



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.

Taiwan's President is on a Pacific Tour, the First Stop in Hawaii



Figure 1: Taiwan President arrived in Hawaii /IMAGE/ NBC News

Taiwanese President Lai Ching-te has [arrived](#) in Honolulu, Hawaii, U.S.A., for a two-day stop on his Pacific countries tour. On his South Pacific tour, Lai has set to visit three democracies that are Taiwan's allies against China's opposition: Tuvalu, Marshal Island, and Palau. China has strongly reacted to Lai's visit to the United States, expressing firm opposition to any support that fuels Taiwan's independence. In the past, too, China objected to the visits and delegations having assumptions that encourage Taiwan separatist forces and are against the one-China policy.

It is worth mentioning that the State Department recently approved foreign military sales of an estimated cost of \$ 320 million to Taiwan, including critical spare parts and repair and return support for F-16 aircraft and active electronically scanned array radars and related equipment. The estimated delivery is in 2025. According to the [press release by the Defense Security Cooperation Agency](#) (DSCA), "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. It will help improve the security of the recipient and assist in maintaining political stability, military balance, and economic progress in the region."

Mr. Lai's visit occurs when the new U.S. administration, led by President-elect Donald Trump and his proposed cabinet, is set to formulate policies to engage with partners and allies in the region. President-elect Trump has mentioned the importance of increasing defense spending for Taiwan. It remains to be seen how the new administration will support the Taiwanese people's desire for free will in the face of China's assertiveness. Additionally, China has a strong influence in the Pacific region, and under Chinese pressure, the Solomon islands, Kiribati, and Samoa ceased their diplomatic relations with Taiwan and switched to Beijing. Also, at the Pacific Islands Leader's Summit in Tonga in September 2024, the Chinese Envoy to the Pacific denounced the communique that had Taiwan's name and demanded the Forum to drop Taiwan's name, the AP News reported.

Eventually, Mr. Lai's trip to the Pacific aims to collaborate with like-minded democracies and to seek support for Taiwan's participation in international forums.

Security between the Indo-Pacific and the Euro-Atlantic community are joined—— says Secretary Blinken

The U.S. Secretary of State Anthony Blinken centered his speech on the steadfast support to help Ukraine against Russia's aggression at the [G-7 Foreign Minister's](#) meeting in Italy. He expressed his concern for North Korea's involvement in supporting Russia, particularly with the North Korean troops. He said what it means for Ukraine is broader European security and the Indo-Pacific. In addition to North Korean troops in Russia, Chinese support for Russia's military-industrial base enables continued Russian aggression; he stated, "Security between the Indo-Pacific and the Euro-Atlantic community are joined." He added that the current U.S. administration has been focused on building bridges between Europe, the Indo-Pacific, and other regions, to face are shared issues and concerns. [Read More](#)

India and Cambodia Begins Inaugural Joint Exercise

The Indian Army and the Cambodian Army commenced the first joint tabletop exercise, CINBAX, at the Foreign Training Node, Pune, India. The exercise aims at joint counterterrorism (CT) operations and joint training for intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR). The exercise will also involve discussion on information operations, cyber warfare, hybrid warfare, logistics, casualty management, and

Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations.

According to the press release, “The inaugural edition of Exercise CINBAX will focus on enhancing trust and camaraderie and achieving the desired level of interoperability between troops of both sides. It will also enhance the joint operational efficiency of both the armies while undertaking peacekeeping operations.” [Read More](#)

Japan Plans to Provide Defense Equipment

Japan has announced plans to provide monitoring and surveillance equipment to four countries: the Philippines, Indonesia, Mongolia, and Djibouti. This initiative is part of Japan’s security cooperation framework, known as Official Security Assistance (OSA), which aims to enhance security collaboration with like-minded partners. Given the ongoing tensions in the South China Sea between the Philippines and China, this assistance could be particularly significant for the Philippines. [Read More](#)

Indo-Pacific Quiz

Which group of countries is warned of a 100% tariff by U.S. President-elect Donald Trump if it undermines the U.S. dollar?

- a. Japan and South Korea
- b. China, Mexico, and Canada
- c. BRICS
- d. SAARC

In which country have plastic pollution treaty talks failed with no agreement?

- a. India
- b. Japan
- c. South Korea
- d. USA

Contributions: Indu Saxena