

**SOUTH CHINA SEA NEWS UPDATE
NOVEMBER 2014**

ACTS OF CLAIMANTS

29 November 2014: Beijing pushes offshore oilfields in the Bohai and South China seas

It is the first time that Chinese government has proposed to develop large oilfields in the South China Sea. The oilfields will be able to produce over 10 thousand tons per year, according to estimates in the plan set for 2014-2020.

<http://www.wantchinatimes.com/news-subclass-cnt.aspx?id=20141128000085&cid=1101>

28 November 2014: China urged to respect PH justice system

Jose made the call when asked to comment on the Chinese Foreign Ministry's statement demanding the unconditional release of the nine fishermen, who were found guilty of poaching and catching endangered sea turtles at the Half-Moon Shoal.

<http://globalnation.inquirer.net/114917/china-urged-to-respect-ph-justice-system/#ixzz3KVxofzcW>

25 November 2014: Philippines fines Chinese fishermen \$102,000 each for poaching

A Philippine court on Monday fined nine Chinese fishermen \$102,000 each after they were caught with hundreds of sea turtles in a disputed shoal in the South China Sea amid a festering territorial standoff between the two sides.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/11/24/us-philippines-china-idUSKCN0J80F820141124>

25 November 2014: Vietnam warships visit Philippines amid South China Sea dispute

Vietnam on Tuesday showed off its two most powerful warships in the first-ever port call to the Philippines but an official said it was not trying to challenge China's superior naval forces amid tension in the South China Sea.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/11/25/us-philippines-vietnam-southchinasea-idUSKCN0J90FO20141125>

25 November 2014: China defies calls to stop island project in South China Sea

"I think anyone in the outside world has no right to make irresponsible remarks on China-related activities," Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying told a daily news briefing. "The construction-related activities undertaken by China on the islands are primarily to improve the living conditions of personnel stationed there and to better fulfill our international responsibilities and obligations in terms of search and rescue and the provision of public services."

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/11/24/us-china-usa-southchinasea-idUSKCN0J80LH20141124?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews>

24 November 2014: Philippines Leery of Development on Reef Reclamation in S. China Sea

"Of course for us it's something that raises tension in the area. And of course we would like to deescalate tension and we would like to manage tension in the area. That's the reason why we are working with ASEAN and China," he says.

<http://www.voanews.com/content/philippines-leery-of-development-on-reef-reclamation-in-south-china-sea/2532052.html>

24 November 2014: CNOOC launches production from independent South China Sea project

CNOOC has announced that the Huizhou 25-8 Oilfield/Xijiang 24-3 Oilfield Xijiang 24-1 District Joint Development Project has commenced production in the South China Sea.

<http://www.oilandgastechology.net/upstream-news/cnooc-launches-production-independent-south-china-sea-project>

22 November 2014: China building island in South China Sea big enough for military installations

Satellite images show China is building an island on a reef in the disputed Spratly Islands large enough to accommodate what could be its first offshore airstrip in the South China Sea, a leading defense publication reported on Friday.

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/nov/21/china-building-south-china-sea-island-airstrip-military-installations>

21 November 2014: China Militarizes Coast Guard

Plans for China's coast guard suggest troubled times ahead in disputed waters. The China Coast Guard of the future will be a military organization, its ranks filled out by (mostly) men with People's Armed Police-like discipline, comportment, and training.

<http://thediplomat.com/2014/11/the-militarization-of-chinas-coast-guard/>

21 November 2014: China pledges more dialogue on regional disputes

Chinese Defense Minister Chang Wanquan says Beijing wants to improve dialogue to manage territorial disputes with the country's neighbors over islands and waters in the South China Sea.

<http://www.presstv.ir/detail/2014/11/21/386914/china-vows-dialogue-on-regional-disputes/>

20 November 2014: CNOOC strikes pay at Lufeng14-4 in the South China Sea

CNOOC has made a mid-sized new discovery Lufeng14-4 in the Eastern South China Sea.

<http://www.oilandgastechology.net/upstream-news/cnooc-strikes-pay-lufeng14-4-south-china-sea>

19 November 2014: DFA hopeful after China's Xi assures peaceful resolution of South China Sea spats

"This expression of commitment by the Chinese president, when coupled with concrete actions on the ground, will undoubtedly lead to improving the situation," he added.

