

SOUTH CHINA SEA NEWS UPDATE – SEPTEMBER 2014

PHILIPPINES V. CHINA

25 September 2014: China likely to reject arbitration decision on West PHL Sea

China will likely refuse to recognize any decision on the Philippines' arbitration case on the West Philippine Sea, the president of China's national think tank on the disputed area said.

<http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/story/380634/news/nation/china-likely-to-reject-arbitration-decision-on-west-phl-sea-china-think-tank-head>

8 September 2014: SC: Jardeleza was not disloyal

In a 35-page decision promulgated on Aug. 18 but released to the media only last Thursday, the high court voting 7-4 said Jardeleza's position on the arbitration case against China when he was the solicitor general was but a legal strategy.

<http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/636028/sc-jardeleza-was-not-disloyal#ixzz3ChuPIoFo>

ACTS OF CLAIMANTS

30 September 2014: Philippines tells UN: China's actions 'dangerous, reckless'

During the UNGA's 69th annual high-level meeting in New York, Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert Del Rosario said the Philippines invited a State Party to settle their maritime disputes peacefully through the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), including its provisions on dispute settlement, particularly arbitration.

<http://www.philstar.com/headlines/2014/09/30/1374865/philippines-tells-un-chinas-actions-dangerous-reckless>

27 September 2014: Beijing to deploy live fish carrier to South China Sea

China is planning to deploy a live fish carrier to Mischief Reef in the South China Sea's disputed Spratly Islands, according to the Beijing-based China Science Daily.

<http://www.wantchinatimes.com/news-subclass-cnt.aspx?id=20140927000019&cid=1101>

25 September 2014: Philippine leader questions intent of China ships in disputed seas

Philippine President Benigno Aquino III said Tuesday his nation will stick up for its territorial rights in the disputed South China Sea and voiced concern that a recent mission by two Chinese survey ships could presage an attempt to drill for oil there.

<http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2014/09/24/asia-pacific/philippine-leader-questions-intent-china-ships-disputed-seas/>

23 September 2014: Pixel by pixel, Taiwan maps out claims to contested South China Sea

Taiwan is finishing a project to map the disputed sea with high-resolution satellite imagery, generating an unusually detailed map and promoting Taiwan's often overlooked maritime claims – which are as large as China's.

<http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Asia-Pacific/2014/0923/Pixel-by-pixel-Taiwan-maps-out-claims-to-contested-South-China-Sea-video>

15 September 2014: China Discovers Gas Field in the South China Sea

China National Offshore Oil Corp. (CNOOC) has announced its first deepwater gas field discovery in the South China Sea. The discovery was made by CNOOC drilling rig HYSY 981, the same drilling platform that sparked a diplomatic spat when it was parked within waters claimed by Vietnam as part of its exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

<http://thediplomat.com/2014/09/china-discovers-gas-field-in-the-south-china-sea/>

13 September 2014: Taiwan rejects advice to drop South China Sea claims

Taiwan's Foreign Ministry reiterated its territorial claims in the South China Sea on Saturday after a former U.S. diplomat urged Taiwan to stop using a demarcation line it has long adhered to in laying claim to the disputed waters.

<http://focustaiwan.tw/news/aip/201409130019.aspx>

11 September 2014: Philippines displays ancient maps to debunk China's sea claims

The Philippines on Thursday put on display dozens of ancient maps which officials said showed that China's territorial claims over the South China Sea did not include a disputed shoal at the centre of an acrimonious standoff.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/09/11/us-southchinasea-philippines-idUSKBN0H614H20140911>

11 September 2014: China justifies reclamation work by 'indisputable sovereignty' over South China Sea claim

China's Foreign Affairs ministry spokesman, Hua Chunying, made the above statement while responding to a BBC report that said that China was building new islands on five different reefs in the South China Sea, reported the BBC.

http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/china-justifies-reclamation-work-by-indisputable-sovereignty-over-south-china-sea-claim-114091100258_1.html

11 September 2014: Vietnamese deputy FM says confrontation with China over sea dispute eases

Visiting Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Minister Pham Quang Vinh told Cambodian Foreign Minister Hor Namhong on Thursday that the confrontation between Vietnam and China over maritime dispute has cooled down after Vietnam sent a special envoy to visit China recently, a Cambodian spokesman said.

http://www.shanghaidaily.com/article/article_xinhua.aspx?id=240598

10 September 2014: Taiwan to finish mapping disputed South China Sea islands

Taipei, Sept. 9 (CNA) The Ministry of the Interior said Tuesday that it is set to complete a project to map the islands in the disputed South China Sea region and will produce a map of the islands that are claimed by the Republic of China and various other countries.

<http://focustaiwan.tw/news/aipl/201409090032.aspx>

9 September 2014: Justice Carpio: China's 9-dashed line- grand theft of Global Commons

China's 9-dashed line map, which was recently expanded to 10 dashes, goes against the "concept of global commons" which was the foundation of the 1982 United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea, Senior Associate Justice Antonio Carpio said in a speech delivered on the 75th Anniversary of the College of Law of the University of San Agustin in Iloilo City.

