SOUTH CHINA SEA NEWS UPDATE – JUNE 2013

PHILIPPINES V. CHINA ARBITRATION

24 June 2013: New arbitrator and president appointed

On 21 June 2013, the President of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, Judge Shunji Yanai, appointed Mr Thomas A. Mensah (Ghana) as arbitrator and president in the arbitral proceedings instituted by the Philippines against China under Annex VII to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on 22 January 2013. The composition of the five-member Annex VII arbitral tribunal is now as follows: Thomas Mensah, president (Ghana), Jean-Pierre Cot (France), Stanislaw Pawlak (Poland), Alfred Soons (the Netherlands) and Rüdiger Wolfrum (Germany).

http://www.itlos.org/fileadmin/itlos/documents/press_releases_english/PR_197_E.pdf

7 June 2013: UN arbitral panel member with Pinay wife resigns

A panel member of the international arbitral tribunal that will hear the case filed by the Philippines against China has resigned. Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert del Rosario confirmed yesterday the resignation of Judge Chris Pinto. "Judge Chris Pinto of Sri Lanka, who is married to a Filipina, has indeed resigned. The president of ITLOS will appoint his replacement," del Rosario said in a text message to The STAR.

http://www.philstar.com/headlines/2013/06/07/951084/un-arbitral-panel-member-pinay-wife-resigns

ACTS OF CLAIMANTS

24 June 2013: DFA chief notes challenges in Phl's quest for peace

Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert del Rosario yesterday said the statement of a top US diplomat before the US Congress that there is no place for "coercion and bullying" in settling maritime disputes in the West Philippine Sea highlights the challenges the Philippines faces in the quest for peace.

http://www.philstar.com/headlines/2013/06/24/957449/dfa-chief-notes-challenges-phlsquest-peace

21 June 2013: China Publishes Book On South China Sea Sansha City.

A panoramic book introducing the prefectural-level city of Sansha has been published as part of efforts to celebrate the first anniversary of the city's establishment. The book also includes five detailed maps illustrating the city, and the Xisha, Zhongsha and Nansha island groups that it administers.

http://www.bernama.com.my/bernama/v7/wn/newsworld.php?id=957708

21 June 2013: China rejects Philippines' seizure of Ren'ai Reef

"The Philippines' seizure of Ren'ai Reef in the South China Sea is unacceptable to China", a Foreign Ministry spokeswoman said Friday. "China's determination and will to safeguard its national sovereignty is unswerving. China has indisputable sovereignty over the Nansha Islands and its surrounding waters, which include Ren'ai Reef", she said.

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2013-06/21/content 16645464.htm

19 June 2013: Submersible records deep-sea life in South China Sea

High-definition video images acquired by Chinese submersible Jiaolong have given scientists a clearer glimpse into deep-sea life in the cold vents of the South China Sea.

http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/790095.shtml

19 June 2013: Manila sends fresh troops to disputed S. China Sea

The Philippines has deployed a fresh batch of marines and supplies to a shoal in the disputed South China Sea where a Chinese warship and surveillance vessels appeared last month and triggered a new standoff in the strategic waters, security officials said yesterday. http://www.arabnews.com/news/455523

19 June 2013: China, Vietnam should seek South China Sea solution: Chinese President "China and Vietnam should make a decision to direct and push forward on seeking a political solution to the South China Sea issue in line with taking responsibilities for history and people." Xi stressed. Both should adhere to pushing forward bilateral negotiations and friendly consultations while taking no unilateral move that may lead to the dispute further being complicated and increased and efforts should also be made to avoid the issue becoming internationalized, he said.

