

# Consortium of Indo-Pacific Researchers

### Indo-Pacific Weekly Mail Dec.9-15, 2024

Greetings Colleagues,

The Consortium is pleased to share its latest newsletter for the Indo-Pacific.

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# Japan and U.S. Delegates Held the Extended Deterrence Dialogue (EDD)



Figure 1: Japan hosted U.S. officials for Extended Deterrence Dialogue (EDD), IMAGE/ mofa.gov.jp

Japan and U.S. delegates held the Extended Deterrence Dialogue in Tokyo. The delegations reiterated the commitments made by the Prime Minister of Japan and the President of the United States to continue enhancing U.S. extended deterrence, bolstered by Japan's defense capabilities. The Extended Deterrence (EDD) followed the Japan-U.S. Security Consultative Committee ("2+2") Meeting and the inaugural Japan-U.S. ministerial meeting on extended deterrence that took place on July 28, 2024. During these meetings, the ministers from both countries emphasized the ongoing progress in enhancing coordination and deepening discussions on extended deterrence, including periodic review of the EDD's activities and the effective use of the Alliance Coordination Mechanism.

In addition, the two sides assess the security challenges due to the alignment of North Korea and Russia in the face of Russia's ongoing war against Ukraine. They also expressed their concern for the expansion of North Korea nuclear capabilities and the revised nuclear doctrine by Russia that undermines the arms control and the nuclear non-proliferation regime.

Moreover, the officials voiced concerns about China's rapid expansion of its nuclear arsenal, which is occurring without sufficient transparency or clarification of its intentions. The two countries discussed improving the policy coordination and the alignment of defense capabilities to deter and to respond to the aggression against the alliance and in the region if necessary. The two sides conducted tabletop exercises to increase mutual understanding of

potential courses of action to enhance deterrence and cooperation in crisis scenarios meetings.

Japan and the United States established the Extended Deterrence

Dialogue in 2020 as a permanent platform to discuss how to maintain and
enhance extended deterrence, which is essential to the Japan-U.S. Alliance
which is fundamental to the Japan-U.S. Alliance.

#### Taliban Ban on Women for Medical Training

Taliban imposed new restrictions on women to receive medical education. This new directive is a blow to the rights and freedom of women by the Taliban regime that took over the rule in August 2021. The United Nations condemned the new directives against women as the spokesperson of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) said, "It is profoundly discriminatory, short-sighted and puts the lives of women and girls at risk in multiple ways."

As per reports, Afghanistan already has one of the highest maternal mortality rates in the world, and the ban will make it even harder for women to access healthcare. Also, The <u>U.S. State Department condemns the Taliban's decision</u>, it states that "it will jeopardize the rights and lives of Afghan women and girls, and it is an unjustifiable attack on women's access to education and healthcare." Previously, the Taliban restricted male medical staff from treating

women unless they were accompanied by a male relative, which highlighted the necessity of female healthcare workers. Read More

#### U.S and India Concludes Exercise- 'SANGAM' 24

U.S. Naval Special Warfare (NSW) operators and Indian Navy Marine

Commando (MARCOS) members completed a joint combined exchange training during Exercise SANGAM 2024 in Goa, India. The bilateral training incorporated critical skills such as emergency medical training, dive medicine, maritime interdiction operations and shipboard close-quarters combat, overthe-beach maneuvers, and direct-action continues to enhance interoperability between the two naval forces, address maritime security challenges, refine operational expertise for a stronger US-India partnership in the Indo-Pacific.

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#### Trilateral Maritime Dialogue Held in Japan

The <u>first maritime dialogue between the United States</u>, <u>Japan</u>, and the <u>Philippines</u> took place in Tokyo, Japan. In their first trilateral summit, the top leaders met in Washington in April 2024; they expressed their deep commitment to collaborating in various domains, including maritime security, to advance a shared vision of a free and open Indo-Pacific. The leaders then announced a new trilateral maritime dialogue to enhance coordination and

collective responses. As per a press release, they expressed serious concerns about the People's Republic of China's (PRC's) dangerous and unlawful behavior in the South China Sea – including the repeated blocking and harassment of Philippine vessels from operating within the Philippines' exclusive economic zone – behavior that threatens the freedoms of navigation and overflight of all nations. Participants also reaffirmed their commitment to upholding international law as reflected in the 1982 Law of the Sea Convention. The leaders showed their strong commitment to cooperating and finding opportunities to strengthen future cooperation and engagement with other partners in the region to enhance maritime cooperative activities, joint training, maritime law enforcement, and Coast Guard capacity building. Read More

#### Indo-Pacific Quiz

Which Country has joined the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) this week?

a. USA

c. UK

b. China

d. Singapore

Which Country owns Juan de Nova Island?

a. UK

c. India

b. France

d. Madagascar

## Contributions

Indu Saxena