

## SOUTH CHINA SEA NEWS UPDATE – DECEMBER 2013

### PHILIPPINES VS. CHINA

#### **28 December 2013: PHL envoy to China: Seeking arbitration on sea row not an ‘unfriendly act’**

In an email to GMA News Online, Basilio said the Philippine government decided to bring the sea dispute issue to international arbitration because “a rules-based regime in the West Philippine Sea and the South China Sea would contribute to the respect for the legitimate rights of countries surrounding the sea.” “It would, over the long term, be beneficial to all stakeholders of the region, by providing the predictability and order necessary for continuing prosperity beyond our own generation,” she added.

<http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/story/341501/pinoyabroad/worldfeatures/phl-envoy-to-china-seeking-arbitration-on-sea-row-not-an-unfriendly-act>

#### **14 December 2013: Aquino pushes for peaceful means to resolve territorial disputes**

“This approach is both peaceful and rules based,” he said, calling for the adoption of a legally binding code of conduct “as soon as possible” and the use of arbitration to resolve territorial disputes. His use of the term arbitration was an allusion to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea which provides for an arbitral tribunal to settle disputes between states. “In addition, arbitration promotes the rule of law and redounds to the benefit of all parties,” Aquino said.

<http://globalnation.inquirer.net/94093/aquino-pushes-for-peaceful-means-to-resolve-territorial-disputes#ixzz2opyFOIV6>

#### **5 December 2013: PHL to submit pleading on sea dispute with China before UN tribunal in 2014**

“[Regarding] the status of the arbitration, the Arbitral Tribunal has adopted the rules of procedure and decided that the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague shall act as the Registry in the proceedings. Again, China refused to participate in the proceedings... The Philippines will submit its Memorial by 30 March 2014,” del Rosario said in a lecture held at the Ateneo de Manila University.

<http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/story/338282/news/nation/phl-to-submit-pleading-on-sea-dispute-with-china-before-un-tribunal-in-2014>

### ACTS OF CLAIMANTS

#### **31 December 2013: Liaoning to conduct core weapon system training to assess three core capabilities**

According to CCTV reports, the Liaoning will undertake weapon system training in the South China Sea. In terms of air and missile defense, tests will be carried out on effective radar range. In terms of anti-ship offense, the ability to discover and maintain control over targets will be assessed, and the sequence of target arrivals will be calculated while the power of ship-to-ship missiles will be tested. In terms of anti-submarine offense, the aim will be to search specified sea areas and identify specific target types.

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90786/8499156.html>

#### **27 December 2013: Vietnam orders removal of Chinese-made school software with inaccurate map**

The Ministry of Education and Training Tuesday ordered schools to stop using a Chinese-made software for seventh graders which shows the so-called nine-dotted line used by China to claim most of the East Sea.

<http://www.thanhniennews.com/index/pages/20131224-in-vietnam-teaching-software-removed-for-containing-wrongful-map.aspx>

**23 December 2013: Navy: China says carrier tests in South China Sea going well**

China's first and only aircraft carrier has successfully carried out a series of tests during a training mission in the disputed South China Sea, state media reported on Monday. The Liaoning has carried out more than 100 tests, including of its combat systems, and training tasks since early December, the official English-language China Daily said.

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/sns-rt-us-china-carrier-20131223,0,6462749.story>

**20 December 2013: Malaysia's New Engagement on the South China Sea**

An evolving security landscape seems to be propelling Kuala Lumpur to adopt a more nuanced strategy, courting China while also preparing for the worst.

[http://cogitasia.com/malaysias-new-engagement-on-the-south-china-sea/?utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+cogitasia%2FZCWV+%28cogitASIA+Posts%29](http://cogitasia.com/malaysias-new-engagement-on-the-south-china-sea/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+cogitasia%2FZCWV+%28cogitASIA+Posts%29)

**19 December 2013: China finds major gas hydrate reserve in South China Sea**

China's Ministry of Land and Resources (MLR) announced on Tuesday it had found a gas hydrate reserve that spans 55 square kms (34 square miles) in the Pearl River Mouth basin with controlled reserve equivalent to 100-150 billion cubic metres (bcm) natural gas. That would be the size of a major conventional natural gas field, like in China's top gas province Sichuan.

