

SOUTH CHINA SEA NEWS UPDATE – AUGUST 2013

PHILIPPINES V. CHINA ARBITRATION

9 August 2013: UN arbitral panel may soon decide on jurisdictional issues in PH case vs China
Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert del Rosario has said the five-member ad hoc body may decide whether or not it has jurisdiction over the case in “maybe one or two weeks” as the Philippines pursues the legal action as a “last resort” to clarify maritime boundaries with China in the contested waters.

<http://globalnation.inquirer.net/82761/un-arbitral-panel-may-soon-decide-on-jurisdictional-issues-in-ph-case-vs-china#ixzz2bSTxBtzy>

ACTS OF CLAIMANTS

22 August 2013: Fishing resources key to S.China Sea order

August is fishing season in the South China Sea. It is reported that Hainan Province alone has sent nearly 10,000 fishing boats to its deep waters in hopes of a fruitful month.

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/805520.shtml>

13 August 2013: Taiwan, Philippines expected to hold next fishery meeting soon

Taiwan and the Philippines have reached an agreement to hold their next meeting in Taipei soon in preparation for formal fishery talks, as part of efforts to address fishing disputes in overlapping waters, an official said. “During the next meeting, we hope to sign an agreement or a memorandum of understanding that would cover the previous consensus,” Ho told CNA.

<http://www.chinapost.com.tw/taiwan/national/national-news/2013/08/13/386318/Taiwan-Philippines.htm>

10 August 2013: Taiwan lifts Philippines sanctions after shooting apology

Taiwan has lifted sanctions imposed on the Philippines after Manila issued a formal apology to the family of a Taiwanese fisherman shot dead in disputed waters. On Wednesday Manila recommended homicide charges against eight coast guards who admitted firing weapons.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-23620068>

9 August 2013: Philippines Seek Talks on Expanding U.S. Access to its Military Bases

Philippine officials say the nation is seeking fresh talks with the United States on expanding U.S. access to its military bases, as tensions with China rise over competing territorial claims in the South China Sea.

<http://www.voanews.com/content/philippines-seek-talks-on-expanding-us-access-to-its-military-bases/1726409.html>

7 August 2013: Philippines Boosts Patrols Amid China Sea Dispute

The Philippines’ second Hamilton-class warship has arrived in local waters at a time of continuing territorial tensions in the South China Sea. Manila’s military expansion program plans to build what the Philippines calls a “minimum credible defense posture.”

<http://www.voanews.com/content/philippines-boosts-sea-patrols-amid-maritime-dispute-with-china/1724206.html>

7 August 2013: PHL ignores China’s three-way proposal to address sea disputes

The Philippines on Tuesday ignored China’s three-way proposal to address the long-running disputes in the South China Sea, saying the problem lies in Beijing’s massive claim over the resource-rich waters.

<http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/story/320850/news/nation/phl-ignores-china-s-three-way-proposal-to-address-sea-disputes>

6 August 2013: Chinese navy launches new patrol route in the S. China Sea

After fortifying its naval outposts in the South China Sea, China has established a maritime surveillance patrol route that covers practically all disputed reefs, shoals and islets in the sea, even those within 85 nautical miles of the Philippines' westernmost island province of Palawan, a classified military report seen Monday by Kyodo News says.

<http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/kyodo-news-international/130805/chinese-navy-launches-new-patrol-route-the-s-china-sea>

5 August 2013: China: No Rush to Sign South China Sea Accord

China is in no rush to sign a proposed agreement on maritime rules with Southeast Asia governing behavior in the disputed South China Sea, and countries should not have unrealistic expectations, the Chinese foreign minister said on Monday.

<http://www.voanews.com/content/reu-china-no-rush-to-sign-south-china-sea-accord/1723665.html>

5 August 2013: China warns against rush to set code of conduct in South China Sea

China believes that there should be no rush. Certain countries are hoping that COC can be agreed on overnight. These countries are having unrealistic expectation and taking unserious attitudes, said Wang.

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/china/2013-08/05/c_132603785.htm

4 August 2013: Philippines acquiring French vessel for South China Sea

The 54.8-metre (180-foot) patrol ship will cost six million Euros (\$7.97 million) and is due to arrive in the country by April next year, a coastguard statement said.

<http://www.foxnews.com/world/2013/08/03/philippines-acquiring-french-vessel-for-south-china-sea/#ixzz2b6VDW9PN>

4 August 2013: China calls for restraint on South China Sea issue

"We hope the relevant countries can also uphold this spirit, walk face to face with us and not take any further actions that might complicate matters. And especially not misjudge the situation and remake mistakes," Wang said.

http://zeenews.india.com/news/world/china-calls-for-restraint-on-south-china-sea-issue_866555.html

4 August 2013: South China Sea disputes could be solved with three ways together: FM

First, he said, is to reach agreement through consultation and negotiation between direct parties concerned. He stressed that this is the fundamental way and the only way that can lead to final solution. The second way is to continue to implement the Declaration of the Conduct of the South China Sea, while gradually push forward the consultations on the Conduct Code of the South China Sea. The Third way, The Chinese Foreign Minister said that searching for ways of common exploitation.

<http://www.ecns.cn/2013/08-03/75826.shtml>

3 August 2013: Philippines, Vietnam Agree to Cooperate on Maritime Dispute with China

Del Rosario told reporters after the meeting that he and Minh agreed to work more closely together to try to convince the rest of ASEAN's 10 member states to push for substantive progress in a meeting with Chinese officials later this year. "We want to be able to bring it to a negotiations stage. Consultation probably is not enough. We need to talk about negotiation," he stated.

