

## SOUTH CHINA SEA NEWS UPDATE – NOVEMBER 2013

### ACTS OF CLAIMANTS

#### **29 November 2013: Aquino says China's aircraft carrier no threat**

"Let's not play it up. I think the Chinese themselves have admitted that this (Liaoning) is not yet fully operational." Aquino said that if foreign vessels enter Philippine territorial water, which is about 12 nautical miles from the country's baselines, they have to secure permission from the Philippine government. "Beyond that, there is a right of innocent passage guaranteed to all nationalities," the President said.

<http://www.interaksyon.com/article/75802/chinas-aircraft-carrier-in-south-china-sea-not-a-threat---aquino>

#### **28 November 2013: Manila fears China wants West PHL Sea air control**

Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario said China's announcement of an Air Defense Identification Zone in the East China Sea on the weekend raised the prospect of it doing the same for the South China Sea.

<http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/story/337454/news/nation/manila-fears-china-wants-west-phl-sea-air-control>

#### **27 November 2013: PHL says China carrier in West PHL Sea raises tension**

Philippine Foreign Affairs Department spokesman Raul Hernandez said the carrier's arrival was a worrying development that contravened agreements with China on managing tension in the West Philippine Sea. "Its deployment raises tension and violates the Declaration of the Code of Conduct in the West Philippine Sea (South China Sea)," he said.

<http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/story/337341/news/nation/phl-says-china-carrier-in-west-phl-sea-raises-tension>

#### **26 November 2013: China carrier steams towards disputed South China Sea for drills**

The Liaoning left port from the northern city of Qingdao accompanied by two destroyers and two frigates, the Chinese navy said on an official news website. While there, it will carry out "scientific research, tests and military drills", the report said.

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/sns-rt-us-china-defence-20131125,0,7262955.story>

#### **23 November 2013: Taiwan sticking to extensive S. China Sea claims that mirror China's: Ma**

It has been suggested Taiwan would be wise to adopt modified claims based on the 200 nautical mile limit as enunciated by the U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea, or UNCLOS, in its definition of exclusive economic zones. But Ma noted that his government's claims, namely those made in 1947 by the Nanjing-based government of what was then the Republic of China, predate the entry into force of UNCLOS.

<http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/kyodo-news-international/131122/taiwan-sticking-extensive-s-china-sea-claims-mirror-ch>

#### **22 November 2013: Philippines to build pier, harbor at naval base facing S. China Sea**

Military officials confirmed the plan to build "pier, harbor and support facilities" in Oyster Bay -- the navy's shipyard directly facing the South China Sea. The project will cost around \$7.29 million. Manila and Washington are negotiating a new agreement to grant the U.S. military "expanded access" to Philippine airfields and ports, specifically for "servicing and maintenance," including refueling and repair of U.S. aircraft and warships. Sources said Oyster Bay is among the facilities that will be made accessible to the U.S. military.

<http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/kyodo-news-international/131120/philippines-build-pier-harbor-at-naval-base-facing-s-c>

**22 November 2013: China gives guarded reaction on new Vietnam-India oil deal**

China on Thursday reacted cautiously to Vietnam's offer of new oil wells for off shore exploration to India, saying "relevant countries" can do more for peace and stability of the region.

[http://zeenews.india.com/news/world/china-gives-guarded-reaction-on-new-vietnam-india-oil-deal\\_891567.html](http://zeenews.india.com/news/world/china-gives-guarded-reaction-on-new-vietnam-india-oil-deal_891567.html)

**21 November 2013: India, Vietnam ink pact to expand oil exploration in South China Sea**

In a significant move, India and Vietnam on Wednesday inked an agreement for developing and expanding oil exploration projects in disputed South China Sea including allocation of new oil blocks, a pact that may irk China further. Wednesday's pact may not go down well with China which has time and again objected to India's oil exploration projects in the region. China's foreign affairs ministry has said India should respect its sovereignty and halt its oil and gas exploration.

