



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.

Japan and E.U. Sign Security Pact to Strengthen Partnership in the Indo-Pacific



Figure 1: EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell and Japanese Foreign Minister Takeshi Iwaya in Tokyo/ IMAGE/ <https://www.france24.com>

On the occasion of the 1st Japan-E.U. Foreign Ministerial Strategic Dialogue Japan and EU leaders signed the Japan-EU Security and Defence Partnership. Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan Mr. IWAYA Takeshi, and H.E. Mr. Josep Borrell Fontelles, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Vice-President of the European Commission met in Tokyo and agreed to enhance the partnership in maritime security, space, cyber security, hybrid threats including foreign information manipulation and interference (FIMI) amid rising regional tensions. Josep Borrell said the agreement is “timely and historical step” and the “first of this nature” with an Asia-Pacific country.

As per the statement “Europe and the Indo-Pacific are highly interconnected and interdependent. This interdependence has geopolitical, economic, and security dimensions. The European Union (EU) and Japan face an increasingly challenging and interlinked security environment as demonstrated by unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force. Japan and the EU emphasize the need to uphold and strengthen the free and open international order based on the rule of law and the respect for the United Nations (UN) Charter.” The leaders also seek to enhance capacity building and coordination on programs like EU-funded Critical Maritime Routes in the Indo-Pacific (CRIMARIO),

and 'Enhancing Security Cooperation in and With Asia' (ESIWA) projects.

Both regions are ramping up their security cooperation and defense partnership amid regional threats as the U.S. said that thousands of North Korean troops are ready to fight against Ukraine in Russia. It is worth mentioning that Japan's Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba said that "today's Ukraine could be tomorrow's Asia." [Read More](#)

U.S. and South Korea 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue Held in Washington

U.S. and Republic of Korea (ROK) leaders discuss to work on modernize the alliance capabilities and deepen the extended deterrence in the Security Consultative Meeting (SCM). In Foreign and Defense Minister's 2+2 meeting the U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, ROK Minister of Foreign Affairs Cho Tae-yul, U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III, and ROK Minister of National Defense Kim Yong Hyun consulted on regional security to aligning the diplomatic and defense collaboration and advancing the shared values and interests. Both countries will conduct military exercise to strengthen the defense posture. The Defense Ministers

announced the *Regional Cooperation Framework for U.S.-ROK Alliance Contributions to Security in the Indo-Pacific*. While working with the like-minded partners for maintaining a rule-based order in the region the alliance priority is to support the Republic of Korea's goal of becoming a "Global Pivotal State." [Read More](#)

New Sanctions Imposed on Myanmar's Military Regime

The U.K., European Union, and Canada have imposed [new sanctions](#) on Myanmar's military Junta and its associates. The new sanctions aim to prevent the military junta from getting military equipment, materials, and funds and, therefore, to counter the ability to airstrikes on civilians in Myanmar. The U.K.'s Minister for the Indo-Pacific, Catherine West, said that Myanmar's military regime's airstrike on civilians and killing of innocent people is "unacceptable", and she reiterated the U.K. government's support for protecting human rights and people's aspiration for a democratic future.

As per [reports](#), more than thousands of civilians have been killed in the junta airstrikes since the military coup in 2021; the number of airstrikes has increased in 2023 and 2024 as the regime is losing

ground in the fight with resistance forces. Furthermore, the U.N. special envoy for Myanmar Julie Bishop warns of escalating situation and expressed her concern of rising civilian casualties and growing criminal networks in the region. [Read More](#)

On the Eve of the U.S. Elections 2024

The countries in the Indo-Pacific region have varying opinions on who the next U.S. President should be. If former President Donald Trump were to win a second term, the Indo-Pacific would remain a crucial area for the United States despite his isolationist views. However, a "Trump 2.0" administration would likely implement more tariffs on China and ask for their fair share from allies and partners.

If the current Vice President wins, it would be historic as she would become the first female President of the United States. Her administration would also need to clarify how closely she plans to align with President Joe Biden's legacy in the Indo-Pacific region. For more tune in our webinar.

Indo-Pacific Quiz

Which country's Ex-Prime Minister is associated with the 1MDB Trial?

- a. Malaysia
- b. Singapore
- c. Thailand
- d. North Korea

What is Tiangong?

- a. A space station
- b. A maritime exercise
- c. A missile
- d. A computer program

Consortium Highlights

- ❖ Book-Launch Discussion [Southeast Asia and the Indo-Pacific Construct](#), @ Nov. 8th 2024, 7:00 PM EST, [Zoom Link](#)

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