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/china/2013-06/20/c 124880874.htm

19 June 2013: China, Vietnam agree to set up hotline to resolve fishing incidents in South China Sea

China and Vietnam agreed on Wednesday to set up a hotline to resolve fishing incidents in disputed South China Sea waters that have been a frequent source of tensions between the two ideological allies.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia pacific/china-vietnam-agree-to-set-up-hotline-to-resolve-fishing-incidents-in-south-china-sea/2013/06/19/5cf142c6-d8eb-11e2-b418-9dfa095e125d story.html

19 June 2013: Vietnam, China agree on oil and gas exploitation in Tokin Gulf

The fourth amended agreement for the Viet Nam-China Joint Exploration Accord for the Bac Bo (Tonkin) Gulf, signed by PetroVietnam and the China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC) yesterday expanded the Defined Area, crossed by the demarcation line, for joint exploration to 4,076sq km from 1,541sq km, covering two equal parts on each side, and extended the validity of the Joint Exploration Accord to the end of 2016.

http://vietnamnews.vn/economy/240985/tonkin-gulf-oil-exploration-accord-signed.html

16 June 2013: Gov't mulls purchase of missiles for defense

The Department of National Defense (DND) plans to acquire anti-aircraft guided missiles, which will be positioned in the South China Sea as part of the country's first-ever missile defense system.

http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/427107/govt-mulls-purchase-of-missiles-for-defense#ixzz2WR0d7Mxp

15 June 2013: Taiwan aims to sign fishery pact with Philippines: minister

Taiwan is aimed at signing a fishery agreement with the Philippines to prevent a recurrence of the shooting death of a Taiwanese fisherman by Philippine coast guard officers in May, Minister of Foreign Affairs David Lin said Saturday. Before Taiwan and the Philippines strike a permanent deal on fishing rights in overlapping waters of the two countries' exclusive economic zones (EEZs), Lin said, the two sides have agreed to work out provisional regulations on fishing operations in the overlapping region.

http://focustaiwan.tw/news/aall/201306150031.aspx

14 June **2013**: PHL welcomes US Senate resolution vs. China's use of force in sea disputes "We understand that the resolution has yet to undergo the necessary congressional process before it is passed by the US Senate, nonetheless, we extend our appreciation on the mere fact

that some US Senators have considered it necessary to express their views on a fundamental issue that affects the peace and stability of the Asia Pacific Region," Foreign Affairs spokesman Raul Hernandez told a press briefing.

http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/story/312896/news/nation/phl-welcomes-us-senate-resolution-vs-china-s-use-of-force-in-sea-disputes

14 June 2013: Philex Petroleum Corp. (PXP.PH) in still in talks with China National Offshore Oil Corp. (CEO) for a possible joint development

Philex Petroleum Corp. (PXP.PH) in still in talks with China National Offshore Oil Corp. (CEO) for a possible joint development of natural gas prospects in a contested area in the South China Sea, the chairman of the Philippine oil explorer said Friday. Philex Petroleum is the controlling shareholder of the operator of the natural gas prospects in the Reed Bank. "We can't proceed without them, that's the reality--unless we can enforce our own right to keep them out. In the end, it depends on" both governments, Manuel Pangilinan told Dow Jones Newswires after the annual meeting of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (TEL.PH). Mr. Pangilinan is also the chairman of PLDT

http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20130614-704025.html?mod=googlenews_wsj

14 June 2013: Philippines has 'contingency plans' to defend isles

The Philippines has "contingency plans" in place to defend disputed territories in the South China Sea, a top security official said Thursday. "We have contingency plans for that. We are ready," National Security Council deputy chief Vicente Agdamag said at an annual forum organized by the Philippine Air Force.

http://www.abs-cbnnews.com/nation/06/13/13/philippines-has-contingency-plans-defendisles

13 June 2013: Philippines recommends charges over Taiwan death

In a report sent to Justice Secretary Leila de Lima, the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) identified the Philippine Coast Guard personnel who fired their guns on the Taiwanese fishing vessel, the Guan Ta Hsin 28, including the person whose bullet fatally killed Hung Shih chen, the Inquirer quoted an unnamed source as saying.

http://gulfnews.com/news/world/philippines/philippines-recommends-charges-over-taiwan-death-1.1196704

13 June 2013: Philippines to strengthen defence to protect independence: Aquino

President Benigno Aquino on Wednesday vowed to defend and protect Philippine sovereignty in the face of the challenges posed by its territorial disputes with neighbouring countries especially in the South China Sea.

http://www.omantribune.com/index.php?page=news&id=146174&heading=Asia

11 June 2013: Manned sub on track for S. China Sea

An oceanographic ship carrying the Jiaolong manned deep-sea submersible is expected to arrive at the designated dive area in the South China Sea in one week, according to the ship's onboard headquarters.