<http://www.livemint.com/Politics/F9w30ydAHiFGRSNe8oKPEK/India-Vietnam-ink-pact-to-expand-oil-exploration-in-South-C.html>

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/Vietnam-offers-India-7-oil-blocks/articleshow/26115998.cms>

**18 November 2013: Hanoi oil block offer to Delhi**

ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL) is likely to wind up operations at a 7000sqkm site known as Block 128 off Vietnam's east coast next May after seven years of search yielded almost no hydrocarbons, the officials indicated.

[http://www.telegraphindia.com/1131119/jsp/nation/story\\_17586965.jsp](http://www.telegraphindia.com/1131119/jsp/nation/story_17586965.jsp)

**15 November 2013: China Prepares to Open Its First Deep-Water Gas Project**

China is set to start the pumps at its first deep-water natural-gas project, an engineering feat using a Chinese-made platform designed to withstand typhoons and using hundreds of miles of undersea pipelines.

<http://stream.wsj.com/story/south-china-sea/SS-2-35607/SS-2-382942/>

**13 November 2013: China's Air Sea Battle Plan for the South China Sea**

Last week a senior PLA officer detailed China's plans for establishing air and sea control over the South China Sea.

<http://thediplomat.com/flashpoints-blog/2013/11/13/chinas-air-sea-battle-plan-for-the-south-china-sea/>

**6 November 2013: Aquino rebalances his China position**

Aquino has vigorously denied earlier accusations that China has placed concrete blocks at the contested Scarborough Shoal, purportedly as a prelude to establishing military fortifications in the area. At the same time, his government is conditionally supporting negotiations between major Filipino and Chinese companies to jointly develop hydrocarbon resources in the Reed Bank, a contested feature off the coast of the Philippines' island province of Palawan.

[http://www.atimes.com/atimes/Southeast\\_Asia/SEA-01-051113.html](http://www.atimes.com/atimes/Southeast_Asia/SEA-01-051113.html)

**5 November 2013: Taiwan: Itu Aba reconstruction to start next year**

The government will start revamping infrastructure on Itu Aba in the South China Sea next year to protect the safety of Taiwanese fishermen in view of the rising sovereignty disputes over the Spratly Islands, the National Expressway Engineering Bureau said yesterday.

<http://www.taipeitimes.com/News/taiwan/archives/2013/11/06/2003576266>

### **3 November 2013: Malaysia, Vietnam may link naval bases**

Malaysia is looking to boost its defence ties with Vietnam by establishing a direct link between the two countries' naval bases near the South China Sea. Hishammuddin said the establishment of this link would enable the two countries to contact each other should any problems occur at sea during an operation.

<http://www.nst.com.my/nation/general/malaysia-vietnam-may-link-naval-bases-1.390605#ixzz2jeRyWXmU>

### **2 November 2013: China should take more territory from Phl – Chinese general**

The magazine article, quoting Zhang, reported that the cabbage strategy involved “surrounding a contested area with so many boats – fishermen, fishing administration ships, marine surveillance ships, navy warships.” The island “is thus wrapped layer by layer like a cabbage,” Zhang reportedly said in a television interview given in May.

<http://www.philstar.com/headlines/2013/11/02/1252087/china-should-take-more-territory-phl-chinese-general>

### **1 November 2013: Oil Companies Try to Collaborate in Spite of S. China Sea Disputes**

Philippines Energy Secretary Jericho Petilla said he is hopeful about the potential for an unlikely collaboration between U.K.-based Forum Energy and state-owned China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC). Despite optimism from Philippine energy executives about finding a way to strike a deal, President Benigno Aquino has been clear that any partnership between Forum Energy and CNOOC would have to abide by the Philippine position in the dispute.

