



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.

“Indo-Pacific is Our Priority” says U.S. Defense Chief



Figure 1: U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin with Fiji's Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka in Fiji, Nov. 23, 2024/ IMAGE/ DoD

The U. S. Secretary of Defense, Lloyd J. Austin III Secretary of Defense
Lloyd J. Austin III wrapped up his 12th visit to the Indo-Pacific in Fiji.
Before Fiji, he visited Australia, the Philippines, and Laos. This [tour](#)
[included important engagements](#) in Australia, the Philippines, and Laos,
where Secretary Austin emphasized the United States' commitment to
strengthening alliances and enhancing regional security.

In Fiji, he signed the Acquisition and Cross Servicing Agreement (ACSA)
with his Fijian counterpart to enhance logistics cooperation between the
two countries. He said, "This agreement will mean closer ties and closer
logistics cooperation between our forces, including humanitarian
assistance and disaster relief." In addition, he announced the Status of
Forces Agreement (SOFA), empowering both countries to work closely in
the region and with the Pacific Islands countries. He also met with
Pacific Islands Forum Secretary General Baron Waqa. Besides, he
committed to U.S. support for Fiji's military modernization through
enhanced Foreign Military Financing of \$4.9 million in new U.S. security
pending congressional approval. He emphasized shared values and
shared vision of free and open Indo-Pacific and said, "The Indo-Pacific is
our priority theater and our partnership with Fiji and other Pacific
Island Countries is vital to a free and open Indo-Pacific."

In Australia, he announced the initiative to integrate Japan into the U.S. force posture with the trilateral and multilateral military exercises and by advancing trilateral cooperation on Integrated Air and Missile Defense (IAMD). Following his visit to Australia, he met his counterpart in the Philippines and signed the General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA), which provides a legal framework enabling the United States and the Philippines to share, handle, and protect each other's classified military information.

Austin attended the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Defense Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus) in Laos. He released the first-ever ["U.S. Department of Defense Vision Statement for a Prosperous and Secure Southeast Asia."](#) The statement promotes practical cooperation with the ASEAN countries and includes activities to improve air, cyber, and maritime domain awareness, establish emerging leader's exchanges, and increase training and exercises. He also announced the second edition of the ASEAN-United States Maritime Exercise in 2025 to advance maritime security in the region. Concluding his recent trip and reflecting on the progress made over the past four years, Secretary Austin stated, "We have accomplished a lot" by collaborating with like-minded countries to promote an open and secure Indo-Pacific region.

G-20 Summit Concluded in Brazil

Leaders of twenty major economies met in Rio de Janeiro in Brazil on No.18-19. The leaders released the joint declaration addressing the topics of Brazilian Presidency focused on -major conflicts; social inclusion and the fight against hunger and poverty; sustainable development, energy transitions and climate action; and the reform of global governance institutions. Leaders emphasize the importance of coordinated actions to combat climate change, promote just energy transitions, and preserve the environment. They also stress the need for comprehensive reform in global governance, including strengthening the United Nations, modernizing the international financial system, fostering an inclusive multilateral trading system, and promoting the ethical development of artificial intelligence. Despite the joint declaration, differences between the group members continues on war in Ukraine and the Middle-East conflict. [Read More](#)

President Prabowo Subianto Visits United Arab Emirates

Indonesian President Prabowo has arrived in Abu Dhabi for a state visit. During his visit, he met with United Arab Emirates (UAE) President

Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan (MBZ), highlighting the significance of strengthening bilateral relations. The two leaders signed several Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) in various fields, including technology, infrastructure, tourism, and mining. It is also noteworthy that Prabowo participated in the APEC and G-20 summits before he visited the UAE. [Read More](#)

Indo-Pacific Quiz

When did Fiji gain its independence from the British Empire?

- a. 1966
- b. 1968
- c. 1969
- d. 1970

Which country will host the G-20 Summit in 2025?

- a. Mexico
 - b. Turkey
 - c. South Africa
 - d. Japan
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Consortium Highlights

v The Critical Role of Taiwan in the United States Semiconductor Supply Chain. A View by Consortium Intern, YiTan Hsu. [Read Here](#)

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