



Consortium of Indo-Pacific  
Researchers

**Indo-Pacific Weekly Mail Aug 26 - Sep 1, 2024**

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Greetings Colleagues,

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

**Pacific Islands Forum's Annual Meeting Held in Tonga**



Figure 1: Pacific Island Leaders and the delegate partners at the PIF summit in Tonga/ IMAGE/ <https://forumsec.org/>

The 53rd Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Leaders Meeting is hosted by the Kingdom of Tonga from August 26-30, 2024. The Chair of the PIF, Prime Minister of Tonga, welcomed the delegates and the dialogue partners and delivered his address to remains deeply committed to a united region, guided by our 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent vision for our future. He further stated, “PIFLM53 will ensure that the vision for a region of peace, harmony, security, social inclusion and prosperity, a Transformative Resilient Pasifiki, for our Pacific people to lead free, healthy and productive lives, can only be realized, if we ‘Build a Better Now’ as we embark on our first year of implementation of our region’s 2050 Strategy and year of transformation.” The summit was attended by Heads of State and Government of Australia, the Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Fiji, French Polynesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and the Republic of Vanuatu. The Republic of Kiribati was represented at Ministerial level. The U.S.A., Canada, Japan, China, European Union, France, India etc. attended the meeting as a dialogue partner.

As [per reports](#) after China raised objections, Taiwan's name was removed from the joint communique due to China's view of Taiwan

as its breakaway province. It is important to note that three Pacific Island countries have diplomatic ties with Taiwan, while fifteen countries recognize China as a prominent development partner.

The 54th Pacific Islands Forum Meeting will be held in Solomon Islands in 2025. [Read More](#)

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### **U.S. and Indonesia Multinational Exercise Begins**

The United States and the Indonesian National Armed Forces officially [launched the 2024 Super Garuda Shield exercise](#). The annual U.S.-Indonesia training exercise, which commenced as an information and training exchange between the United States and Indonesia in 2006, has evolved to include partner nations since 2022. This year, service members from the United States, Indonesia, Australia, Canada, France, Japan, Singapore, South Korea, the United Kingdom, and New Zealand are actively participating. Additionally, twelve other nations are in attendance as observers.

The joint military drill serves to bolster the defense alliance between the United States and Indonesia, in accordance with the Defense Cooperation Arrangement, aims to reinforce a free and open

Indo-Pacific region. It encompasses efforts to enhance the capacity of participating governments to exchange data securely and efficiently across geographical, political, and organizational barriers.

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## **Philippines and Vietnam Boost Military Ties Viewing Common Threat**

Vietnam Defense Minister Phan Van Giang on his visit to Manila signed a Letter of Intent (LOI) on defense cooperation as the two countries have been facing Chinese assertiveness in the South China Sea. Both nations are aiming to enhance collaboration in providing humanitarian aid and disaster relief at sea, and in establishing military medical arrangements. The Philippines Defense Department stated, “Ministers expressed their unwavering commitment to deepen defense and military cooperation through continued interaction and engagements at all levels.”

Both Ministers have reiterated their steadfast commitment to a rules-based international order anchored in international law and the promotion of sustainable peace, principled security, and regional stability. [Read More](#)

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## Indo-Pacific Quiz

Which country uses the Pa'anga as its currency?

- a. Kiribati
- b. Papua New Guinea
- c. Tonga
- d. Fiji

When was Bangladesh formed as a country?

- a. 1965
- b. 1971
- c. 1980
- d. 1990

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## Consortium Highlights

❖ ***Bangladesh Political Change: Analyzing Regional***

***Implication.*** Join us for the Panel Discussion on Sept.6, 2024

@9:00 AM EST [ZOOM LINK](#)



## Consortium of Indo-Pacific Researchers (CIPR)

Presents a webinar on

### Bangladesh Political Landscape and Regional Implications

Date & Time: Friday, September 06, 2024

9:00 AM EST / 6:30 PM Delhi/ 7:00 PM Dhaka/ 6:45 Kathmandu

#### Chair & Moderator



Dr. Indu Saxena  
Senior Fellow, CIPR, USA



Gp Capt (Retd) Dr. Mohd. Zahidul Islam Khan  
Visiting Research Fellow  
Dept of Politics & IR, Uni of Reading, UK

#### Panelists



Prof. Dr. Mohd. Aminul Karim  
Former Comdt, NDC, Bangladesh &  
Former Visiting Prof. Uni of Malaysia



Prof. Dr. Sreeradha Datta  
Jindal School of Int'l Affairs  
O.P. Jindal Global University, India



Maj. General Binoj Basnyat (Retd)  
Nepali Army, Strategic Analyst  
Institute of Diplomacy & Int'l Studies  
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[ZOOM LINK](#)

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