



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.

**Trump 2.0 and America's Indo-Pacific Engagements**



*Figure 1: President-elect Donald Trump delivers his victory speech on Nov.5, 2024*

The U.S. elections 2024 results favored the Republican Party and set the stage for Donald Trump to become the 47th U.S. President. The Indo-Pacific region will remain crucial for America under Trump's second term. Based on Trump's first term and election campaign, it is clear that the Trump administration will prioritize "America First" policy. This policy could bring about significant changes in America's interactions with certain countries, a shift that many are anticipating. The first changes could be in trade, as Trump has proposed 20% tariffs on all imports, which would potentially impact China, in some extent India too.

However, in his 2nd term, Trump would probably refrain from taking any steps to withdraw from any grouping as he withdrew from the Trans-Pacific Partnership in his first term. He would seemingly be more experienced and evolved in terms of the foreign policy domain despite his transactional approach. In his new term, he has to deal with Kim Jong of North Korea, who is going too [close to Russia](#) as the North Korean troops are ready to fight against Ukraine in Moscow. Previously, he went out of the way of any American President to meet the North Korean leader.

In South Asia, he would work with India as usual, and there is an optimism that his chemistry with Indian Prime Minister Modi would flourish, following "Namaste Trump" and "Howdy Modi", to strengthen Indo-U.S. bilateral relations. The current [statistics](#), of the U.S. and India trade is with exports of \$267.9 billion and imports of \$352.3 billion. Though the [Indian business houses](#) are taking Trump's return positively, however, the possibility of more tariffs cannot be denied. It is noted that India is the largest export destination market for America and [poised to third-largest economy by 2027](#). Furthermore, Trump's [real estate business](#) (Trump Tower) has been growing in metro cities in India. On political front, India seeks Trump's diplomatic support on China's assertiveness in the Indian Ocean, to condemn the cross-border terrorism, and any separatist activity on Canadian soil amid diplomatic rift between India and Canada.

Lastly, India is a prominent member of the Quad and President Trump to participate in Quad Summit 2025 in Delhi to strengthen the grouping of four like-minded democracies in the Indo-Pacific.

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## **Philippines enacts Maritime Zones Act**

The Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. signed the Maritime Zones Act claims its maritime territory in the South China Sea. As per the U.S State Department [report](#) the Maritime Zones Act aligns Philippine domestic laws with the 1982 Law of the Sea Convention and the 2016 Arbitral Tribunal ruling. This law defines the Philippines internal waters, archipelagic waters, territorial sea, contiguous zone, exclusive economic zone, and continental shelf in line with the Convention.

China severely objected on the enactment of law and summoned the Philippines ambassador to express its protest. [Read More](#)

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## **U.S. and Allies Express Concerns on North Korea's Troops to Russia**

The Foreign Ministers of Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, the United States and the High Representative of the European Union expressed grave concerns over the deployment of North Korean troops to Russia and further escalate the war between Russia and Ukraine. As per [the joint statement](#) several thousands of DPRK troops have been deployed to Russia. This support could make the conflict worse and create serious risks for peace and security in Europe and the Indo-Pacific. It would also break international law and go against the basic rules of the UN Charter. It would be a further breach of international law, including the most fundamental principles of the UN Charter. [Read More](#)

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## **Indo-Pacific Quiz**

Where is the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29) scheduled to take place?

a. Armenia

b. Azerbaijan

c. Turkey

d. Georgia

In U.S. Senate how many senators represent each state?

a. Two

b. Three

c. Four

d. Five

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### **Consortium Highlights**

- ❖ Webinar: Trump 2.0 and the Indo-Pacific on November 16<sup>th</sup> 2024, @ 8:00 AM EST, [Zoom](#)
- ❖ [Video Recording](#): Book Launch - Southeast Asia and the Indo-Pacific Construct

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