<https://ph.news.yahoo.com/blogs/the-inbox/justice-carpio-chinas-9-dashed-line-grand-theft-of-100032319.html>

8 September 2014: Chinese FM calls for respecting 4 principles on South China Sea issue

He says handling the dispute should first of all respect historical facts. Second, respect international laws. Third, direct dialogue and consultation between the countries involved should be respected. Fourth, respect efforts that China and ASEAN have been made to jointly maintain peace and stability.

<http://english.cntv.cn/2014/09/08/VIDE1410150001707535.shtml>

7 September 2014: Vietnam building deterrent against China in disputed seas with submarines

Vietnam will soon have a credible naval deterrent to China in the South China Sea in the form of Kilo-class submarines from Russia, which experts say could make Beijing think twice before pushing its much smaller neighbor around in disputed waters.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/09/07/us-vietnam-submarines-china-insight-idUSKBN0H20SF20140907>

5 September 2014: Vietnam demands China stop tourist activities on Paracels

China must stop sending tourists to Vietnam's Hoang Sa (Paracel) archipelago immediately, as such actions violates Vietnam's sovereignty, Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesman Le Hai Binh said.

<http://tuoitrenews.vn/politics/22173/vietnam-demands-china-stop-tourist-activities-on-hoang-sa>

4 September 2014: Sanya to Paracels cruise launched

About 200 tourists are aboard the maiden voyage to Paracel Islands, according to Ye Wei, deputy general manager of Hainan Strait Shipping Co, the cruise operator.

<http://www.wantchinatimes.com/news-subclass-cnt.aspx?cid=1201&MainCatID=12&id=20140904000033>

4 September 2014: Philippine general seeks arms upgrade as China expands

Under the first phase of the modernization plan which lasts until 2017, the Philippines, a U.S. treaty ally, will buy three frigates to take its stock to six, Catapang, who is responsible for 120,000 servicemen and women, said. The military plans to increase its squadrons to three from one and install a nationwide early warning radar system and air defense artillery, he said.

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/sns-wp-blm-news-bc-philippines-china04-20140904-story.html>

3 September 2014: Trial of Chinese Fishermen Highlights Tensions in South China Sea

Nine Chinese fishermen will go on trial this week in the Philippines for allegedly poaching in Filipino territorial waters and catching a protected turtle species. Their arrest has angered the Beijing government, which says the fishermen were in China's territory. Some analysts say the trial highlights the ongoing tensions in the South China Sea.

<http://www.voanews.com/content/philippines-chinese-fishermen-trial-south-china-sea/2436784.html>

2 September 2014: Six reefs in disputed Spratlys turned into islets by China

Sources have revealed that six of the reefs—Johnson South, Gaven, Cuarteron, Fiery Cross, Hughes and Eldad—have been transformed into islets, with all but Eldad Reef given specific "birthdays" in July by Chinese authorities.

<http://www.wantchinatimes.com/news-subclass-cnt.aspx?id=20140902000020&cid=1101>

2 September 2014: Ma vows Taiwan will play important role in South China Sea talks

President Ma Ying-jeou said Monday that the Republic of China plays a "very important role" in the South China Sea and "will not be absent" from any future international negotiations regarding the territorial disputes there.

<http://focustaiwan.tw/news/aip/201409010026.aspx>

1 September 2014: China hastening work on reclamation projects in disputed waters—DFA

China is working double time on their reclamation projects in the South China Sea in order to complete their expansion agenda before the arbitration case is concluded, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said Friday.

<http://globalnation.inquirer.net/110188/china-hastening-work-on-reclamation-projects-in-disputed-waters-dfa#ixzz3Br3kDDji>

1 September 2014: China expands runway, harbour at Woody Island

Satellite imagery shows that China has undertaken substantial land reclamation, harbour redevelopment and other infrastructure construction on the island, which is known as Yongxing Dao by China and Phu Lam Island by Vietnam.

<http://www.janes.com/article/42538/china-expands-runway-harbour-at-woody-island>

1 September 2014: China's Occupation on Disputed South China Sea Continues, Says Philippines Government

Chinese construction work is being carried out not just on Kennan reef, but also on Mabini, Calderon and Gaven reefs. Reclamation work is on in full swing as the Philippines registered a diplomatic protest and accused China of violating a 2002 agreement between parties on the dispute, that stated that no country shall further inhabit any unoccupied area.

<http://www.ndtv.com/article/world/china-s-occupation-on-disputed-south-china-sea-continues-says-philippines-government-583997?curl=1409380468>

ASEAN AND SOUTH CHINA SEA

29 September 2014: RI to strengthen defense in South China Sea

To increase its military defenses in the South China Sea, the government is preparing to establish an F16 fighter jet squadron in Pekanbaru, Riau Islands, and an Apache helicopter squadron near the South China Sea.

