



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 the reply button for your feedback and comments.

Biden Hosts Quad Leaders' Summit 2024



Figure 1: From (L-R) Prime Minister Anthony Albanese of Australia, Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India, U.S. President Biden, and Prime Minister Kishida Fumio of Japan, at Quad Summit 2024. IMAGE/ twitter/ The White House

The Fourth Quad leaders' summit is hosted by the U.S. President Joseph R. Biden in Wilmington, Delaware on Sept. 21, 2024, with the warm greetings of Prime Minister Anthony Albanese of Australia, Prime Minister Kishida Fumio of Japan, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India.

The leaders of four democracies released a [joint statement](#) called "Wilmington Declaration." The leaders reiterated their top priorities of establishing a rule-based order to ensure a secure and prosperous Indo-Pacific region. As per the leader's speech and remarks the Quad countries have become strategically coordinated, aligned and elevated more than ever before. The four democracies have been working at "unprecedented scope and scale" on their various initiatives of maritime security, disaster relief, critical technology, health security, climate change, and capacity building in the Indo-Pacific region.

Japanese Prime Minister Kishida said that security environment surrounding us is becoming increasingly severe, and a free and open international order based on the rule of law is under threat. He further added that it is much more important to continue to demonstrate our commitment to our vision of a free, open Indo-Pacific to the international community. Indian Prime Minister Modi stated, "Quad is not against anyone; it supports a rules-based international order,

respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, and the peaceful resolution of all issues." Australian Prime Minister Albanese remarked that for Australia, the quad is a key instrument that promotes stability in our region, and "A stronger Quad means a stronger Australia."

The outcomes of this summit include the announcement of a new regional Maritime for Training in the Indo-Pacific (MAITRI), which will strengthen the Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA), which was launched in 2022 to counter unlawful activities in waters. Also, the Quad launched the Quad [Cancer Moonshot](#) to reduce cancer-related deaths in the Indo-Pacific, with a focus on cervical cancer. Also, the Quad fellowship is extended to Southeast Asian countries, given Southeast Asia's importance and ensuring that they are included and part of the initiative.

Ahead of the Leaders' Summit, the members of Congress announced the launch of a bipartisan, bicameral Congressional Quad Caucus. The Quad Caucus includes U.S. Representative Ami Bera, M.D. (D-CA), Ranking Member of the House Foreign Affairs Indo-Pacific Subcommittee, Representative Rob Wittman (R-VA) and U.S. Senators Tammy Duckworth (D-IL) and Pete Ricketts (R-NE). The creation of the Quad Caucus exemplifies the significance of longevity of collaborative

efforts among the four countries, emphasizing their shared values in the Indo-Pacific region.

It is worth mentioning that the United States and other Quad countries are concerned about China's assertive actions in the South China Sea, the East China Sea, and the Himalayan region.

Additionally, China's assistance to Russia by providing dual-use capabilities that bolster Putin's war machinery in Ukraine is a grave concern for the United States and its Western allies. [Read More](#)

China Sanctions U.S. Defense-related Companies

China imposes sanctions on U.S. military -linked firms that sale equipment to Taiwan. The [U.S. Defense Security Cooperation Agency announced](#) the sale of Spare Parts and related equipment for an estimated cost of \$228 million to Taiwan. The sale includes classified and unclassified spare parts for aircraft and related equipment; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support to Taiwan. It states that the “Proposed sale serves U.S. national, economic,

and security interests by supporting the recipient's continuing efforts to modernize its armed forces and to maintain a credible defensive capability. The sale will help improve the security of the recipient and assist in maintaining political stability, military balance, and economic progress in the region.”

Beijing considers Taiwan as a breakaway province that will eventually be reunited with the country and has not ruled out the use of force to achieve this goal. The United States has no formal diplomatic ties with Taiwan. Still, it has been increasingly supporting the democracy and the freedom of Taiwanese people and has shown its commitment to maintaining the status quo in the Taiwan Strait. [Read More](#)

AUKUS Security Partnership Three Years On

The United States, the United Kingdom, and Australia mark the third anniversary of the AUKUS Security Agreement. The AUKUS partnership has two pillars. The first pillar delivers conventionally armed, nuclear-powered submarines (SSNs) to Australia. The 2nd pillar bolsters industry and innovation sector collaboration between the three

countries. The AUKUS agreement has a deep commitment between the countries to protect sovereignty and territorial integrity and to promote a rule-based order in the Indo-Pacific region. On the occasion Pentagon Press Secretary Air Force Maj. Gen. Pat Ryder said, "Beyond submarines, AUKUS is advancing next-generation technologies from uncrewed maritime systems to AI-enabled sensing systems that enhance our ability to detect, decide and respond to threats more effectively." [Read More](#)

Sri Lanka Votes for New President

Sri Lankan voters [elected Marxist leader](#) Anura Kumara Dissanayake to be the next President of Sri Lanka. In Saturday's high-turnout election, Mr. Dissanayake garnered 42 percent of the vote. His primary contender, the opposition leader Sajith Premadasa, secured roughly 33 percent of the votes. Dissanayake's Political Party Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna was the main force behind the people's protest against then President Gotabaya Rajapaksa in 2022. Following the widespread protest, former President Rajapakshe fled the country, leading to the appointment of Ranil Wickremesinghe as the new President of Sri Lanka. Wickremesinghe's primary focus was to implement measures

aimed at facilitating economic recovery and stability within the country. It remains to be seen how Dissanayake will navigate the complex task of forming a government and steering Sri Lanka towards economic stability. [Read More](#)

Indo-Pacific Quiz

Who has won the Presidential election 2024 in Sri Lanka?

- a. Ranil Wickremesinghe
- b. Sajith Premadasa
- c. Anura Kumara Disanayake
- d. Mahindra Rajapaksha

Which country will host Quad Summit in 2025?

- a. India
 - b. USA
 - c. Japan
 - d. Australia
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Consortium Highlights

- ❖ Upcoming Webinar: Analyzing Quad Summit 2024

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