<http://www.voanews.com/content/philippines-vietnam-agree-to-cooperate-on-resolving-maritime-dispute-with-china/1714462.html>

2 August 2013: CNOOC signs PSC with Shell on S China Sea block

Block 35/10 is located in the Yinggehai Basin in the South China Sea. It covers a total area of 3,427 square kilometers with water depth of 80-110 meters.

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2013-08/01/content_16863380.htm

2 August 2013: Philippines, China Clash over US Resolution

The maritime dispute between the Philippines and China heated up Thursday, August 1, after the two countries issued clashing statements on the US Senate's new resolution supporting peace in the South China Sea.

<http://www.rappler.com/nation/35448-ph-china-dispute-us-resolution>

2 August 2013: China slams US resolution on South, East China Sea disputes

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying said the resolution places blame on the Chinese side without regard for history and facts, "sending a wrong message".

http://zeenews.india.com/news/world/china-slams-us-resolution-on-south-east-china-sea-disputes_866045.html

1 August 2013: Philippines says US spy planes monitoring China at sea

US Navy P-3 Orion surveillance aircraft frequently fly over areas that the Philippines says are within its legal territory but where China has deployed military vessels, said Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario. "We do have an interest in terms of what is going on with our exclusive economic zone, within our continental shelf, and we want to know if there are any intrusions."

<http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/asiapacific/philippines-says-us-spy/761986.html>

30 July 2013: Taiwan to build new pier in Spratlys

The Executive Yuan has agreed to earmark NT\$3.3 billion (US\$110.24 million) for construction of a new wharf on Taiping Island, the largest islet in the Spratly archipelago in the South China Sea, a local newspaper reported Monday.

<http://focustaiwan.tw/news/aip/201307290037>

ASEAN AND SOUTH CHINA SEA

21 August 2013: U.S. seeks peaceful solutions of China's maritime claims

"I noted that while the United States does not take a position on sovereignty in these cases, we do have an interest in these claims being resolved peacefully, without coercion," Hagel said a joint news conference Monday after his meeting with Chinese National Defense Minister Chang Wanquan at the Pentagon.

<http://the-japan-news.com/news/article/0000482377>

15 August 2013: ASEAN agrees on South China Sea conduct

ASEAN foreign ministers agreed yesterday to a code of conduct (COC) to tackle conflicts in the South China Sea. The agreement was reached at an informal gathering in Hua Hin to discuss ways of strengthening the regional grouping and to prepare for talks with China to adopt the COC as a way of settling territorial disputes in the sea.

<http://www.bangkokpost.com/news/local/364660/asean-agrees-on-south-china-sea-conduct>

15 August 2013: ASEAN unites on South China Sea

Foreign ministers from the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) agreed "to speak in one voice" while seeking an "early conclusion of a code of conduct", a foreign ministry spokesman told AFP on Wednesday. On Wednesday Cambodia's deputy prime minister

agreed to the unified ASEAN position on the code, the Thai spokesman said after the two-day discussions ended.

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/breaking-news/asean-unites-on-south-china-sea/story-fni0xqll-1226697409634>

9 August 2013: Time for China and ASEAN to make up

Wang's latest visit to Southeast Asia, the third since his appointment as foreign minister, should then be understood as a renewed effort to address the unbalanced cooperation structure between China and ASEAN nations. From Wang's explicit statement on China's preference for gradualist approach in concluding the Code of Conduct with ASEAN claimant states [3], it is apparent that Beijing seeks to ameliorate the existing bilateral frameworks with Southeast Asian nations as a precursor towards creating an environment that is conducive for the settlement of territorial disputes in the South China Sea. As for ASEAN claimants in the South China Sea, they should be able to recognize that unlike the past, Wang's explicit gestures are something unusual for any Chinese foreign minister. Here, we can expect China to be more prepared than before in engaging ASEAN countries in the years to come. This is the key moment that ASEAN member states, especially those contending parties in the South China Sea dispute, should capitalize on.

<http://www.atimes.com/atimes/China/CHIN-01-090813.html>

MAJOR POWERS AND SOUTH CHINA SEA

22 August 2013: US spying raises tensions with China

US surveillance activities around China are soaring, while US vessels and planes are coming closer to Chinese ships and aircraft in China's exclusive economic zones in the East China Sea and the South China Sea, said Guan Youfei, director of the Foreign Affairs Office of the Ministry of National Defense.

<http://www.ecns.cn/2013/08-22/78130.shtml>

21 August 2013: Pentagon chief to tour Southeast Asia

Rival territorial claims in the South China Sea are expected to feature high on the agenda of the ASEAN discussions in Brunei next Wednesday and Thursday, officials said.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hsCh37IBREOpNpyTNQTLnzR4e8lw?docId=CNG.541f67cfc8bcc2a7627aee90771b001.a01>

2 August 2013: Abe encouraged U.S. senators to adopt resolution against China

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe sent letters to several influential U.S. senators to encourage the U.S. Senate's adoption of a resolution criticizing China's behavior in the East and South China Seas, a government source said Friday.

<http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/kyodo-news-international/130802/abe-encouraged-us-senators-adopt-resolution-against-ch>

1 August 2013: U.S. Senate slams China's use of maritime threats

The U.S. Senate unanimously adopted a resolution Monday condemning China's use of coercion and threats in the East China Sea and South China Sea to assert its territorial claims.

<http://the-japan-news.com/news/article/0000421403>

29 July 2013: Japan's Abe vows sea help to Philippines amid China row

Japan Prime Minister Shinzo Abe pledged increased maritime cooperation with the Philippines on Saturday amid growing territorial disputes with regional rival China.

<http://www.brecorder.com/top-news/109-world-top-news/129221-japans-abe-vows-sea-help-to-philippines-amid-china-row.html>