



Consortium of Indo-Pacific

Researchers

## **Indo-Pacific Weekly Mail January 6-12, 2025**

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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.

### **The United States' Continued Endeavor to Support the Indo-Pacific Region**



*Figure 1: From (L-R) Prime Minister Anthony Albanese of Australia, Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India, U.S.*

As President Biden is set to deliver his farewell speech on January 15, 2025, the Indo-Pacific region has been his administration's top priority, also the Biden Team urges the incoming Trump administration to strengthen the allies and partners in the Indo-Pacific to counter China's growing influence. The United States, with its allies and partners, promotes a free, open, connected, prosperous, secure, and resilient Indo-Pacific region.

According to the [White House release](#), the Indo-Pacific region is free and open, upholds freedom of navigation, and supports the free movement of goods, services, ideas, and people by the lawfully governed sea, skies, and democratic institutions. In the past four years, the U.S. has built its collective capacity by strengthening bilateral and trilateral relations with Japan, South Korea, India, Vietnam, Australia, the Philippines, and Quad countries. In addition, the U.S. has strengthened its relations with the Pacific Island countries, the Indian Ocean Region, and ASEAN countries. Furthermore, the United States expanded its diplomatic presence by opening the U.S. embassies in Vanuatu, Tonga, Maldives, and Solomon Islands and established diplomatic relations with the Cook Islands and Niue.

To ensure economic cooperation and prosperity, the U.S., along with 13 regional partners, established The Indo-Pacific Economic Framework of Prosperity (IPEF) to ensure economic cooperation with public and private investments in infrastructure. [Read More](#)

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## **Ishiba Visits Southeast Asia to Counter China's Influence in the region**

Japan's Prime Minister, Ishiba Shigeru, kicked off his [diplomatic strategy for 2025](#) to visit two crucial ASEAN countries: Indonesia and Malaysia. Japan aims to enhance economic and defense cooperation with both the countries. Japan and Indonesia will work together on rapid transit, port development, natural disaster, and decarbonization.

Ishiba wrote to the Indonesian newspaper “Across the region and the globe, the security environment is becoming increasingly severe. Any attempt to unilaterally change the status quo by force or coercion is unacceptable anywhere in the world. Japan is working to lead the world toward cooperation rather than division or confrontation. To realize a free and open Indo-Pacific based on the rule of law, Japan attaches importance to collaboration with Indonesia, which is a Comprehensive Strategic Partner sharing fundamental values and principles and one of the leading countries in the Global South.”

It is important to mention that Indonesia and Malaysia have territorial disputes with China in the South China Sea, however, both countries maintain closer economic ties with China. Indonesia has the largest population and largest economy among the ASEAN and the only member of G-20 and BRICS. Malasia has assumed the Chair of the ASEAN this year. [Read More](#)

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## **U.S. Supports Taiwan's Expanding Role at International Forums**

Representatives from the U.S. Department of State and the Taiwan Ministry of Foreign Affairs convened, facilitated by the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT) and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States (TECRO), to discuss the ways for enhancing Taiwan's meaningful participation in the United Nations system and other international forums.

As the officials discussed tackling global challenges and Taiwan's expertise in public health, aviation safety, environmental protection, and transnational crime that reiterates the support of Taiwan's expanded participation in the World Health Assembly (WHA) and other global public health bodies, the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), as well as Taiwan's meaningful participation in non-UN international, regional, and multilateral organizations. [Read More](#)

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## **U.S. Deputy Secretary of Defense Kathleen H. Hicks's Speech**

[Outpacing the PRC: Lessons Learned for Strategic Competition](#)

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## **Indo-Pacific Quiz**

Which country in ASEAN has joined BRICS?

- a. Malaysia
- b. Indonesia
- c. Singapore
- d. Philippines

Which Country's President's Impeachment Trial will begin this week?

- a. North Korea
- b. Myanmar
- c. South Korea
- d. Russia

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## Consortium Highlights

- ❖ CIPR team partners with the United States-Japan foundation on the project **U.S.-Japan Alliance: Strengthening Defense and Security in the Indo-Pacific**.
- ❖ CIPR Member, Aarudra Singh, blogs on **Rosneft-Reliance Energy Deal: Boosting the augmented India-Russia Economic Ties**. [Read Here](#).

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## Contributions

Indu Saxena

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