<http://www.interaksyon.com/article/99530/dfa-hopeful-after-chinas-xi-assures-peaceful-resolution-of-south-china-sea-spats>

18 November 2014: Philippine President Aquino hopeful of 'just solution' to South China Sea issue

"Previously, there was a lot of rhetoric that stated one position to the exclusion of the other. Now, we are talking and the mere fact that we are talking hopefully signifies an attempt to arrive at a compromise and a just solution to the issue."

<http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/singapore/philippine-president/1480082.html>

18 November 2014: Xi Jinping Vows Peaceful Resolution, As PLA Prepares For Possible Use Of Force

Developments within the People's Liberation Army suggest that it is equipping itself to handle more than just surveillance of China maritime frontiers.

<http://www.ibtimes.com/south-china-sea-maritime-dispute-xi-jinping-vows-peaceful-resolution-pla-prepares-1724819>

18 November 2014: China insists on 'dual-track' approach to resolving South China Sea issues

The "dual-track" approach means that any relevant dispute will be addressed by the countries directly concerned through friendly consultations and negotiations and in a peaceful way. And for issues like the South China Sea, peace and stability should be jointly maintained by China and the ASEAN countries.

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/n/2014/1118/c98649-8810382.html>

17 November 2014: Philippines and Vietnam soften stance against China at EAS

Neither the Philippines nor Vietnam ended up making harsh comments of China's aggressive stance in the South China Sea. Instead, it was the Chinese premier, Li Keqiang, who first broached the subject by suggesting that Beijing was willing to resolve the disputes through dialogue and negotiation.

<http://www.wantchinatimes.com/news-subclass-cnt.aspx?id=20141117000039&cid=1101>

16 November 2014: Philippines firm on arbitration case vs China

"President Aquino reiterated that we will pursue arbitration as we believe in rules-based and peaceful settlement of disputes on maritime entitlements in the South China Sea/West Philippine Sea. "

<http://www.bworldonline.com/content.php?section=Nation&title=philippines-firm-on-arbitration-case-vs-china&id=97990>

14 November 2014: Vietnam Premier Calls for South China Sea Restraint

Vietnam PM called on countries not to alter rocks and shoals in the South China Sea and warned that improperly-handled disputes with China risk damaging bilateral relations between the two nations.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2014-11-13/obama-says-u-s-and-vietnam-experiencing-deeper-engagement-.html>

14 November 2014: No more Chinese 'restraint' in South China Sea under Xi

Under the leadership of President Xi Jinping, China no longer adopts a "strategy of restraint" in South China Sea disputes.

<http://focustaiwan.tw/news/aip/201411140038.aspx>

13 November 2014: China offers ASEAN friendship, loans as South China Sea tension bubbles

China's Prime Minister Li Keqiang proposed a friendship treaty with Southeast Asian countries and offered \$20 billion in loans on Thursday but held firm on the line that Beijing will only settle South China Sea disputes directly with other claimants.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/11/13/us-myanmar-asean-china-idUSKCN0IX0W920141113>

12 November 2014: China put forward Maritime Silk Road proposal

The initiative is aimed at increasing China's ties with the region.

<http://www.scmp.com/news/china/article/1637760/china-set-woo-asean-us40-billion-infrastructure-fund>

11 November 2014: Beijing, Philippines move to calm South China Sea tensions

"(On) most of the general points, we had a meeting of the minds," Aquino said. "South China Sea was mentioned in passing ... There was mention of finding constructive ways to solve this," he added.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/11/11/us-china-apec-philippines-idUSKCN0IV1IW20141111?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews>

11 November 2014: Chinese president praises Malaysia's quiet diplomacy on South China Sea issues

Chinese president Xi Jinping has praised Malaysia for adopting the quiet diplomacy approach in tackling the South China Sea issues, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said.

<http://english.astroawani.com/news/show/chinese-president-praises-malaysias-quiet-diplomacy-south-china-sea-issues-48150?cp>

10 November 2014: China Bypasses Philippines in Its Proposed 'Maritime Silk Road'

"Of course, we feel we're alone," Laura Del Rosario, an undersecretary at the Philippine Foreign Ministry, said Monday.

