

## SOUTH CHINA SEA NEWS UPDATE – OCTOBER 2013

### PHILIPPINES VS. CHINA

#### **25 October 2013: Manila sees early UN ruling on sea dispute with Beijing**

“Our lead counsel believes that without China’s participation, the award will come down faster and may come down by 2014,” del Rosario told a group of diplomats and chief executives of top private and public corporations. “This is a positive development,” he added.

<http://www.gulf-times.com/asean-philippines/188/details/369583/manila-sees-early-un-ruling-on-sea-dispute-with-beijing>

#### **16 October 2013: The Philippines vs. China in South China Sea Claims: Interview with Paul Reichler**

Paul Reichler of U.S. law firm Foley Hoag has launched legal proceedings against China on behalf of the Philippines over its claim to almost the entire South China Sea. China caught up with the lawyer.

<http://stream.wsj.com/story/latest-headlines/SS-2-63399/SS-2-354339/>

### ACTS OF CLAIMANTS

#### **30 October 2013: China, Malaysia to hold joint military drills**

China and Malaysia will hold their first-ever joint military exercises next year, the Southeast Asian nation's defence minister said Wednesday, despite their rival claims to the tense South China Sea. The statement gave no details on the planned drills such as their location, scale, or which military branches would be involved.

<http://www.mysinchew.com/node/93356>

#### **29 October 2013: China flexes muscles with show of submarine force**

Beijing has put its nuclear-powered submarine fleet on public display, with state media Tuesday touting the move as unprecedented and necessary to show other countries China's strike capabilities as territorial tensions mount. "China is powerful in possessing a credible second-strike nuclear capability," it said in an editorial Tuesday, adding: "Some countries haven't taken this into serious consideration when constituting their China policy, leading to a frivolous attitude toward China in public opinion." "China needs to make it clear that the only choice is not to challenge China's core interest," said the paper, which often takes a nationalistic tone and is close to the ruling Communist party. "Developing marine-based nuclear power is part of such work."

<http://www.mysinchew.com/node/93294>

#### **25 October 2013: Lonely outpost in a high-stakes game**

For now, the course is a diplomatic one: the Philippines pursues its arbitration, the Asean states apply pressure for a binding code of conduct in the South China Sea, and the United States counsels patience (within reason) and the peaceful resolution of disputes. As it turns out, this somewhat scattershot approach may actually be starting to work. The Chinese leadership has undertaken a new charm offensive of late, visiting the capitals of some Asean countries (notably not the Philippines) and signaling that it might be willing to soften its positions on adopting a code of conduct and multilateral negotiations.

<http://www.nytimes.com/newsgraphics/2013/10/27/south-china-sea/>

#### **24 October 2013: Filipino, China oil firms eye deal in disputed sea**

A Filipino-British company has begun talks with China's state-owned offshore oil producer for an oil- and gas-exploration deal in part of the South China Sea where Philippine and Chinese vessels were involved in a confrontation just two and a half years ago. Aquino told foreign correspondents that any such deal with China would have to conform to Philippine laws. The Reed Bank, northwest of the Philippine province of Palawan, lies clearly within the Philippines' exclusive economic zone, Aquino said.

<http://www.sfgate.com/business/energy/article/Filipino-China-oil-firms-eye-deal-in-disputed-sea-4918665.php>

#### **24 October 2013: Manila backtracks on South China Sea accusation against China**

In an embarrassing twist after foreign affairs and defense officials had accused China of preparing to build new structures on Scarborough Shoal, a group of rocks about 120 nautical miles off the coast of the main island of Luzon, Aquino said the blocks found within the shoal "are not a new phenomenon" and "some of them have barnacles attached to them."

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/sns-rt-us-philippines-southchinasea-20131023,0,4946416.story>

#### **23 October 2013: Taipei, Manila hold 1st formal fishery talks**

Officials said in a background briefing that both sides signed the minutes of the two-day meeting, which the ministry said makes them an official document that is legally binding. Benjamin Ho, director general of the Department of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, has said that Taiwan hopes both sides will follow the model of the Taiwan-Japan fishery pact.

