



Consortium of Indo-Pacific
Researchers

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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.-Japan-Philippines Trilateral Summit Held in Washington



Figure 1: Philippines President Marcos and Japanese Prime Minister Kishida with U.S. President Biden at the White House

Throughout this week, the world's attention turned towards the Indo-Pacific region as President Biden hosted two pivotal Asian leaders. The first was Japan's Prime Minister Kishida, who [arrived for a State Visit](#) to delve into crucial matters and share insights with the U.S. President and his team. The second was President Marcos of the Philippines (PH), who spent three days engaging in high-level talks covering topics ranging from [defense cooperation to economic partnerships](#), and culminating in the U.S.-Japan-PH [first-ever trilateral summit](#).

These three allies and maritime democracies voiced a resolute commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific. They expressed unwavering support for ASEAN centrality and unity, as well as the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific. Their efforts underscore the proactive engagement with Pacific Island countries and the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) in bolstering the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent. Furthermore, they welcomed the endeavors of Quad, AUKUS, and the U.S.-Japan-Republic of Korea trilateral framework to promote a peaceful, stable, rules-based Indo-Pacific region.

As part of their collaborative efforts to foster inclusive economic growth and investment and advance the Indo-Pacific Framework (IPEF), the United States has unveiled a \$1 billion investment in the private sector to boost the Philippines' innovation economy, clean energy transition, and supply chain resilience. Japan, too, demonstrated its commitment by investing more than JPY 600 billion in the Philippines between 2022 and 2023. Additionally, the two countries have announced the creation of the first PGII (Partnership of Global

Infrastructure & Investment) Luzon Economic Corridor, which aims to improve connectivity between Subic Bay, Clark, Manila, and Batangas in the Philippines. This initiative is expected to expedite infrastructure projects related to rail, roads, ports, semiconductors, and supply chains, with the active involvement of multilateral organizations and private sectors.

The United States and Japan have pledged to invest in and support the Philippines in advancing cutting-edge technologies, including Open Radio Access Network (RAN), semiconductor supply chains, and climate and clean energy technologies. The support will extend to renewable energy projects like solar and wind power.

In the [joint statement](#), three countries showed their commitment to maintaining freedom of navigation and overflight in the South China Sea and the East China Sea. They expressed concerns about China's military buildup on reclaimed islands and illegal territorial claims in the South China Sea. The proposed Luzan corridor and its forthcoming projects appear to be a potential countermeasure to China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Moreover, Expanding the partnership in defense capabilities and interoperability via joint maritime exercises and Coast Guard patrolling in the region aims to bolster deterrence in the Indo-Pacific region.

The recent announcements regarding defense, economics, technology, and space cooperation have not only bolstered bilateral relations with Japan and the Philippines but also significantly improved the trilateral security architecture in the region. The rapid developments

unfolding in the Indo-Pacific region have facilitated opportunities for the United States and its key allies to advance in shared strategic interests. [Read More](#)

Sergei Lavrov Visits China

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov recently [met](#) with China's President Xi in Beijing to discuss and deepen their partnership. Among the topics they covered were the war in Ukraine and the situation in the Asia-Pacific region. It's worth noting that Moscow and Beijing have a "No Limit" partnership and have strengthened their diplomatic and economic relations since the Ukraine war. However, [according to U.S. officials](#), China has been providing material support to Russia in the conflict. This was also highlighted last week when the U.S. Treasury Secretary visited China. This week, Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, [Daniel J. Kritenbrink, will travel to the People's Republic of China](#) from April 14-16 to maintain the open line of communications. With the recent attacks by Iran on Israel in West Asia, there will be implications for the Indo-Pacific region.

India's Foreign Secretary Visits U.S.A.

Indian Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra [met](#) with several senior officials from the U.S. government to discuss various issues concerning the

relationship between the two countries. The meetings were held with Deputy Secretary of State Richard Verma, Deputy Secretary Kurt Campbell, and other high-ranking officials from the State Department. During the discussions, the officials focused on strengthening the defense, security, and economic ties between India and the U.S. and furthering the Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership between the two countries. They discussed various ways the two nations could collaborate and work together to achieve their common goals. In addition to the meetings with the State Department officials, Vinay Kwatra also met with Deputy Secretary of Defense Kathleen Hicks to discuss the Major Defense Partnership between India and the U.S. Both officials [emphasized](#) the historic momentum in the partnership and the significance of their collaboration in support of a free and open Indo-Pacific. [Read More](#)

Myanmar Military lose control in Border Town

The conflict between Myanmar military Junta and rebel groups intensifies. The rebel forces gain the control of [key town of Myawaddy](#) along Thailand border. The pro-democracy groups and ethnic armed forces came together in an effort to wrest control from the military junta. However, neighboring China has a significant stake in Myanmar due to its BRI project and may extend its support to the junta in drone air strikes to bring some short of security to its investment.

Notably, to address the shortage of soldiers, the junta has recently implemented a conscription law to recruit more young people. [Read More](#)

Indo-Pacific Quiz

Where has the opening of the Luzan Corridor been announced?

- a. Japan
- b. Philippines
- c. South Korea
- d. U.S.A

When did the Mutual Defense Treaty between the U.S. and the Philippines take place?

- a. 1951
 - b. 1961
 - c. 1952
 - d. 1953
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Consortium Highlights

Post-Vietnam War Peacebuilding: A Path to Regional Stability, an article by Consortium Intern NGUYEN Van Anh. [Read Here.](#)

Roundtable Conference on April 18th, 2024 @8:00 PM EST, **U.S.-Japan-Philippines Summit: Bolstering Deterrence in the Indo-Pacific**, with Prof. Yoichiro Sato, Col. Jeffry Hollman, Mr. Jose Custodio & Indu Saxena. [Join Here](#)

Contributions: Indu Saxena