<http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2014/09/29/ri-strengthen-defense-south-china-sea.html>

20 September 2014: South China Sea conflict a real threat to Indonesia

Chief of the Sea Security Coordinating Agency, Vice Admiral Desi Albert Mamahit, conveyed the warning during the opening session of a focus group discussion on maritime security early warning systems held in Batam, the Riau Islands province, earlier this month.

<http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2014/09/20/south-china-sea-conflict-a-real-threat-indonesia.html>

8 September 2014: China can try walking in Asean states' shoes

If China wants to improve ties with its Asean neighbours, it needs to address the trust deficit that exists between the two sides.

<http://www.straitstimes.com/news/opinion/more-opinion-stories/story/china-can-try-walking-asean-states-shoes-20140908>

MAJOR POWERS AND SOUTH CHINA SEA**29 September 2014: US, Philippines begin military exercises near disputed South China sea waters**

Nearly 5,000 United States and Filipino troops will participate in the 11-day annual exercise, to be held in the Philippines' western island of Palawan, near the Spratlys, and in the northwest province of Zambales on the main island of Luzon, just 100 miles (160 km) off Scarborough Shoal.

<http://www.dnaindia.com/world/report-us-philippines-begin-military-exercises-near-disputed-south-china-sea-waters-2022299>

19 September 2014: Merkel urges China to settle South China Sea dispute in court

"We created the Law of the Sea Tribunal to solve such conflicts," she added. "Germany will be pressing for such a path to be adopted."

http://en.europeonline-magazine.eu/merkel-urges-china-to-settle-south-china-sea-dispute-in-court_355948.html

18 September 2014: Aquino asks Europe for support in South China Sea dispute with Beijing

President Benigno Aquino III called on Europe to stand behind the Philippines in its campaign for a peaceful resolution of conflicts in the South China Sea.

<http://globalnation.inquirer.net/111287/aquino-asks-europe-for-support-in-south-china-sea-dispute-with-beijing#ixzz3Dg4JSMOV>

15 September 2014: India, Vietnam for peaceful South China Sea, \$15 bn trade

They agreed that freedom of navigation in the East Sea/South China Sea should not be impeded, and called the parties concerned to exercise restraint, avoid threat or use of force and resolve disputes through peaceful means in accordance with universally recognised principles of international law.

http://www.daijiworld.com/news/news_disp.asp?n_id=263458

12 September 2014: Malaysia Offers to Host U.S. Navy Aircraft

U.S. Says Malaysia's Offer Covers Flights From Base on Edge of Waters Claimed by China

<http://online.wsj.com/articles/malaysia-offers-to-host-u-s-navy-aircraft-military-official-says-1410524618>

8 September 2014: Philippines' Aquino to seek Europe's help in China sea dispute

"It's important for our president to have the opportunity to apprise these world leaders directly on what is happening in... the South China Sea," when he visits Spain, Belgium, France and Germany from September 13 to 20, she said.

<https://au.news.yahoo.com/world/a/24931024/philippines-aquino-to-seek-europes-help-in-china-sea-dispute/>

8 September 2014: Wang Says Non-Claimants in S. China Sea Shouldn't 'Add Trouble'

China called on countries not directly involved in territorial disputes in the South China Sea not to interfere and "add trouble."

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2014-09-08/wang-says-non-claimants-in-s-dot-china-sea-shouldn-t-add-trouble>

7 September 2014: Obama Adviser Heads to China

Rice's China visit comes following the continuing strain in the relationship between the two nations amid China's unending territorial dispute in the South China Sea with other countries, and the recent fighter jet intercept over the South China Sea.

<http://www.chinatopix.com/articles/9050/20140906/obama-advisor-heads-china-smooth-way-xi-summit.htm>

6 September 2014: Filipino and Japanese lawmakers signed an agreement to promote the rule of law when dealing with maritime disputes

The Joint Document for Cooperation on Promotion of the Rule of Law at Sea called for the use of peaceful means when settling territorial disputes at sea, and to avoid the use of force.

<http://www.chinatopix.com/articles/8967/20140905/philippines-and-japan-sign-agreement-to-promote-rule-of-law-at-sea.htm>

3 September 2014: Japan, Philippines to Combat China's Assertive Stance at Sea

Japanese and Philippine lawmakers in Manila signed an informal agreement Wednesday to form an international body promoting peaceful means to settle disputes in waters where they have competing claims with China.

<http://www.voanews.com/content/japan-philippine-lawmakers-join-to-combat-china-assertive-stance-at-sea/2436865.html>

1 September 2014: Top U.S. admiral slams China, accuses Beijing of creating instability

The top admiral in charge of U.S. military operations in Asia lambasted China this week, accusing Chinese leaders of actively fomenting instability in the South and East China seas instead of using their expanding economic and military power to create sustainable security in the region.

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2014/aug/29/china-actively-agitating-creating-instability-says/#ixzz3Br3cLPMu>