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/china/2013-06/11/c 132447783.htm

11 June 2013: Chinese Embassy in UK sent letter to Financial Times on South China Sea In response to David Pilling's article entitled "Rash or plucky, the Philippines is right to challenge China" on the Financial Times, He Rulong, Spokesman of the Chinese Embassy in London sent the Financial Times a letter stating China's position over the Philippines initiation to bring the disputes to arbitration.

http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/59e87756-d1f3-11e2-b17e-00144feab7de.html

10 June 2013: No new Chinese structures, but 4 ships in Panatag – expert

There are no new Chinese structures in Panatag (Scarborough) Shoal but four Chinese ships are still in the area, a defense expert monitoring West Philippine Sea issues revealed yesterday. http://www.philstar.com/headlines/2013/06/10/952137/no-new-chinese-structures-4-ships-panatag-expert

6 June 2013: Taiwan hopes to join South China Sea dialogue

Taiwan looks forward to taking part in a South China Sea-related dialogue and mechanism, and working with other countries in the area to maintain regional peace and stability, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) said Thursday. MOFA spokeswoman Anna Kao said all island chains in the South China Sea are the Republic of China's sovereign territory, as are the waters surrounding them. The ROC is nevertheless willing to shelve disputes and cooperate with neighboring countries in exploring resources in the region, in line with the principles of reciprocity and peaceful solutions to disputes.

http://focustaiwan.tw/news/aall/201306060025.aspx

4 June 2013: China not to tolerate rogue behavior on South China Sea

Manila has been highlighting the situation on the South China Sea and was again acted recently like a victim to lodge a "diplomatic protest" to Beijing for Chinese naval vessels, surveillance ship and fishing boat showing up in waters off the Ren'ai Reef.

http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90883/8270767.html

4 June 2013: China does not dismiss possibility of joint exploration in the South China Sea In future exploration of marine assets in the South China Sea, China did not dismiss the possibility of joint development with Asean countries, China's National People's Congress (NPC) Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Fu Ying said.

http://www.bernama.com.my/bernama/v7/ge/newsgeneral.php?id=954032

4 June 2013: Manila raises 'illegal' sea presence issue with Beijing, upgrades military
The Philippines said on Tuesday it had protested to China at the "illegal" presence of a Chinese
warship and other vessels at a shoal occupied by Filipino marines in the South China Sea.
President Benigno Aquino later in the day announced a \$1.8-billion military upgrade to help
defend his country's maritime territory against "bullies".

http://www.omantribune.com/index.php?page=news&id=144624&heading=Asia

3 June 2013: Malaysia Pushes Joint Development to Solve Asia Sea DisputesMalaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak called for claimants in the South China Sea to jointly develop resources to avoid conflict and prevent "extra-regional states" from becoming

involved. http://www.businessweek.com/news/2013-06-03/malaysia-pushes-joint-development-to-

2 June 2013: China repeats China Sea claims

solve-asia-sea-disputes

Chinese warships will continue to patrol waters where Beijing has territorial claims. Lieutenant General Qi Jianguo, deputy chief of the general staff of the People's Liberation Army, defended the patrols as legitimate and said his country's sovereignty over the areas could not be disputed.

http://www.bangkokpost.com/breakingnews/353058/china-repeats-china-sea-claims

2 June 2013: Vietnam breaks up anti-China protest

More than 15 demonstrators were detained Sunday during a protest march in Vietnam's capital against China's territorial assertiveness in Southeast Asian waters.

http://www.nst.com.my/latest/vietnam-breaks-up-anti-china-protest-1.291804#ixzz2V2yELegm