<http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/kyodo-news-international/131022/taipei-manila-hold-1st-formal-fishery-talks>

#### **21 October 2013: Philippines and Vietnam in the South China Sea**

Both countries see the disputed areas as vital interests, yet have taken divergent approaches in pressing their claims.

<http://thediplomat.com/2013/10/21/philippines-and-vietnam-in-the-south-china-sea-2>

#### **19 October 2013: Malaysia to Establish Marine Corps and South China Sea Naval Base**

According to the defense minister's statement, the new naval base will be built in Bintulu on the South China Sea (SCS) for the explicit purpose of protecting nearby waters and oil reserves. As Jane's points out, however, the base will be located just 60 miles from the James Shoal, an area in the South China Sea claimed by both Malaysia and China. IHS Jane's said that Malaysia will rely on the expertise of the U.S. Marines Corps (USMC) to help develop the new Marine force.

<http://thediplomat.com/flashpoints-blog/2013/10/19/malaysia-to-establish-marine-corps-and-south-china-sea-naval-base/>

#### **14 October 2013: China, Vietnam to set up group to explore disputed South China Sea**

China and Vietnam have agreed to set up a working group to jointly explore their disputed waters in the South China Sea as the two nations vowed to move beyond the territorial row and enhance bilateral ties. Both nations aim to make "concrete progress" in jointly exploring the Gulf of Tonkin, a northern arm of the South China Sea, but no other details were released.

<http://www.scmp.com/news/china/article/1331106/china-vietnam-set-group-explore-disputed-south-china-sea>

#### **11 October 2013: Li hits out at S.China Sea interference**

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang Thursday said parties unrelated to the South China Sea dispute should refrain from intervening in the issue, in a veiled jab at the US and Japan's attempts to

complicate the issue at the East Asia Summit in Brunei. Li emphasized that China and ASEAN have reached the consensus that "the South China Sea dispute should be solved peacefully through negotiations and consultations between countries directly involved, and non-claimant countries shouldn't interfere in the issue."

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/817055.shtml#Ulep4iR6QpG>

**10 October 2013: Malaysia: Dispute over territorial claims in the South China Sea should only be addressed through negotiations and peaceful settlement with concerned parties**

The prime minister said China Prime Minister Li Keqiang also gave the same commitment over the issue that the disputes would be settled through negotiations.

[http://www.nst.com.my/latest/resolve-territorial-claim-dispute-over-south-china-sea-peacefully-najib-](http://www.nst.com.my/latest/resolve-territorial-claim-dispute-over-south-china-sea-peacefully-najib-1.372156?cache=03%2F7.203572%2F7.258950%2F7.258950%2F7.258950%2F7.258950)

[1.372156?cache=03%2F7.203572%2F7.258950%2F7.258950%2F7.258950%2F7.258950](http://www.nst.com.my/latest/resolve-territorial-claim-dispute-over-south-china-sea-peacefully-najib-1.372156?cache=03%2F7.203572%2F7.258950%2F7.258950%2F7.258950%2F7.258950)

**9 October 2013: The Philippines is Building a New Naval Base in South China Sea**

The new naval base will be located on Oyster Bay, "a postcard-perfect cove on Palawan Island". Oyster Bay is 550 km (340 miles) southwest of Manila, the Filipino capitol city, and just 160 km (100 miles) from the Spratly Islands, a fiercely contested area in the South China Sea. The U.S. and the Philippines are currently negotiating a new bilateral agreement that will give U.S. naval forces greater access to Subic and other parts of the Philippines. Oyster Bay, located on the western side of the Philippines closer to the South China Sea, is likely to be one of those places.

<http://thediplomat.com/flashpoints-blog/2013/10/08/the-philippines-is-building-a-new-naval-base-in-south-china-sea/>

**8 October 2013: PH upholds freedom of navigation amid China warning**

The Philippines upheld freedom to navigate the South China Sea after China on Monday, October 7, blasted the United States, Japan, and Australia for "interfering" in maritime disputes. Referring to the US, Japan, and Australia, Lacierda said: "Do they have an interest? Yes, they have an interest because of freedom of navigation."