<http://online.wsj.com/articles/china-bypasses-philippines-in-its-proposed-maritime-silk-road-1415636066>

4 November 2014: Taiwan downplays 'routine' live fire drill in South China Sea

Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Anna Kao said that the drill on Taiping Island is "routine" and that its "scale has not expanded" from previous years. The Coast Guard's live firing has drawn a protest from the government of Vietnam, which has competing claims to the area, according to Vietnamese media.

<http://focustaiwan.tw/news/aip/201411040033.aspx>

1 November 2014: China's secret submarine caves extend Xi Jinping's naval reach

The development of Hainan sits at the center of China's submarine strategy. As Sanya become more built up, the PLA Navy started to develop new sites.

<http://www.smh.com.au/world/chinas-secret-submarine-caves-extend-xi-jinpings-naval-reach-20141101-11fe1i.html#ixzz3HsqPoPCm>

1 November 2014: Malaysian Navy successfully test-fires Black Shark torpedo in South China Sea

The statement said the successful exercise showed the preparedness of the Armed Forces, especially TLDM, at a high level of alertness in defending the country's sovereignty and placing TLDM as a respected force in the region.

<http://www.themalaymailonline.com/malaysia/article/malaysian-navy-successfully-test-fires-black-shark-torpedo-in-south-china-s#sthash.Oc1k4wUI.dpuf>

ASEAN AND SOUTH CHINA SEA

25 November 2014: Myanmar helped ease tensions at ASEAN summit: Minister

"As Myanmar chair, we were able to handle the most sensitive regional issue during our chairmanship," said Myanmar Information Minister Ye Htut. "In South China Sea, we can bring the two sides to have the agreement. Now even the Chinese government agree to implement the full implementation of the DOC and work to speed up the process to implement the COC."

<http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/asiapacific/myanmar-helped-ease/1493224.html>

20 November 2014: Singapore leader commends Noy, Xi meeting

Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong commended President Aquino on his recent meeting with China's President Xi Jinping, saying that China's willingness to communicate with the Philippines on the territorial dispute in the South China Sea would be a good start for the two countries to settle their differences.

<http://www.philstar.com/headlines/2014/11/20/1393778/singapore-leader-commends-noy-xi-meeting>

18 November 2014: High expectations await Malaysia's Asean chair

As a party to the South China Sea impasse, Malaysia has to lead Asean at its most critical time. The pressure to maintain the excellent level of relations with China during its meteoric rise and the demand for further progress on the drafting of the code of conduct, can be daunting tasks.

<http://www.nationmultimedia.com/opinion/High-expectations-await-Malaysias-Asean-chair-30247886.html>

17 November 2014: ASEAN Summit used a moderate tone on the South China Sea disputes

To the surprise of many in the media, the Chairman's Statement of the 25th ASEAN Summit used a moderate tone on the South China Sea disputes between China and some of ASEAN member states. While the 24th summit early this year "expressed serious concerns over the ongoing developments in the South China Sea," this summit just remained "concerned over the situation in the South China Sea."

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/892219.shtml>

15 November 2014: Indonesia emphasizes on importance of stability in South China Sea

She said that Indonesia was one of the countries that pushed for a code of conduct in the South China Sea so that all countries have a common view to safeguard their interests in the region without having to hurt others.

<http://www.antaranews.com/en/news/96560/indonesia-emphasizes-on-importance-of-stability-in-south-china-sea>

14 November 2014: South China Sea spat does not need a military solution: Ng Eng Hen

Singapore rejects a military solution to defuse simmering tensions in the fiercely contested South China Sea. Instead, countries with competing claims should use diplomatic means to resolve the ongoing maritime territorial spat, said Defence Minister Ng Eng Hen.

<http://www.straitstimes.com/news/singapore/more-singapore-stories/story/south-china-sea-spat-does-not-need-military-solution-ng-#sthash.f2L2mcmd.dpuf>

13 November 2014: ASEAN countries agree to discuss code of conduct in South China Sea

ASEAN agreed to discuss a code of conduct in a bid to solve maritime disputes in the South China Sea, parts of which Manila calls the West Philippine Sea, a television report said Thursday.