1 June 2013: China released a new map of the South China Sea

Several diplomats from nations allied with the United States said they were concerned about a new map of the South China Sea that was issued last week by Sinomaps Press, the Chinese mapping authority. The new map, according to Asian diplomats who have seen it, takes a further step and redesignates the nine-dash line as a national boundary. Its release was delayed from late last year so that it could be formally authorized by the Chinese senior leadership, according to a senior Asian diplomat, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because of the delicacy of the matter.

http://www.nytimes.com/2013/06/02/world/asia/hagel-reassures-asian-allies.html? r=0

1 June 2013: Shangri-la Dialogue: China had 'thought of reciprocating' by 'sending ships and planes to the US EEZ', and had in fact done so 'a few times'

Indeed, the most extraordinary thing I heard at the first full day of this year's dialogue here in Singapore came from a PLA senior colonel at a working session on maritime security. Thus it was striking to hear a Chinese military officer reveal in an open discussion at this conference today that China had 'thought of reciprocating' by 'sending ships and planes to the US EEZ', and had in fact done so 'a few times', although not a daily basis (unlike the US presence off China). http://www.scmp.com/news/china/article/1248585/pla-review-warns-strategic-uncertainties-loom-large-china

1 June 2013: Important to build mutual and strategic trust in region: Vietnam PM

Vietnam's Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung has emphasised the importance of building mutual and strategic trust in this region so as to deal with sensitive and difficult problems which arise. http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/singapore/important-to-build-mutual-and-strategic-/694028.html

1 June 2013: China builds first benthal observation system

Chinese scientists said they have finished building the country's first benthal observation system in south China's Hainan Province.

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/china/2013-05/31/c 132422552.htm

ASEAN AND SOUTH CHINA SEA

24 June 2013: ASEAN-China: new Code-of-conduct tug-of-war

When the DoC working group met in Bangkok at the end of May, the COC issue was discussed officially for the first time, under the item "other matters". As the coordinator of ASEAN-China relations, Thailand was pleased and is now working hard to pave the way for more substantive meetings on August 2 and 14 that have the potential to redefine ASEAN-China relations. http://www.nationmultimedia.com/opinion/Asean-China-new-Code-of-conduct-tug-of-war-30208941.html

22 June 2013: ASEAN ministers to meet in Thailand in August

Southeast Asian foreign ministers have agreed to meet in Hua Hin, Thailand, in mid-August to firm up ASEAN's position on the protracted South China Sea territorial disputes before meeting with China later that month, Philippine Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario said Friday. "(The

Hua Hin meeting) is to strategize and prepare for the (ASEAN-China ministerial meeting) in China scheduled end of August," del Rosario said.

http://www.abs-cbnnews.com/global-filipino/world/06/21/13/asean-ministers-meet-thailand-august

21 June: US-China Rivalry could undermine ASEAN role in dispute

The rising China-US rivalry could further complicate the peaceful management of regional conflicts, including the six-nation territorial dispute in the South China Sea, scholars have warned. Ralf Emmers of the Nanyang Technological University said at an international seminar on "ASEAN Unity and Maritime Challenges in South China Sea and Asia Pacific", in Bangkok on Thursday.

http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2013/06/22/us-china-rivalry-could-undermine-asean-role-dispute.html

21 June 2013: Surapong says maritime spat mustn't hit ASEAN-China Ties

Thailand has asked the Philippines to separate its territorial dispute with China over the South China Sea from the wider relationship between Asean and China. Thailand will move forward with a Code of Conduct on the South China Sea, which provides rules and laws for claimant countries to practise in order to avoid conflict.

http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/singapore/important-to-build-mutual-and-strategic-/694028.html

19 June **2013**: **ASEAN, China eye more cooperation in search, rescue in South China Sea** Some 40 representatives from ASEAN and China Wednesday attended a workshop on strengthening ASEAN-China cooperation in search and rescue of persons and vessels in distress in the South China Sea.