[http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/articleshow/27635379.cms?utm\\_source=contentofinterest&utm\\_medium=text&utm\\_campaign=cppst](http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/articleshow/27635379.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst)

**13 December 2013: PH warship deployed to patrol West PH Sea, guard Malampaya**

As regional tension rises because of China's Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ), Philippine warship BRP Ramon Alcaraz (PF-16) was deployed on Thursday, December 12, to the Palawan-based Western Command (Wescom).

<http://www.rappler.com/nation/45781-choppers-west-philippines-sea-arrive>

**13 December 2013: Liaoning should be based in South China Sea, says expert**

China's first aircraft carrier, the Liaoning, should be deployed in the South China Sea to strengthen the country's claim to the region, a Chinese military expert has argued.

<http://www.wantchinatimes.com/news-subclass-cnt.aspx?cid=1101&MainCatID=11&id=20131213000004>

**12 December 2013: PHL, China bond still strong despite territorial rift, says envoy**

Despite the territorial disputes between the Philippines and China, relations have managed to march on with Beijing's sending of aid and a hospital ship to the country after the onslaught of Typhoon Yolanda, Chinese Ambassador Ma Keqing said. Diplomatic consultations on defense and other issues were also held this year, Ma told reporters at a reception Tuesday night.

<http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/story/339367/news/nation/phl-china-bond-still-strong-despite-territorial-rift-says-envoy>

**12 December 2013: Malaysia "understands" Japan's concern about Chinese air defense zone**

Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak expressed his understanding Thursday of Japan's protest at China's newly declared air defense identification zone that covers the Japanese-administered Senkaku Islands in the East China Sea.

<http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/kyodo-news-international/131212/malaysia-understands-japans-concern-about-chinese-air->

**11 December 2013: China unlikely to declare South China Sea ADIZ in short term: experts**

Speaking at a conference on China's development, Chen said he believes that the creation of ADIZs over the two areas of sea is a "planned policy" of the Chinese military.

<http://focustaiwan.tw/news/aip/201312100042.aspx>

**10 December 2013: Ma's initiative conducive to regional peace: Taiwanese official**

The East China Sea Peace Initiative's principles of replacing conflict with dialogue and sharing resources could help calm a region thrown into turmoil by a recent move by China, said Philip Wang, the director-general of the Taipei Economic & Cultural Office in Miami.

<http://focustaiwan.tw/news/aip/201312090023.aspx>

**9 December 2013: China Dismisses Japan's Opposition to S.China Sea ADIZ**

"China is determined to safeguard national security. No country should make comments on this matter," said Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei at a regular press briefing.

<http://english.cri.cn/6909/2013/12/09/2724s802525.htm>

**8 December 2013: Ma to urge Beijing not to launch South China Sea ADIZ**

Taiwan's president, Ma Ying-jeou, said Nov. 5 that he will ask China not to establish an air defense identification zone (ADIZ) over the South China Sea, and described Beijing's recent demarcation of an East China Sea ADIZ as unhelpful to the positive development of relations between Taiwan and China.

<http://www.wantchinatimes.com/news-subclass-cnt.aspx?cid=1101&MainCatID=11&id=20131207000122>

**8 December 2013: Liaoning and J-15 jets to conduct drills in South China Sea**

China's first aircraft carrier, the Liaoning, has set sail from the Qingdao naval base in northern China's Shandong province and will reach the disputed South China Sea within months to conduct a range of military training exercises, our sister paper Want Daily reports.