<http://www.voanews.com/content/oil-companies-try-to-collaborate-in-spite-of-south-china-sea-disputes/1781315.html>

### **1 November 2013: China builds sea power to shield oil, mineral supplies**

The open display of the Xia-class subs, which Xinhua said “would gallop to the depths of the ocean, serving as mysterious forces igniting the sound of thunder in the deep sea,” reflects the growing assertiveness of China's military forces, notably in the disputed oil-rich South China Sea

[http://www.upi.com/Business\\_News/Energy-Resources/2013/10/31/China-builds-sea-power-to-shield-oil-mineral-supplies/UPI-59731383245006/#ixzz2jemEp2pa](http://www.upi.com/Business_News/Energy-Resources/2013/10/31/China-builds-sea-power-to-shield-oil-mineral-supplies/UPI-59731383245006/#ixzz2jemEp2pa)

## **ASEAN AND SOUTH CHINA SEA**

### **26 November 2013: Myanmar will Use ASEAN Chair to Address Regional Disputes**

“If China puts pressure on us, we will imitate Brunei. We will have to deal with four countries as to water territory dispute. We will try to improve relations with China and all concerned countries including the U.S. We will have to practice this policy. We will cleverly address these issues as they can last longer,” said Aung Htoo.

<http://www.elevenmyanmar.com/national/4213-myanmar-will-use-asean-chair-to-address-regional-disputes>

### **20 November 2013: The Importance of being Indonesia**

With fierce disputes breaking out between an ascendant China and many of ASEAN’s 10 members, notably Vietnam and the Philippines, it is Indonesia that has emerged as the soother of ruffled feathers. It nods understandingly at the concerns of all parties, while nudging them towards dialogue.

<http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/the-importance-of-being-indonesia/article5368622.ece>

**11 November 2013: ASEAN consistent in efforts to ensure peace, stability in South China Sea: ASEAN deputy secretary-general**

Addressing the Fifth International Workshop on South China Sea in Vietnam on behalf of ASEAN Secretary-General Le Luong Minh, Lynn said it is ASEAN's long-standing position that territorial disputes in the South China Sea should be settled among the parties concerned by peaceful means, without resorting to the use or the threat to use force, and in accordance with international law, including (UNCLOS).

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90777/8453233.html>

**1 November 2013: How much can ASEAN do for a South China Sea code of conduct?**

Those who expect the ASEAN–China discussions to result in some kind of breakthrough that will lead quickly to a resolution are bound to be disappointed

<http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/story/333588/opinion/how-much-can-asean-do-for-a-south-china-sea-code-of-conduct>

**MAJOR POWERS AND SOUTH CHINA SEA**

**22 November 2013: ONGC due diligence on Vietnam blocks**

Sudir Vasudeva, CMD, ONGC, said the company has carried out due diligence on its Vietnam blocks. "We do our due diligence and evaluate all and take a call on that..." he told reporters on the sidelines of a global seminar organised by the ICAI. To a specific question on whether geopolitical pressures in the South China Sea, Vasudeva said: "volatility and uncertainty will remain".

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/companies/ongc-due-diligence-on-vietnam-blocks/article5380318.ece>

**22 November 2013: U.S. congressional panel concerned about China-related sea tensions**

The bipartisan commission criticized China for not intending to resolve the disputes over sovereignty of islands in the waters with countries in the region such as Japan and the Philippines "through multilateral negotiations or the application of international laws and adjudicative processes." The report estimated China's submarine-launched ballistic missile program "is expected to reach initial operations capability by late 2013."

<http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/kyodo-news-international/131120/us-congressional-panel-concerned-about-china-related-s>

**21 November 2013: Japan's Abe Concludes ASEAN diplomatic blitz aimed at Beijing**

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has visited all Asean nations since he took office last December, a move analysts said aims to shore up Tokyo's ties with the region to counter China's rising presence. Japan Times quoted a Japanese Foreign Ministry official last week as saying that the visits were "at a lightning pace" compared with Abe's predecessors. The newspaper said "Asean countries are the vital part of Japan's diplomatic strategy to keep China in check."