<http://www.rappler.com/nation/40756-ph-freedom-navigation-china-apec>

**7 October 2013: China, Malaysia Seek to Strengthen Ties**

Mr. Xi also discussed expanding China's strategic alliance with Malaysia by boosting cooperation in defense, law enforcement and security issues. He called for more joint exercises with the Malaysian navy at a time when China has become increasingly assertive in its claims over areas in the South China Sea, parts of which are also claimed by Malaysia, the Philippines, Vietnam, Brunei and Taiwan.

<http://stream.wsj.com/story/latest-headlines/SS-2-63399/SS-2-347047/>

**6 October 2013: Despite sea dispute, PH still bullish on China ties**

"I wish to stress that the Philippines is committed to undertake all that is possible to cultivate constructive relations with China in spite of these issues in the West Philippine Sea. We maintain that our disputes in the West Philippine Sea are not the sum total of our relations," Del Rosario said.

<http://globalnation.inquirer.net/87097/despite-sea-dispute-ph-still-bullish-on-china-ties#ixzz2gujhO8N5>

**3 October 2013: Aquino to attend 9 meetings in Asean summit, none with China**

President Aquino is set to attend nine meetings at the 23rd Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) Summit in Brunei next week but has arranged no bilateral discussions with China, which has occupied Scarborough Shoal and lays claim on Ayungin Shoal in the West

Philippine Sea (South China Sea).

<http://globalnation.inquirer.net/86995/aquino-to-attend-9-meetings-in-asean-summit-none-with-china#ixzz2geLk2y57>

## **ASEAN AND SOUTH CHINA SEA**

### **31 October 2013: RI to hold workshop on South China Sea**

In an effort to prevent the dispute from further escalating, Indonesia is organizing a workshop on the South China Sea territorial dispute from Thursday to Saturday in Yogyakarta, the Foreign Ministry announced.

<http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2013/10/31/ri-hold-workshop-south-china-sea.html>

### **30 October 2013: China seeks to boost ASEAN ties**

After years of troubled relations with the countries of Southeast Asia, China has launched a campaign to enhance its relationship with ASEAN through a dramatic increase in trade, all the while not retreating on its sovereignty claims in the South China Sea. While in Vietnam, he announced a "breakthrough" agreement to set up a China-Vietnam work group to discuss joint maritime development. Similarly, China and Brunei agreed to encourage closer joint exploration and exploitation of oil and gas resources in the South China Sea.

<http://www.chinapost.com.tw/commentary/the-china-post/frank-ching/2013/10/30/392420/China-seeks.htm>

### **21 October 2013: China's rebalancing strategies to Asean**

China has devised a set of comprehensive rebalancing strategies to Asean focusing on Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand. They would strengthen Beijing's new diplomatic strongholds under the fifth generation leader, President Xi Jinping.

<http://www.nationmultimedia.com/opinion/Chinas-rebalancing-strategies-to-Asean-30217545.html>

### **13 October 2013: Brunei Caps off a Solid Year as ASEAN's Helm**

The ASEAN Summit ended in Brunei on a high note with leaders of the 10-nation trading bloc striking the right note with China over conflicting territorial claims in the South China Sea and reaching an agreement on how best to combat the dreaded haze and promises to forge deeper ties.

<http://thediplomat.com/asean-beat/2013/10/12/brunei-caps-off-a-solid-year-at-aseans-helm/>

### **10 October 2013: ASEAN, China vow to maintain peace, stability in South China Sea**

In the Chairman's Statement of the 23rd ASEAN Summit issued here Wednesday, ASEAN said "We reaffirmed the collective commitments under the DOC to ensuring the resolution of disputes by peaceful means in accordance with universally recognized principles of international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, without resorting to the threat or use of force, while exercising self-restraint in the conduct of activities." The statement said ASEAN looked forward to intensifying official consultations with China on the development of the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC) with a view to its early conclusion.

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90883/8420289.html>

### **10 October 2013: Asean summit: China's Li calls for 'peace' in South China Sea**

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang called on Wednesday for a South China Sea of "peace, friendship and cooperation" as he extended a hand to Southeast Asian leaders wary of Beijing's territorial claims in the strategic waters.

