



Consortium of Indo-Pacific  
Researchers

## **Indo-Pacific Weekly Mail July 1-7, 2024**

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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.

### **Japan and Philippines Signs Defense Pact**



Ms. KAMIKAWA Yoko, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, and Mr. KIHARA Minoru, Minister of Defense of Japan, who are visiting Manila, the Republic of the Philippines, with Hon. Enrique A. Manalo, Secretary for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Philippines and Hon. Gilberto C. Teodoro Jr., Secretary of National Defense of the Republic of the Philippines at the second Japan-Philippines Foreign and Defense Ministerial Meeting ("2+2") in Manila. IMAGE/ MoFA /Japan

Japan and the Philippines have recently finalized a defense cooperation agreement, marking a pivotal moment in their bilateral relations. This agreement will facilitate joint military exercises and bolster defense collaboration between the two nations. The signing of this pact signifies a significant step forward in enhancing the strategic partnership and security cooperation between Japan and the Philippines.

The Reciprocal Access Agreement, also known as the RAA, is a significant bilateral agreement that enables Filipino military personnel to access and engage in joint combat training in Japan. This agreement was formalized through a signing ceremony held in Manila, where Philippine Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro and Japanese Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa officially endorsed the RAA. The ceremony was honored by the presence of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., signifying the commitment of both nations to strengthen their defense and security cooperation.

As both countries held their Foreign and Defense Ministerial meeting (2+2) in Manila and agreed to work closely to maintain free and open international order. As per the [press release](#), "Japan and the Philippines are maritime nations and strategic partners sharing fundamental values and principles and the four ministers expressed their strong opposition to any unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force or coercion in the South and East China Sea."

Japanese Defense Minister Kihara [said in a joint news conference](#), “As the security environment surrounding us becomes more and more severe, it is extremely important to highlight the cooperation and coordination with our allies and with like-minded countries in order to maintain peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region.” The Ministers also confirmed to build multilayered cooperation with allies and like-minded countries, including Japan-Philippines-U.S. and Japan-U.S.-Australia-Philippines.

It is worth mentioning that Philippines has actively engaged in bilateral and multilateral security cooperation due to its rising tensions with China in the South China Sea and dispute over Second Thomas Shoal. In the past months Philippines has renewed its security partnership with the United States, Australia, and Japan. [Read More](#)

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## **Modi-Putin Summit in Moscow**

Indian Prime Minister Modi’s [visit](#) to Moscow for the 22nd India-Moscow annual summit is a significant event, especially considering it's the first visit after the Russia-Ukraine conflict began. Though both leaders [had previously met](#) in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit in September 2022. During this meeting, Modi's statement, "This is not the era of war," garnered significant global attention. The 21st Summit, held on

December 6, 2021, in New Delhi, saw the signing of 28 MoUs and agreements.

Modi's visit to Moscow, in the context of India's enhanced relations with the United States and its prominent position in the U.S.-led Quad in the Indo-Pacific, raises questions about the dynamics of New Delhi-Moscow relations. The visit could be seen as a strategic move to counter China's "no limits partnership" with Russia, given India's strained ties with China after the Galwan Valley Clash in the Himalayan region in 2020. It also underscores India's historical partnership with Russia as a time-tested friend, dating back to the Cold War era and India's reliance on the Russian armory. Furthermore, it reflects India's ambition to play a more decisive role on the world stage. Also, it is important to note that India has been cultivating relations with multiple countries, following its foreign policy approach of strategic autonomy.

It remains to be seen how Washington will interpret Modi's trip to Moscow, particularly in the context of its stance on Russia. The visit could potentially complicate Washington's efforts to isolate Russia as a pariah state. This is especially significant at a time when NATO countries are gathering in Washington to commemorate its 75th anniversary. [Read More](#)

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**U.S. Congressman Launches Burma Caucus**

U.S. Congressman Bill Huizenga launched the first-ever bipartisan Congressional Burma Caucus and introduced the Brave Burma Act to protect the rights and freedoms of the Burmese people. According to reports, this bill will protect the rights and freedoms of the Burmese people by addressing the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Burma. Congressman said, “This bipartisan bill moves to cut off the primary source of funding for the regime and diminish its ability to conduct horrific airstrikes on civilian populations.” [Read More](#)

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## **Quad Senior Officials Meeting Held**

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Daniel J. Kritenbrink and Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs Donald Lu [virtually met](#) with their Quad counterparts. The officials reiterated their commitment to bolstering people-to-people ties in the Indo-Pacific region and discussed the Quad's support for regional institutions, including ASEAN, the Pacific Islands Forum, and the Indian Ocean Rim Association.

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## **Indo-Pacific Quiz**

How many countries from the Indo-Pacific will attend NATO Summit in Washington this week?

- a. Four
- b. Six
- c. Five
- d. Eight

Which country has Masoud Pezeshkian been the newly elected president of?

- a. Pakistan
  - b. Iraq
  - c. Iran
  - d. Saudi Arabia
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## **Consortium Highlights**

- ❖ A Commentary on **Sixty Years of U.S.-Kenya Partnership** by Robert Uri Dabaly. [Read Here](#)
  - ❖ [Podcast Tune in](#)-Humanitarian Crisis in Gaza - July 11, 2024 @12:00 PM EST.
  - ❖ Modi-Putin Summit and Regional Dynamics-Roundtable Discussion, July 15, 2024. Stay tuned for details.
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Contributions: Indu Saxena