<http://www.businessmirror.com.ph/index.php/en/business/asean-economic-community/23094-japan-s-abe-concludes-asean-diplomatic-blitz-aimed-at-beijing>

**20 November 2013: Russia's new engagement shifts power balance in East Asia**

The improving relations between Russia and Vietnam will affect China's strategic position in the South China Sea. Russia has in recent years sold advanced weapons such as military aircraft and submarines to Vietnam, and is actively promoting its advanced tanks in the Philippines — these moves touched a nerve in Beijing.

<http://www.wantchinatimes.com/news-subclass-cnt.aspx?cid=1701&MainCatID=17&id=20131120000006>

**20 November 2013: SOCO Remains on Track for Production Guidance on Positive South China Sea Development**

The major oil-and-gas exploration-and-production company said production net to the company's working interest averaged 15,616 barrels of oil equivalent per day in the year to date through to October 2013, with the vast majority coming from the company's Te Giac Trang field in the South China Sea.

[http://www.lse.co.uk/AllNews.asp?code=wmwuj8m0&headline=SOCO Remains On Track For Production Guidance On Positive South China Sea Development](http://www.lse.co.uk/AllNews.asp?code=wmwuj8m0&headline=SOCO+Remains+On+Track+For+Production+Guidance+On+Positive+South+China+Sea+Development)

**19 November 2013: Vietnam appreciates India's role in South China Sea**

Despite China's objections to Indian oil exploration in South China Sea, Vietnam has been asserting that India has the right to pursue oil exploration there as they were within Vietnamese "exclusive economic zone.

<http://ibnlive.in.com/news/vietnam-appreciates-indias-role-in-south-china-sea/434861-3.html>

**19 November 2013: China on Monday questioned Japan's call for settling maritime disputes in accordance with international law**

China on Monday questioned Japan's call for settling maritime disputes in accordance with international law, urging joint efforts from parties concerned to maintain regional peace and stability.

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90883/8459528.html>

**16 November 2013: India woos Japan and Vietnam to challenge China's South Asia dominance**

In a calibrated diplomatic strategy to create a new ring of important allies, India is set to roll out the red carpet to leaders from East Asian countries in a policy that is also aimed at balancing out the power of China.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/indiahome/indianews/article-2508027/India-woos-Japan-Vietnam-challenge-Chinas-South-Asia-dominance.html#ixzz2kmaLnys0>

**13 November 2013: Putin vows to boost Russian military supplies to Vietnam amid South China Sea dispute**

Russian President Vladimir Putin has pledged to expand military supplies to Vietnam, a move that looks set to raise concerns from Beijing as tensions over the South China Sea linger.

<http://www.scmp.com/news/asia/article/1354235/putin-vows-boost-russian-military-supplies-vietnam-amid-south-china-sea>

**8 November 2013: US aircraft carrier displays teeth in disputed sea**

F-18 Super Hornet jet fighters roar from its decks with chest-thumping velocity less than 300 km (185 miles) from the Chinese coast - a symbol of U.S. naval dominance in Asia that Chinese analysts fear could contain Beijing's rising power for decades.

<http://www.abs-cbnnews.com/global-filipino/world/11/07/13/us-aircraft-carrier-displays-teeth-disputed-sea>

**1 November 2013: China Amps Up Its Soft Power in the South China Sea While Washington Shows the Flag**

China's new president, Xi Jinping, made great hay out of President Barack Obama having to cancel his long-planned participation in two key rounds of East Asian summitry during the shutdown, pointedly visiting two countries Obama had cancelled on at the last minute and making the point that China abides.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/william-bradley/china-amps-up-its-soft-po\\_b\\_4184711.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/william-bradley/china-amps-up-its-soft-po_b_4184711.html)

**1 November 2013: Internal divisions and historical wariness mean 'Asian NATO' not on cards**

The likelihood of a widespread alliance is therefore small, but China should still stay vigilant.

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/821760.shtml>