<http://www.straitstimes.com/breaking-news/se-asia/story/asean-summit-chinas-li-calls-peace-south-china-sea-20131009>

#### **8 October 2013: China advocates direct talks of South China Sea countries**

"We have always been against the discussion of the issue on the East Asian Summit, and we do not hope the issue becomes a focus in the meeting," Liu said.

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90883/8417975.html>

#### **6 October 2013: China's Xi urges improved Southeast Asia ties in Indonesia speech**

Xi said "China attaches great importance to Indonesia's role in ASEAN and is ready to work together with Indonesia and other ASEAN countries to make the two sides share the same prosperity."

<http://www.brecorder.com/general-news/172/1237996/>

#### **4 October 2013: EAS leaders to hail progress of ASEAN-China talks on S. China Sea**

Leaders at next week's East Asia Summit in Brunei will discuss tensions in the South China Sea and welcome the start of the formal talks between ASEAN and China on a code of conduct aimed at preventing clashes among countries with rival claims in the sea, according to a document seen Thursday.

<http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/kyodo-news-international/131003/eas-leaders-hail-progress-asean-china-talks-s-china-se>

#### **4 October 2013: China Says It Wants South China Sea Solution But Manila Sees Worrying Signs**

China is serious about wanting a peaceful resolution to the bitter dispute over the South China Sea, Premier Li Keqiang told Southeast Asian leaders on Tuesday, but he signaled it was in no rush to sign a long-mooted accord.

<http://www.irrawaddy.org/china/china-says-wants-south-china-sea-solution-but-manila-sees-worrying-signs.html>

**4 October 2013:** China's Xi sidesteps Southeast Asia pressure over South China Sea disputes  
Chinese President Xi Jinping showed no sign of bending to Southeast Asian pressure to resolve increasingly irascible territorial disputes over the South China Sea on Oct. 3, simply repeating calls for dialogue.

Xi, in the first address by a foreign leader to Indonesian MPs, made no reference to regional demands, echoed in Washington, that Beijing deal with the rival claims through multilateral talks rather than with individual negotiations.

<http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/thomson-reuters/131003/chinas-xi-says-wants-peaceful-handling-south-china-sea-disputes>

### **MAJOR POWERS AND SOUTH CHINA SEA**

#### **31 October 2013: Vietnam Communist leader to visit in Nov.**

Vietnam, apart from being an important component of India's "Look East" policy, is also perceived as an important counter-balance to China's muscle-flexing in the region, particularly in the South China Sea. Hence, India's backing for its efforts to bolster its defence capabilities.

<http://www.asianage.com/india/vietnam-communist-leader-visit-nov-213>

**30 October 2013: China moves spy ship near isles, Asian media say**

Media sources in Asia reported that a Chinese Navy spy ship has recently been placed near Hawaii in response to the continuing U.S. naval presence in the South China Sea and recent drills with Japan and South Korea.

<http://www.staradvertiser.com/s?action=login&f=y&id=229837681&id=229837681>

**27 October 2013: China rebukes Japan's pledge to "shoot down Chinese drones"**

"Japan means to make provocations and create a tense atmosphere. The training and flying missions by the Chinese military aircrafts including drones, over the South China Sea are in line with international laws and practice," Chinese defense ministry spokesman Geng Yansheng said.

<http://english.cntv.cn/program/asiatoday/20131026/104163.shtml>

**25 October 2013: Abe says China's maritime advances must be kept in check**

"There are challenges not only in the East China Sea but also in the South China Sea that are trying to alter the status quo through shows of force," Abe told a session of the Upper House Budget Committee Oct. 23, apparently with an eye on China's growing maritime presence. "The ocean should be open and the freedom to navigate must be protected."

[http://ajw.asahi.com/article/behind\\_news/AJ201310240051](http://ajw.asahi.com/article/behind_news/AJ201310240051)

**23 October 2013: India backs rules-based approach on South China Sea disputes**

"I hope it (arbitration) works, but at the end of the day, whether an institutional response is of help to you, or to anyone else, it is the will of the people of the region that is very important and the will of the people of the region is that there should be a peaceful resolution," said Khurshid, who earlier met with Philippine counterpart Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario for a regular bilateral consultation.

