



Consortium of Indo-Pacific  
Researchers

## **Indo-Pacific Weekly Mail June 10-16, 2024**

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Greetings Indu,

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

### **G-7 leaders Demonstrate Commitment to the Indo-Pacific Region**



*Figure 1: G-7 Leaders' Summit in Apulia, Italy, June 13-15, 2024, /IMAGE/www.g7italy.it*

Amidst escalating tensions in the Russia-Ukraine and Gaza-Israel conflicts, leaders from the world's foremost economies, [G-7, convened in Apulia, Italy](#). This assembly provided a platform for deliberation on strategies to address these complexities and advance peace and stability on a global scale.

The major developed countries, in a proactive move, have emphasized the importance of upholding the rule of law to ensure a free and open Indo-Pacific. They have also underscored the need to engage in constructive dialogue with China, signaling a potential for peaceful resolution and prevention of new conflicts in the region.

In the [joint communique](#), leaders expressed their deep concern for the safety of Philippines vessels, which have frequently faced China's "water cannon and dangerous maneuvers" in the South China Sea. They also expressed apprehension regarding China's assertive conduct in the South China Sea, including the [dangerous use of its Coast Guard and maritime militia](#). They reaffirmed their resolute opposition to any instances of unilaterally altering the status quo through the use of force or coercion in the East and South China Seas.

The joint statement stated, "We reaffirm that there is no legal basis for China's expansive maritime claims in the South China Sea, and we oppose China's militarization, and coercive and intimidation activities in the South China Sea." They also emphasized the importance of the Arbitral Tribunal's decision on July 12, 2016, which ruled in favor of the Philippines and invalidated China's 'nine-dash line' claim, in this matter,

and urged the parties to comply with the proceedings to resolve the dispute.

In addition to, as per the statement, China's involvement in various matters raises apprehensions among the leaders of affluent economies. This apprehension pertains to the following areas of concern: support provided to Russia's defense industrial base, human rights situations in Xinjiang, Tibet, and the autonomy of Hong Kong, malicious cyber activities originating from China, and the implementation of non-market policies and unethical trade practices. The leaders have stated that their actions are not intended to hinder China's economic progress but rather to mitigate risk within the supply chain. The G-7 leader's condemnation extends to North Korea's ballistic missile program and the Myanmar military regime's savage violence in the state, which has resulted in a humanitarian crisis.

In sum up, the G-7 leaders are worried about China's growing assertiveness and its collaboration with Russia, which is leading to escalating tensions. China's absence from the Ukraine Peace Summit and Russia's showing of its naval muscles by sending warships to Cuba raise concerns. [Read More](#)

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## **U.S.-South Korea Nuclear Consultative Group Meet in Seoul**

The United States and the Republic of Korea (ROK) [convened the third Nuclear Consultative Group \(NCG\)](#). The NCG, established by the Washington Declaration between the United States and the Republic of Korea in April 2023, is a bilateral body for consultations. Its goal is to strengthen the U.S.-ROK Alliance and extended deterrence in order to contribute to peace and stability in the Korean Peninsula and the region. The meeting was co-chaired by Dr. Vipin Narang, U.S. acting assistant secretary of defense for space policy, and Cho Chang Lae, South Korea's deputy minister for national defense policy. [Read More](#)

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## **Chinese Premier Visits New Zealand, Australia, and Malaysia**

Chinese Premier Li Qiang visits New Zealand (NZ) and Australia to improve its bilateral relations. In his visit to New Zealand, Li expressed to boost trade relations and hope to expand Chinese collaboration in [energy, information technology, biomedicine and other emerging industries](#). He also mentioned that China and New Zealand would be working to upgrade their comprehensive strategic partnership.

Also, Li's visit will mark the first visit by a Chinese premier to Australia in seven years. This visit is anticipated to play a significant role in mending the relations between China and Australia. It is worth mentioning that China-Australia relations became strained during the

tenure of former Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison. China–Australia relations [flared up](#) after Australia's move to cancel agreements between the BRI and the Victoria state government and Canberra's call for an international probe into the origins of COVID-19 in April 2020. [Read More](#)

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## **Indo-Pacific Quiz**

Which country is not a member of Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QSD)

- a. Japan
- b. America
- c. India
- d. Canada

What is Valiant Shield?

- a. A Military Exercise
  - b. An Autonomous weapon
  - c. A Missile Program
  - d. A Software
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## **Consortium Highlights**

❖ Consortium Fellow Brendan Donnelly blogs on, **The East African Migration Crisis and Security Implications.** [Read Here](#)

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Contributions: Indu Saxena