http://www.philstar.com/world/2013/06/19/955875/asean-china-eye-more-cooperation-search-rescue-south-china-sea

6 June 2013: China, ASEAN nations discuss South China Sea issue: spokesman

Representatives of China and the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) recently met and discussed the South China Sea issue, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Thursday. The eighth joint work group meeting on implementing the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) took place in Bangkok on May 29, spokesman Hong Lei told a daily press briefing. Hong did not specify details, but said the meeting was of great significance and recognized the positive progress made in implementing the DOC in 2012, including cooperation in disaster prevention and reduction and maritime ecology. http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/china/2013-06/06/c 132436221.htm

MAJOR POWERS AND SOUTH CHINA SEA

24 June 2013: Abe looking to visit 'strategic' ASEAN members in July

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is considering visiting certain members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations next month, probably after the July 21 Upper House election, a government source said Sunday.

http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2013/06/24/world/abe-looking-to-visit-strategic-asean-members-in-july/

22 June 2013: Palace aid hails US diplomat's statement on China Sea row

"That's a welcome statement ... [I]t's in line with our efforts, with what we've been doing. Our position has always been that there's no need for coercion when it comes to resolving our

maritime disputes," deputy presidential spokesperson Abigail Valte said in a radio interview on Saturday.

http://globalnation.inquirer.net/78459/us-diplomats-position-tickles-palace#ixzz2X5gUFcKa

21 June 2013: US Asian affairs director hits China maritime "bullying"

The nominee to become the top US diplomat in East Asia delivered pointed comments about China in his confirmation hearing on Thursday, saying there's no place for "coercion and bullying" in the region's seas. Russel is currently White House senior director for Asian affairs. He is nominee to become assistant secretary for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, replacing Kurt Campbell, who resigned in February to enter business.

http://globalnation.inquirer.net/78321/us-hits-china-bullying-in-disputed-waters

20 June 2013: Phl, US to hold joint naval exercise in South China Sea

The naval forces of the Philippines and the United States will hold joint exercise near China's Huangyan Island in South China Sea from June 27 to July 2, Philippine military said today. http://www.philstar.com/headlines/2013/06/20/956408/phl-us-hold-joint-naval-exercise-south-china-sea

20 June 2013: The South China Sea: A new area in Chinese-Indian rivalry

The conflict between India and China over the South China Sea has been building for more than a year. India signed an agreement with Vietnam in October 2011 to expand and promote oil exploration in the South China Sea and has now reconfirmed its decision to carry on despite the Chinese challenge to the legality of Indian presence.

http://www.nationmultimedia.com/opinion/The-South-China-Sea-A-new-area-in-Chinese-Indian-r-30208644.html

19 June 2013: South China Sea Conflicts Ignited United States Pivot to Asia Pacific – Analysis
The United States possibly would have preferred to delay its strategic pivot to Asia Pacific till
2014 by which time the planned draw-down of US military forces from Afghanistan would have
commenced. China seems to have forced the US hand in doing so by igniting the South China
Sea conflicts, first with Vietnam and then the Philippines markedly from 2008 onwards.
http://www.albanytribune.com/19062013-south-china-sea-conflicts-ignited-united-states-pivot-to-asia-pacific-analysis/

14 June 2013: Protest set at UN against China 'expansionism'

A U.S. group critical of China's claim on islands off the Philippines will hold a protest rally at the United Nations headquarters here on July 24.

http://globalnation.inquirer.net/77653/global-protest-set-at-un-against-china-expansionism#ixzz2WGNluT1U

14 June 2013: Japan eyes Philippines, US keeping China in check

Defense Minister Itsunori Onodera is making final arrangements to visit the Philippines later this month and Hawaii in the United States next month in a bid to keep China in check, a Japanese government source said Friday. The Japanese defense minister plans to discuss with Philippine Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin the current tensions in the East China Sea and South China Sea and coordinate their responses to China, the source said.

http://www.abs-cbnnews.com/global-filipino/world/06/14/13/japan-eyes-philippines-us-keep-china-check

