

**SOUTH CHINA SEA NEWS UPDATE
OCTOBER 2014**

ACTS OF CLAIMANTS

28 October 2014: Top diplomats from China, Vietnam try to defuse sea dispute

China and Vietnam agreed to use an existing border dispute mechanism to find a solution to their territorial dispute in the South China Sea, saying they do not want it to affect relations.

<http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2014/10/27/asia-pacific/top-diplomats-china-vietnam-try-defuse-sea-dispute/>

25 October 2014: Taiwan to join submarine race

Taiwan will build four of its own 1,500-tonne displacement diesel-electric attack submarines with a budget of about US\$4.9 billion.

<http://asiancorrespondent.com/127692/taiwan-to-join-submarine-race/>

24 October 2014: Chinese FM emphasized rule of international law

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi called on the international community to reaffirm their commitment to international rule of law.

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/n/2014/1024/c90883-8799769.html>

23 October 2014: China hits PHL's West Philippine Sea action plan at the UN

"The Philippine plan, if put into practice, will undermine the sanctity and efficacy of the Charter of the United Nations and the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea," said Liu Jieyi, China's Permanent Ambassador to the UN.

<http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/story/384836/news/nation/china-hits-phl-s-west-philippine-sea-action-plan-at-the-un>

22 October 2014: Philippines President: PHL ties with China 'improving' despite territorial row

"In most facets, our relationship is improving," Aquino said.

<http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/story/384604/news/nation/pnoy-phl-ties-with-china-improving-despite-territorial-row>

21 October 2014: China turned reef to biggest island in Spratlys

China has turned a strategically important reef into probably the biggest island in the Spratlys and the expansion is expected to continue. According to a Mainland military expert, the Fiery Cross would eventually measure 2 square kilometers in area. The Mainland plans to build a large military airfield on the Reef.

<http://www.scmp.com/news/china/article/1620894/reef-biggest-island-spratlys-and-chinas-not-done-yet-fiery-cross>

<http://www.wantchinatimes.com/news-subclass->

[cnt.aspx?cid=1101&MainCatID=11&id=20141021000087](http://www.wantchinatimes.com/news-subclass-cnt.aspx?cid=1101&MainCatID=11&id=20141021000087)

<http://www.kmt.org.tw/english/page.aspx?type=article&mnum=112&anum=15286>

20 October 2014: China-Vietnam Defense Hotline Agreed

At the conclusion of their meeting, both defense ministers witnessed the signing of a technical memorandum of understanding on the establishment of direct communication lines between their respective ministries.

<http://thediplomat.com/2014/10/china-vietnam-defense-hotline-agreed-what-next/>

19 October 2014: China's Navy Chief Conducted An 'Unprecedented' Survey Of The Disputed Spratly Islands

China appears to have made headway in the so-called reclamation of disputed areas in the South China Sea, a project to create new land masses using reefs in areas claimed by both Beijing and its neighbors.

<http://www.ibtimes.com/chinese-navy-chief-conducts-unprecedented-survey-spratly-islands-1706473#ixzz3GfCwBZie>

18 October 2014: PH, Viet Nam commit to promoting peace and stability in South China Sea

The Philippines and Viet Nam assured each other of continued cooperation towards maintaining peace and stability and promoting the importance of the rule of law in addressing maritime.

<http://news.pia.gov.ph/index.php?article=1781413526122#sthash.49IfslC7.dpuf>

18 October 2014: PHL sends proposed South China Sea measure to UN head, 193 countries

Philippines sent a letter to United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon with the outline of Triple Action Plan to peacefully solve maritime disputes. Letter sent to Ban Ki-Moon was also circulated to 193 member states of UN, in a bid to gain wider support from international community.

<http://www.angmalaya.net/nation/2014/10/17/5078-phl-sends-proposed-south-china-sea-measure-to-un-head-193-countries>

17 October 2014: Taiwan Considers Permanent Armed Ships For Disputed South China Sea Island

Taiwan is considering stationing armed vessels permanently on Itu Aba, officials said, with Vietnam already dismissing such a plan as "illegal".

