



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.

Ishiba and Trump Reaffirm to Strengthen the Alliance



Figure 1: U.S. President Trump and Japan's Prime Minister Ishiba Shigeru at a joint press conference in White House

The U.S. President Donald Trump met Japan's Prime Minister Ishiba Shigeru at the White House this week. Both leaders reaffirmed the shared commitment of the U.S.-Japan alliance in establishing peace and security in the Indo-Pacific. In a joint statement, both leaders agreed to enhance U.S.-Japan deterrence and response capabilities, joint military training, and upgrading the command-and-control framework. The U.S. and Japan agreed to strengthen the alliance by promoting defense equipment and technology cooperation, including co-production, co-development, and co-sustainment. The two sides shared their views on extremely volatile security dynamics in the Indo-Pacific and reinforced to continue the cooperation of like-minded partners including Quad and trilaterals Japan-U.S.-Republic of Korea (ROK), Japan-U.S.-Australia, and Japan-U.S.-Philippines.

Two sides also shared their concern for North Korea's proliferation of missile programme and People's Republic of China (PRC) assertive behavior in the East China Sea and the South China sea. Furthermore, both sides stated, Taiwan Strait as an "indispensable element of security and prosperity for the international community" and "opposed any attempts to unilaterally change the status quo by force or coercion." [Read More](#)

U.S. and Australia Talks on AUKUS and Indo-Pacific Challenges

U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth met with his Australian counterpart, Australian Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Richard Marles. Both

leaders discussed the progress of the Australian, U.K., and U.S. trilateral security partnership (AUKUS) and the challenges they shared in the Indo-Pacific. Under the AUKUS agreement, these three countries will collaborate to advance their military capabilities and industrial base in order to operate in the Indo-Pacific. The agreement was announced in 2021 and is widely seen as a counterforce to Chinese aggression in the Indo-Pacific. [Read More](#)

Thailand Prime Minister Visits China to Expand Economic Ties

Thailand's Prime Minister H.E. Ms. Paetongtarn Shinawatra, visited Beijing this week. She had a bilateral meeting with H.E. Mr. Li Qiang, Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, as well as H.E. Mr. Zhao Leji, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress. She also met with Chinese and Thai business community to expand Thailand-China business. It is important to mention that U.S. President Trump's announcement to impose tariffs aims to balance the trade deficit with various countries. However, this may make many Asian countries nervous, potentially leading them to favor China for their supply chains. [Read More](#)

Cook Island and China Ready to Sign an Agreement

As per reports Cook Islands prime minister Mark Brown is travelling to Beijing to enhance cooperation and there is prospect of signing the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership with China. The Cook Islands move made New Zealand

furious due to not having any prior consultation. The Cook Islands is a self-governing nation since 1965, prior to that it was a New Zealand colony. However, both countries share an obligation to regular consultations regarding defense and security matters. [Read More](#)

Indo-Pacific Quiz

Which country is not in the group of Five Eyes Alliance?

- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| a. Canada | c. France |
| b. U.K. | d. Japan |

Which country imposes retaliatory tariff on U.S. goods?

- | | |
|-----------|------------|
| a. Canada | c. Mexico |
| b. China | d. Ecuador |

Consortium Highlights

- ❖ Upcoming Event: Podcast Leyte Island
- ❖ Webinar on Rebuilding Gaza Strip: A path to lasting peace?

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