13 June 2013: US senators blast China's use of force in sea disputes

US senators have filed a resolution condemning China's use of threats and force in territorial disputes with other countries.

http://www.abs-cbnnews.com/global-filipino/world/06/12/13/us-senators-blast-chinas-use-force-sea-disputes

9 June 2013: US assures Philippines of aid to enhance defence

Despite the ongoing tension in the Middle East, a ranking US military commander has assured that Washington remained firm in its commitment to help enhance the Philippines defence capability amid the country's territorial dispute with China in the South China Sea, according to a spokesman of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

http://gulftoday.ae/portal/c0f9a09c-f9d2-4c4a-9305-4e3ecc196a06.aspx

7 June 2013: Recent Sino Summits Fail on South China Sea

Chinese diplomats have been trying to marshal support for their nation's expansive claims to the South China Sea, but at two recent summits Chinese leaders returned home having made no progress on this key issue.

http://www.theepochtimes.com/n3/95907-recent-sino-summits-fail-on-south-china-sea/

7 June 2013: United Kingdom Hydrographic Office (UKHO) has added two digital charts of the South China Sea to its ADMIRALTY Vector Chart Service (AVCS)

Jason Scholey, Senior Product Manager - Charts, commented: "We are delighted to announce the inclusion of these two charts to AVCS. This continues to ensure that our customers have the most comprehensive global maritime ENC service available whilst being supported by the unique ADMIRALTY Information Overlay (AIO) to highlight ADMIRALTY T&P NMs and navigationally significant differences between ENCs and paper charts".

http://www.marinelink.com/news/coverage-complete-digital355405.aspx

6 June 2013: US eyes progress on South China Sea tensions

Joe Yun, the acting assistant secretary of state for East Asia, said that China and ASEAN made apparent progress during a working-level meeting last week in Bangkok. "I think there seems to be an understanding that at a future date, maybe sometime this year, they will announce a formal beginning of negotiations" on a code of conduct, Yun told the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/story/311591/news/nation/us-eyes-progress-on-south-china-sea-tensions

5 June 2013: US pushes for code of conduct in South China Sea

Speaking at the Asia Pacific roundtable in Kuala Lumpur, Admiral Locklear said the United States opposes any move to seize control of the disputed territories by force. The US will continue to monitor the situation in the South China Sea where overlapping claims have led to tensions in recent months. Describing the situation as highly complex, Admiral Locklear is pushing for dialogue between ASEAN and China for a legally binding code of conduct to minimise frictions in the South China Sea.

http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/asiapacific/us-pushes-for-code-of-conduct-in-south-c/699020.html

4 June 2013: US woos Indonesia, China offensive on S China Sea

Indonesia must play a strategic role in maintaining regional order and the US wants to build a strong relationship with the archipelagic nation, the Pentagon chief said over the weekend. http://news.asiaone.com/News/Latest%2BNews/World/Story/A1Story20130604-427275.html

3 June 2013: Commander of U.S. Pacific Fleet visits South China Sea Fleet

Admiral Cecil D. Haney, commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, paid an official call on Jiang Weilie, commander of the South China Sea Fleet of the Navy of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLAN), at the office building of the South China Sea Fleet.

http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90786/8269575.html

1 June 2013: Philippine, U.S. defense ministers discuss S. China Sea tensions

Philippine Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin and U.S. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel discussed territorial disputes between the Philippines and China in the South China Sea during a brief meeting in Singapore, Gazmin said Saturday.

http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/kyodo-news-international/130601/philippine-us-defense-ministers-discuss-s-china-sea-te

1 June 2013: U.S. won't tolerate forced change in Senkakus, S. China Sea

The U.S. defense secretary warned Saturday the United States opposes any forced change in the situations surrounding the Japanese-administered Senkaku Islands in the East China Sea and islands claimed by some Southeast Asian countries and Taiwan in the South China Sea. http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/kyodo-news-international/130601/us-wont-tolerate-forced-change-senkakus-s-china-sea