<http://www.ibtimes.com/taiwan-considers-permanent-armed-ships-disputed-south-china-sea-island-1705900>

16 October 2014: Vietnam, China pledge to address and control maritime differences

Vietnam and China have agreed to "address and control" maritime disputes in the South China Sea, Vietnam's state news agency reported.

<http://www.thanhniennews.com/politics/vietnam-china-pledge-to-address-and-control-maritime-differences-32691.html>

16 October 2014: Vietnam favors a solution to the dispute under international law

Vietnam's Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung emphasized the importance of finding a solution to the dispute in accordance with international law.

<http://www.dw.de/vietnams-stance-in-the-south-china-sea-dispute/a-18000058>

15 October 2014: Taiwan draws clearer map of S China Sea basin

Researchers said they were able to clearly outline the borders between the South China continental and oceanic plates, as well as those of an ancient seafloor spreading with numerous intersecting buried faults that were identified for the first time.

<http://www.taipetimes.com/News/taiwan/archives/2014/10/15/2003602131>

14 October 2014: China starts oil production in South China Sea

China National Oil Co. said its latest startup in the South China Sea will reach a peak production rate of 40,000 barrels per day within three years.

http://www.upi.com/Business_News/Energy-Resources/2014/10/14/China-starts-oil-production-in-South-China-Sea/5141413291731/#ixzz3GCBGLPyI

<http://www.energyvoice.com/2014/10/cnooc-strikes-first-oil-south-china-sea/>

9 October 2014: China 'sends warning' with release of photographs of disputed South China Sea island

China has released the first high-resolution photographs of a newly built runway on a disputed island in the South China Sea.

<http://www.scmp.com/news/china/article/1612410/china-sends-warning-release-photographs-disputed-south-china-sea-island>

8 October 2014: China completed airstrip Construction on the largest island in the Paracels

Formed by white coral shells that piled on reefs and covered 2.6 square kilometers, Yongxing Island is the largest of the Parcel Islands in the South China Sea

<http://www.ecns.cn/visual/hd/2014/10-08/50308.shtml>

4 October 2014: AFP to accelerate modernization

General Gregorio Catapang, AFP Chief of Staff, said that nearly P300 billion will be needed over at least a decade for the AFP's modernization program.

<http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/642405/the-price-afp-needs-to-pay-to-become-heavyweight-military#ixzz3FBAOFnoN>

4 October 2014: Philippines Halts Work in Disputed South China Sea

The Philippines has stopped all development work in the disputed South China Sea because of the impact such activity might have on an arbitration complaint it has filed against China.

<http://www.voanews.com/content/reu-philippines-halts-work-in-disputed-south-china-sea/2471187.html>

1 October 2014: Beijing may announce S China Sea ADIZ: Filipino official

A Filipino senior security official said that China's development and reclamation of the disputed reefs in the South China Sea is part of Beijing's plan to set up an ADIZ over the region.

<http://www.wantchinatimes.com/news-subclass-cnt.aspx?id=20141002000028&cid=1101>

ASEAN AND SOUTH CHINA SEA

23 October 2014: Thailand to host 8th ASEAN-China Senior Officials' Meeting on South China Sea

Thailand, as a coordinator of ASEAN-China relations, is to host two South China Sea-related meetings.

http://thainews.prd.go.th/centerweb/newsen/NewsDetail?NT01_NewsID=WNPOL5710220010014#sthash.iA9Cim4c.dpuf

21 October 2014: Meeting on establishing "hotline" among ASEAN defense chiefs held in Brunei

The goal would not be to resolve underlying issues, the Defense Ministry said, but to effectively manage and contain tensions in the event of a possible military encounter, to foster de-escalation, and to provide channel for initial quick reaction and assistance in emergency situations.

http://www.shanghaidaily.com/article/article_xinhua.aspx?id=247978

20 October 2014: Even Indonesia: Concerns Over China's Reach In South China Sea – Analysis

It is clear that Indonesia has reconsidered its approach to protecting its claims in the South China Sea. It has improved its ties with Japan and the United States. It has begun to mend its rocky relationship with Australia.

