



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.

NATO Defense Ministers Plus its Indo-Pacific Partners Met in Brussels



Figure 1: From Left to Right (Australia's Minister for Defense Industry and Capability Delivery Pat Conroy, Japan's Defense Minister Nakatani, NATO Secretary General Rutte, New Zealand's Defense Minister Judith Collins, and South Korea's Vice Defense Minister Ki

The Defense ministers of the [North Atlantic Treaty Organization \(NATO\) met in Brussels](#) to discuss the global security environment, including Russia-Ukraine war and the situation in the Indo-Pacific. This was the first time when, at NATO's Defense Ministers Meeting, the alliance had its Indo-Pacific Four (IP4: Japan, Australia, New Zealand, and the Republic of Korea) convened in the format. NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte said it is extremely positive that IP4 countries are cooperating more and more for establishing rules of law and free and open Indo-Pacific. He stated, "because of the simple fact that security threats in the Indo-Pacific, of course, have a link to what is happening here, and you cannot simply divide the world."

The IP4 also met with G-7 Defense ministers in Naples, Italy, followed by their meeting in Brussels. In a [joint declaration](#), the countries reaffirm their commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific and recognize its crucial role in global prosperity and security. They showed their deep concern for China and North Korea's support of Russia, which is enabling Russia to continue its illegal war in Ukraine.

At the meeting, the [U.S. Defense Secretary raised concerns](#) over China's "increasingly coercive" behavior in the region and the growing cooperation between Russia and China. He stated that NATO's close cooperation with its Indo-Pacific Partners is "more vital than ever." Japan's Defense Minister Nakatani [echoed this sentiment, emphasizing](#) that "the security of Euro-

Atlantic and Indo-Pacific is inseparable." He noted that cooperation between NATO and its Indo-Pacific partners is deepening unprecedentedly amid the increasingly severe security environment.

In a statement, South Korea's Vice Defense Minister Kim Seon-ho underscores the alignment between Russia and North Korea and suspects that North Korea is sending soldiers to support Russia in its war efforts against Ukraine, as claimed by Ukrainian intelligence. [Read More](#)

China Launches Military Operation *Sword-2024*

China launched a military drill near Taiwan to send warnings for “separatists acts” followed by a speech by Taiwan’s President Lai Ching-te. In his speech Lai said, “Taiwan is not subordinate to China and Beijing has no right to represent Taiwan.” As per reports, 153 planes were detected around the Taiwan Strait and more than one hundred crossed the Meridian Line-an informal border line in the Strait.

On its response the [U.S. Defense Department stated](#) that People’s Liberation Army’s operation around Taiwan is “irresponsible, disproportionate, and destabilizing.” As per White House reports,” it is a long-standing tradition for Taiwan's president to deliver remarks on October 10 on its National Day.

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Escalating Tensions in India-Canada Diplomatic Ties

India and Canada are experiencing strained diplomatic ties as both countries expelled each other's officials including top diplomats. It is worth mentioning that the two commonwealth countries are at diplomatic row followed by the killing of Khalistan separatist leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar in British Columbia, Canada in June 2023. Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said last year he had evidence linking Indian Agents in the assassination of separatist leader in Canada. On the other hand, India's External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Mr. Randhir Jaiswal [said](#), "Canada has presented us no evidence whatsoever in support of the serious allegations that it has chosen to level against India and Indian diplomats." It is obvious that given the current strained relations between India and Canada, there is little hope for normalizing ties. [Read More](#)

U.S. and Philippines Commence KAMANDAG 8

The U.S. Marine Corps and the Philippine Marine Corps (PMC) have begun a [bilateral exercise KAMANDAG 8](#). The exercise aims to strengthen the interoperability of participating nations while promoting regional security and cooperation within the Indo-Pacific region. The exercise will enhance cooperation with allies and partners in combat medicine, coastal defense, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, engineering, and chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) response.

U.S.-Papua New Guinea (PNG) Strategic Partnership Dialogue (SPD) Held

U.S. Secretary of State Kurt Campbell and Papua New Guinea (PNG) Deputy Prime Minister John Rosso met for the first ever U.S.-PNG Strategic Partnership Dialogue (SPD), in Washington, D.C. The inaugural meeting will enhance collaboration between the United States and Papua New Guinea by aligning the shared values and working together to foster a safer and more prosperous future in the Pacific. [Read More](#)

Indo-Pacific Quiz

In which year Shanghai-5 was renamed to SCO?

- a. 1998
- b. 2000
- c. 2000
- d. 2001

In which country did Prabowo Subianto officially assume the office of President?

- a. Indonesia
 - b. Malaysia
 - c. Timor Leste
 - d. Thailand
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Consortium Highlights

Upcoming Events:

Quad Summit 2024: An Analysis with geopolitical experts.

Book-Talk: Southeast Asia and the Indo-Pacific Construct.

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