



Consortium of Indo-Pacific
Researchers

Indo-Pacific Weekly Mail June 2-8, 2025

Greetings Colleagues,

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

Press the reply button for your feedback and comments.

What is Partnership for Indo-Pacific Industrial Resilience (PIPIR)



Figure 1: U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth endorses PIPIR at Security Conference in Singapore

The Partnership for Indo-Pacific Industrial Resilience (PIPIR) is a multilateral forum comprising 14 partners from the Indo-Pacific and Euro-Atlantic regions. The partnership aims to enhance contributions from the Indo-Pacific region towards strengthening the global defense industrial base. The PIPIR engages with industry, capital providers, and non-government stakeholders, to create an ecosystem of exchange, technical cooperation, supply chain resilience, and co-production and co-sustainment collaboration.

President Trump advocates achieving peace through strength. The PIPIR supports the Department of Defense's commitment to rebuilding the military and reestablishing deterrence by advancing military-industrial cooperation with allies and partners. It will enhance supply chain resilience, promote defense innovation and improve information sharing among partner countries. This initiative will also provide an opportunity for the experts to understand the structural challenges associated with defense industrial collaboration projects in the Indo-Pacific.

As the DOD views China as an “Imminent Threat,” that reflects concerns about China's rapid military modernization, its assertive actions in the South China Sea, its growing influence in the wider Indo-Pacific region, its stance to the self-governed island Taiwan. Furthermore, U.S. trade war with China and Asian countries' economic reliance on China give China leverage in the Indo-Pacific. It seems more pressing and immediate challenges for the U.S. interest in the Indo-Pacific.

To address the challenges posed by China and enhance deterrence with allies and partners, the PIPIR focuses on bolstering defense capabilities with these allies and partners to create a strong deterrent in the Indo-Pacific region.

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Trump and Xi Talks: Trade is the Top Agenda

U.S. President Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping had a long-awaited phone call this week. As per [reports](#), the conversation between the two leaders was focused “entirely on TRADE,” which yielded a positive tone for the trade deal between the U.S. and China. Following up the on the conversation between top leaders, U.S. Treasury Secretary Bessent, Commerce Secretary Lutnic, and Trade Representative Jamieson Greer would meet with their Chinese counterparts in London on June 9. Additionally, President Trump received a gracious invitation from Xi to visit China and reciprocated.

It is worth mentioning that on April 2, President Trump announced reciprocal tariffs aimed at addressing the persistent annual trade deficits with certain countries, including China, which levied a 36 percent tariff. The situation worsened when China retaliated with new tariffs on U.S. goods. After the tit-for-tat spat, Trump announced the suspension of the reciprocal tariff imposed on April 2, 2025, for 90 days but retained a 10% tariff during the period of the pause, easing tensions between the two largest economies in the world. The tariff suspension is set to expire in early July.

In a recent move, China has [allowed rare earth materials](#) to some U.S. automobile companies, following the imposition of controls on specific medium and heavy rare earths and related materials on April 4, 2025. China is a dominant global supplier of rare earth materials used in various technologies like electric vehicles and defense systems. The trade war between the U.S. and China poses risks to the global economy and supply chains. [Read More](#)

South Korea Elects New President

South Korea people have elected its new President Lee Jae-myung, a liberal, Democratic Party leader, who got the majority in the general elections this week. He replaced former conservative President Yoon Suk Yeol, who was impeached and ousted over his martial law declaration. South Korean President serves as the Head of the State, leader of the executive branch, and the commander-in-chief of the Republic of Korea Armed Forces.

Lee has to prepare to tackle a range of crucial domestic issues that have emerged in the wake of martial law. He faces the challenge of navigating a polarized internal politics while engaging in significant tariff negotiations with the U.S. President. Anticipating his upcoming trip to the White House, Lee's priority would be working with the White House on trade and defense cooperation. Furthermore, he is expected to represent his interests at the G-7 summit in Canada next week, where he will have the opportunity to engage with global leaders and discuss global security challenges. [Read More](#)

European Union Enhance Security Cooperation with Manila

High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Kaja Kallas visited Manila and met with Philippine Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Enrique A. Manalo. She emphasized on growing importance of security cooperation with the Philippines and said, “The dialogue addresses the current geopolitical challenges and will foster exchanges and cooperation in security and defense areas, including maritime security, cybersecurity, hybrid threats, foreign information manipulation and interference (FIMI).” Philippines Foreign Minister Manalo stress on upholding the rule of law and establishing peace and security in the Indo-Pacific. Both parties reiterated their commitment to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). They express their concerns about China’s illegal, coercive, aggressive and deceptive measures against Philippine vessels and aircraft conducting lawful maritime operations in the South China Sea/West Philippine Sea. They reiterate their commitment to upholding international law, particularly UNCLOS and the 2016 South China Sea Arbitration Award, which is final and binding. [Read More](#)

Indo-Pacific Quiz

Who is the newly elected President of South Korea?

a. Lee Jae-myung

c. Yoon Suk Yeol

b. Kim Moon-soo

d. Lee Jun-seok

In which country is the proposed Chinese embassy site a national security concern?

a. Australia

c. United Kingdom

b. New Zealand

d. Philippines

Consortium Highlights

- ❖ A View on **Navigating Disputes: South China Sea and the Role of International Arbitration in Territorial Conflict Resolution.** [Read Here.](#)

Indo-Pacific Quiz Key

Here are the **Answers** for June 1 Newsletter Quiz

Q. When did the battle of Bukit Timah take place?

a. 1942

Q. What is the capital of Tibet?

c. Lhasa

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