States, Japan, and Korea is significant, as well as the defense industrial cooperation between the United States and India. Furthermore, the [AUKUS agreement](#) established a deeper partnership with the United Kingdom and Australia, focusing on advanced military capabilities and innovation. He announced the [Indo-Pacific innovation challenges](#) starting next year. [Read More](#)

French Minister Visits Australia and New Caledonia

French foreign affairs minister Catherine Colonna [attends](#) the regional security meeting in New Caledonia. She will also meet her counterpart, Penny Wong, in Canberra. Her visit aims to boost the relationship with Australia and other Pacific countries. It is worth mentioning that France and Australia relations deteriorated when the Australian government [pulled out](#) from the French submarine deal. France aims to bolster its presence in the Pacific and the wider Indo-Pacific region due to other major powers in the region and to keep an eye on China's increasing influence in the region. France considers itself a major player in the Indo-Pacific region, which includes territories with significant populations. Its Indo-Pacific strategy [states](#), "The protection of its citizens and its sovereign territory is one of the main missions of the French security and defense strategy in the Indo-Pacific." [Read More](#)

COP 28 Convened in Dubai

United Arab Emirates [hosts](#) the United Nations Climate Conference. The participating countries and stakeholders have been deliberating on climate finance, climate justice, to reduce greenhouse emission and the [global action](#) to keep the global temperature rise within 1.5 degrees. The leaders from the Indo-Pacific region have emphasized the target to reduce emission as there is an urgent need for climate action in the Pacific Islands and ocean states. In his speech, India's P.M. Modi [announced](#) to reduce carbon emission intensity by 45 percent by 2030 and country's goal to net zero by 2070. He proposes to host the COP-33 summit in India in 2028. Japanese P.M. Kishida [aims](#) to reduce

its greenhouse gas emissions by 46 percent by 2030. He also mentioned the framework of the Asia Zero Emission Community (AZEC). The U.S. [announced \\$3 billion](#) to the Green Climate Fund and the summit is attended by Vice President Kamala Harris, Secretary Blinken & Special Envoy John Kerry. It is worth mentioning that Quad countries have been working on a comprehensive agenda of Climate change and Action group. [Read More](#)

South Korea Launces First Spy Satellite

South Korea recently [launched its first military spy satellite](#) into space just after North Korea claimed to have put its own spy satellite into orbit, further escalating tensions between the two nations. The satellite was launched from Vandenberg Space Force Base in California. South Korea plans to send five satellites into space by 2025 under a contract with SpaceX. [Read More](#)

Indo-Pacific Quiz

When was U.S.-R.O.K. Mutual Defense Treaty signed?

- a. 1951
- b. 1953
- c. 1950
- d. 1954

Which country owns New Caledonia?

- a. Australia
- b. France
- c. U.K.
- d. New Zealand

Consortium Highlights

- Blog Post: **New Delhi, ‘Friend of the World’ (Vishwa Mitra): Expectations and Challenges**, by Consortium Member Vineet Malik. [Read Here](#)
- CIPR International Conference 2023 Highlights



Bay of Bengal Partnership in th Indo-Pacific

[YouTube Link](#)



Historical Lessons from the Pac Alliances

[YouTube Link](#)

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