<http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/story/332014/news/nation/india-backs-rules-based-approach-on-south-china-sea-disputes>

**21 October 2013: China Asked Korea Not to Sell Jets to Philippines**

China asked Korea not to sell FA-50 fighter jets to the Philippines, the Yomiuri Shimbun reported Saturday. The daily said Beijing made the request ahead of a summit in Seoul between President Park Geun-hye and Philippines President Benigno Aquino on Oct. 17. Korea declined, saying it cannot accept "interference" in arms exports, an issue of its national interest, according to the daily.

[http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html\\_dir/2013/10/21/2013102101068.html](http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html_dir/2013/10/21/2013102101068.html)

**17 October 2013: EU has 'vital interest' in open, secure South China Sea, says official**

The European Union has a "vital interest" in a secure and open maritime trade routes even as it expressed alarm at the escalating tension in the South China Sea.

<http://globalnation.inquirer.net/88009/eu-has-vital-interest-in-open-secure-west-philippine-sea-says-official#ixzz2hxqEfLrA>

**13 October 2013: India Rebukes Beijing on South China Sea**

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh appeared to side with ASEAN and rebuke China on the South China Sea dispute during the East Asian Summit in Brunei this week.

<http://thediplomat.com/flashpoints-blog/2013/10/12/india-rebukes-beijing-on-south-china-sea/>

**12 October 2013: China criticises U.S. for giving tacit backing to Philippines in sea dispute**

China criticised U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry on Friday for giving tacit backing to the Philippines' stance in a tense maritime dispute, stressing again that it rejects Manila's attempt to seek arbitration.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/10/11/china-usa-philippines-idUSL4N0I129920131011>

### **11 October 2013: India advocates stable maritime environment in South China Sea**

India today said a stable maritime environment, including the right of passage and unimpeded commerce in the South China Sea in accordance with international law, is essential to realise the collective regional aspirations of Asian countries.

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/india-advocates-stable-maritime-environment-in-south-china-sea/article5220735.ece>

### **9 October 2013: Alliances must not threaten regional peace, China says**

China urged the United States, Australia and Japan on Monday not to use their alliance as an excuse to interfere in disputes over territorial sovereignty in the East and South China seas.

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90883/8418985.html>

### **8 October 2013: China Warns US, Japan, Australia Not to Gang Up in Sea Disputes**

China said on Monday that the U.S., Australia and Japan should not use their alliance as an excuse to intervene in territorial disputes in the East China Sea or the South China Sea, and urged them to refrain from inflaming regional tensions.

<http://www.voanews.com/content/reu-china-warns-us-japan-australia-not-to-gang-up-in-sea-disputes/1764218.html>

### **6 October 2013: Japan expresses concern at APEC about China's naval activities**

Japan expressed its concern Saturday at an international meeting about China's increasingly assertive naval activities in areas where it has territorial disputes with other Asian countries.

<http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/kyodo-news-international/131005/japan-expresses-concern-at-apec-about-chinas-naval-act>

### **6 October 2013: Trilateral statement on maritime disputes seen as targeting China**

Japan, US, Australia jointly oppose 'coercive unilateral actions' in maritime disputes

<http://www.scmp.com/news/china/article/1325451/trilateral-statement-maritime-disputes-seen-targeting-china>

### **6 October 2013: Efforts in sea tension**

#### **win Japan's praise**

Japan has expressed its appreciation to Indonesia for its efforts to find a peaceful solution to the territorial tension in the South and East China Seas on the heels of a report on Tokyo's plan to deploy new drones to help monitor disputed islands, which may raise China's alertness, says a minister.

<http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2013/10/05/efforts-sea-tension-win-japan-s-praise.html>

### **3 October 2013: China-U.S. military ties grow as they watch each other at sea**

China's official People's Daily newspaper lambasted the United States when it led the most recent Rim of the Pacific naval drill, saying the 22-nation exercise reflected the U.S. bid to "contain the military rise of another country."

<http://www.post-gazette.com/stories/news/world/china-us-military-ties-grow-as-they-watch-each-other-at-sea-705770/#ixzz2geM4KwTh>