



Consortium of Indo-Pacific  
Researchers

## **Indo-Pacific Weekly Mail January 13-19, 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.

### **Trump's Inauguration Ceremony, Quad FMs Expect to Meet in Washington**



*Figure 1: Senator Mark Rubio, President Trump's Pick for the U.S. Secretary of State and to be confirmed on Jan. 20, 2025*

The inauguration ceremony of the United States' 47th President, Donald Trump, on January 20, 2025, is not just a significant event in American politics but also a crucial moment for leaders from the Indo-Pacific region. As global attention turns to the official swearing-in of the new president, representatives from various countries in the Indo-Pacific are expected to witness this transition of power. Among those attending the ceremony will be the Foreign Ministers from the Quad countries: India's Dr. S. Jaishankar, Australia's Foreign Minister Penny Wong, and Japan's Foreign Minister Takeshi Iwaya. Furthermore, as per media news, the newly to-be-confirmed U.S. Secretary of State, [Senator Mark Rubio, is expected to meet his counterparts](#) on the following day of the oath-taking ceremony. The incoming Trump administration is poised to deliver a significant message regarding the importance of strengthening the Quad. Also, it aims to ensure the continuity and momentum of the alliances and partnerships by the previous administration within the Indo-Pacific region. This gathering can provide an opportunity for Quad's top diplomats to set the tone for future interactions and security collaborations to promote a free, open, connected, prosperous, secure, and resilient Indo-Pacific region. Notably, the inauguration guest list includes other representatives from the region, such as the Chinese Vice President and delegates from Taiwan, reflecting a commitment to fostering dialogue and cooperation.

The new U.S. administration will work stringently with China on the issues of tariffs, fentanyl, [cybersecurity](#), and Tik Tok. Senator Marco Rubio's assignment focuses on working closely with U.S. partners to counter China's growing influence. As in his testimony, he emphasized that the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) has manipulated the global order in ways that enable it to evade specific obligations and responsibilities.

It is worth mentioning that the Quad was revived by the Trump administration in 2017 and the senior officials from Japan, India, Australia and the U.S. met for Indo-Pacific consultations in Manila. The forthcoming actions of the new administration regarding the Indo-Pacific region will be closely monitored by the stakeholders in the region, and a careful and strategic approach is anticipated to address the issues in this critical region.

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## **ASEAN Foreign Ministers Retreat Held in Malaysia**

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Foreign Ministers Retreat meeting held in Langkawi, Malaysia. This is the first big event of ASEAN officials under the Chairmanship of Malaysia in 2025. The member states underscore the value of the ASEAN Outlook of Indo-Pacific (AOIP) in promoting regional peace, security, and stability. They also welcomed the progress of the negotiation on Code of Conduct in the South China Sea emphasized the importance of keeping the continuity in accordance with international law, including the 1982 UNCLOS.

Additionally, the officials expressed significant concerns regarding the Myanmar military ruler's lack of adherence to the Five-point Consensus. They also emphasized the ongoing restrictions on Myanmar's participation in ASEAN meetings. [Read More](#)

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## **U.S. and Thailand Sign Civil Nuclear Agreement**

The United States and Thailand officials signed “123 agreement” for the cooperation regarding the peaceful use of nuclear energy and a mutual commitment of nuclear non-proliferation. As per the [U.S. State Department media](#) the United States and Thailand have shared a nearly 200-year bilateral relationship – one of the longest and most robust in the Indo-Pacific region for the United States. The 1974 Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement between the U.S. and Thailand expired in June 2014, 40 years after entering into force. The United States is excited to re-establish this area of bilateral cooperation. In an age of increasing need for energy security and rapidly developing advanced clean energy technologies, this 123 Agreement is a part of U.S. efforts to deepen cooperation and support for Thailand’s energy security and net zero goals. The United States is dedicated to supporting the Kingdom of Thailand in its development of a civil nuclear energy program with the highest international standards of safety, security, and nonproliferation.

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## **Philippines and U.S. Forces Conduct Joint Exercise**

The Philippines and the U.S. forces conducted the joint Maritime Cooperative Activity (MCA) in the South China Sea. The U.S. Naval officer Rear Adm. Michael Wosje, said, “The U.S. and the Philippines are ironclad allies. As fellow maritime nations, we share the common goal of a free and open Indo-Pacific, assuring access to the seas.” The bilateral maritime activity demonstrates a collective commitment to strengthening regional and international cooperation in support of a free and open Indo-Pacific. [Read More](#)

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## **Indo-Pacific Quiz**

In which country the United States has opened its sixth consulate?

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

Which social media company has restored after a short-lived ban in the United States?

- a. Facebook
  - b. Instagram
  - c. Tik Tok
  - d. Meta
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## **Consortium Highlights**

CIPR Members, Grant Willis and Bredan Donnelly writes “Abrams Under the White Sun: New American-Made Tanks for Taiwan” [Read Here](#)

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## **Contributions**

Indu Saxena

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