<http://www.eurasiareview.com/20102014-even-indonesia-concerns-chinas-reach-south-china-sea-analysis/>

15 October 2014: Indonesian president joins South China Sea fray in parting move

By deploying its AH-64 attack helicopters to Kepulauan Natuna, about 200 kilometers away from the disputed Spratly islands, Indonesia has become a new potential rival to China in the South China Sea, according to the state-run Global Times.

<http://www.wantchinatimes.com/news-subclass-cnt.aspx?id=20141015000075&cid=1101>

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

MAJOR POWERS AND SOUTH CHINA SEA

27 October 2014: India, Vietnam to sign deal for oil exploration in South China Sea despite protest by China

According to sources, India has decided to accept 2-3 Vietnamese oil blocks in the South China Sea based on the techno-commercial feasibility report by the ONGC Videsh Limited.

<http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-india-vietnam-to-sign-deal-for-oil-exploration-in-south-china-sea-despite-protest-by-china-2029677>

25 October 2014: United States to pay Philippines \$1.9M for coral-reef damage

The compensation came almost two years after the USS *Guardian* destroyed more than 2,000 square meters of corals at the Tubbataha Reef.

<http://www.businessmirror.com.ph/united-states-to-pay-philippines-1-9m-for-coral-reef-damage/>

20 October 2014: India and Vietnam to sign a defence pact amid China's growing aggression in region

This proposed pact, coming after last month's MoU that entails 100 mn USD Line of Credit to Hanoi to purchase patrol boats to boost coastal security, is aimed at providing military hardware to Vietnam's armed forces.

http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2014-10-20/news/55236519_1_defence-pact-india-and-vietnam-the-vietnamese-prime-minister

17 October 2014: Germany backing arbitration over South China Sea in meeting

"We urge, and in this we are in full agreement, a peaceful solution. We could envisage discussions or international arbitration," German Chancellor Angela Merkel said.

<http://www.philstar.com/headlines/2014/10/17/1381245/germany-raise-south-china-sea-row-asia-europe-meeting>

12 October 2014: Manila defends legality of defence pact with US

The government has defended the legality of its expanded defence agreement with the US, stressing this would help strengthen the country's capability to protect itself in the face of rising security concerns arising from its territorial disputes in the South China Sea.

<http://gulftoday.ae/portal/759187a6-5c75-428d-8e2e-103c62fcbf3f.aspx>

10 October 2014: We stand by joint statement with India on South China Sea: US

I think our position hasn't changed on this issue. You are familiar with it, but we certainly work with countries in the region to address maritime issues," state department spokesperson Jen Psaki said.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/We-stand-by-joint-statement-with-India-on-South-China-Sea-US/articleshow/44766375.cms>

8 October 2014: China objects to Indo-US statement on South China Sea

"Our position is that the dispute in the South China Sea should be resolved by countries directly concerned through negotiation and consultation, and any third party should not be involved in the dispute."

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/news-feed/indiatemplate/china-objects-to-indo-us-statement-on-south-china-sea/article1-1273083.aspx>

5 October 2014: India Plays Down Reference to Tensions in the South China Sea

India on Saturday played down the reference to maritime territorial disputes in the South China Sea (SCS) that was included in a joint statement with the US, claiming that it was just a replay of language articulated publicly in recent foreign visits.

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/India-Plays-Down-Reference-to-Tensions-in-the-South-China-Sea/2014/10/05/article2462587.ece>

2 October 2014: In a first, India-US joint statement mentions South China Sea

For the first time, an India-US joint statement specifically mentioned the situation in South China Sea as President Barack Obama and PM Narendra Modi expressed concern about "rising tensions over maritime territorial disputes" in that region.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/In-a-first-India-US-joint-statement-mentions-South-China-Sea/articleshow/44028687.cms>