<http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/story/387868/news/nation/asean-countries-agree-to-discuss-code-of-conduct-in-south-china-sea>

13 November 2014: President Joko Widodo explains country's world maritime axis agenda

"Indonesia wishes to become a world maritime axis that connects two oceans, and it wants to emerge as a respected and prosperous maritime country".

<http://www.antaranews.com/en/news/96520/president-joko-widodo-explains-countrys-world-maritime-axis-agenda>

11 November 2014: ASEAN Summit Again Focuses on South China Sea

"Our expectation is after this summit, all the stakeholders can agree on the process of how to implement a code of conduct as soon as possible," Information Minister Ye Htut told VOA on Monday.

<http://www.voanews.com/content/asean-summit-again-focuses-on-south-china-seas/2515780.html>

7 November 2014: Myanmar Reacts to Leaked ASEAN Document

Myanmar's Director of ASEAN Affairs, Aung Lin, says that each member of the bloc has an obligation to keep the materials confidential.

<http://www.voanews.com/content/myanmar-burma-leaked-asean-document-south-china-sea/2511101.html>

5 November 2014: ASEAN Document Pushes Talks on South China Sea

A leaked ASEAN document, a draft of the chairman's statement for next week's summit, notes progress on a Code of Conduct for the South China Sea and urges the group's members to peacefully resolve their maritime disputes with China.

<http://www.voanews.com/content/asean-document-talks-south-china-sea/2509714.html>

3 November 2014: China calls for 'new maritime silk road' partnership with RI

Chinese President Xi Jinping will push for closer trade and maritime cooperation with Indonesia under the establishment of the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road, a reference to the ancient trade and cultural route between China and other parts of Asia, Europe and the Middle East.

<http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2014/11/03/china-calls-new-maritime-silk-road-partnership-with-ri.html>

MAJOR POWERS AND SOUTH CHINA SEA

22 November 2014: US asks China to stop building Spratlys island which could host airfield

"We urge China to stop its land reclamation program, and engage in diplomatic initiatives to encourage all sides to restrain themselves in these sorts of activities," Pool said.

<http://china.timesofnews.com/us-asks-china-to-stop-building-spratlys-island-which-could-host-airfield/>

20 November 2014: Japan, ASEAN hold regional security talks in Myanmar

The gathering in Bagan, central Myanmar, was the first of its kind to boost security ties between Tokyo and the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

<http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2014/11/20/national/politics-diplomacy/japan-asean-hold-regional-security-talks-myanmar/#.VG7NJYuUePs>

15 November 2014: Obama warns of Asia 'intimidation' as summit begins

The US president says Asia's security must not be based on intimidation of small nations by big ones.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-australia-30066579>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/afp/article-2835547/Obama-warns-Asian-territorial-disputes-spiral-confrontation.html>

14 November 2014: Beijing's South China Sea policy not acceptable, hints PM Modi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday strongly hinted that China should abide by international laws and respect freedom of navigation in the South China Sea.

http://www.domain-b.com/defence/general/20141114_narendra_modi.html#sthash.Cw4NcFdk.dpuf

12 November 2014: U.S., China Reach Military Deals

Xi and Obama reached two new agreements designed to avert military confrontations in Asia, one on notifying each other of major activities, such as military exercises, and the other on rules of behavior for encounters at sea and in the air.

<http://online.wsj.com/articles/u-s-china-ready-deals-to-avert-military-confrontations-1415721451>

5 November 2014: Aquino Shows Support for Japan in the South China Sea

Aquino outlined his desire to work more closely with Japan on matters of security, shortly before accusing China of complicating an already delicate situation in the South China Sea.

<http://thediplomat.com/2014/11/aquino-shows-support-for-japan-in-the-south-china-sea/>

5 November 2014: US won't 'agree to disagree' with China on sea row

"We do not simply agree to disagree when it comes to maritime security, especially in the South and East China Seas," Kerry said in an address on US-China relations at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies in Washington.

<http://www.philstar.com/headlines/2014/11/05/1388324/us-wont-agree-disagree-china-sea-row>

1 November 2014: New US Air Force commander seeks air-safety dialogue with China

"The dialogue is beginning. I think that's very, very good for the region," Robinson said in a telephone interview from Hawaii.

<http://www.scmp.com/news/china/article/1629890/new-us-air-force-commander-seeks-air-safety-dialogue-china>