<http://www.wantchinatimes.com/news-subclass-cnt.aspx?cid=1101&MainCatID=11&id=20131208000051>

**6 December 2013: Southeast Asia eyes Chinese air zone expansion**

"At the right time, when preparations are ready, China will announce other ADIZs", Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang said Nov. 27.

<http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Asia-Pacific/2013/1205/Southeast-Asia-eyes-Chinese-air-zone-expansion-video>

**4 December 2013: Chinese Envoy to the Philippines says China has right to set another air zone**

China has a sovereign right to establish a maritime air defense zone over another region as it did in the East China Sea, the Chinese envoy to the Philippines said.

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/envoy-says-china-has-right-set-another-air-zone>

**3 December 2013: China Has Begun Asserting Ownership of Thousands of Shipwrecks in the South China Sea**

With territorial disputes escalating in the waters off China, the Chinese government has begun asserting ownership of thousands of shipwrecks within a vast U-shaped area that covers almost

all of the South China Sea, which it says has been part of its territorial waters for centuries.  
<http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702304470504579164873258159410>

#### **ASEAN AND SOUTH CHINA SEA**

##### **31 December 2013: Myanmar – Resolve on South China Sea Key to ASEAN Chair**

U Aung Htoo, deputy director general in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' ASEAN Affairs Department, said Myanmar would seek to emulate the approach of Brunei and work toward a diplomatic solution to the dispute. He said it was important that Myanmar is not perceived as favouring either side in the dispute, adding that it would seek to avoid the situation that occurred when Cambodia chaired the group in 2011 and acceded to China's demands on the text of an ASEAN communiqué, prompting a major diplomatic squabble.

<http://www.mmtimes.com/index.php/national-news/9158-resolve-on-south-china-sea-key-to-asean-chair.html>

##### **12 December 2013: China looms over Japan-ASEAN summit**

When leaders from Japan and Southeast Asia gather in Tokyo this week, the elephant in the room will be a nation that is not invited: China.

<http://www.chinapost.com.tw/asia/regional-news/2013/12/12/395719/China-looms.htm>

##### **10 December 2013: West PHL Sea dispute may be tackled in ASEAN-Japan Summit**

The West Philippine Sea dispute may be tackled during the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit, which President Benigno Aquino III will attend later this week, Foreign Affairs spokesperson Raul Hernandez said Monday.

<http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/story/338980/news/nation/west-phl-sea-dispute-may-be-tackled-in-asean-japan-summit>

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

##### **19 December 2013: China urges U.S. to be cautious on South China Sea issue**

We have noticed his remarks," said Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying". We hope the relevant country will respect the efforts made by China and countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations on the South China Sea issue, strictly abide by its commitment of not taking a position, and be cautious with its words and deeds," she said.

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/china/2013-12/18/c\\_132978546.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/china/2013-12/18/c_132978546.htm)

##### **18 December 2013: China confirms near miss with U.S. ship in South China Sea**

China on Wednesday confirmed an incident between a Chinese naval vessel and a U.S. warship in the South China Sea, after Washington said a U.S. guided missile cruiser had avoided a collision with a Chinese warship maneuvering nearby.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/12/18/us-china-usa-ships-idUSBRE9BH03M20131218>

##### **18 December 2013: Kerry warns China over imposing South China Sea air defence zone**

"The zone should not be implemented and China should refrain from taking similar, unilateral actions elsewhere in the region, and particularly over the South China Sea," Mr Kerry told a news conference in Manila.

<http://www.thenational.ae/world/east-asia/kerry-warns-china-over-imposing-south-china-sea-air-defence-zone#ixzz2noTag3g0>

##### **18 December 2013: US tries to avoid Taiwan in S China Sea dispute**

A senior US Department of State official has been jumping through hoops to avoid commenting on Taiwan's territorial claims in the South China Sea.

<http://www.taipeitimes.com/News/front/archives/2013/12/18/2003579268>

### **17 December 2013: Kerry Rejects China Air Zone And Urges South China Sea Stability**

"China's announcement will not affect U.S. military operations in the region," Kerry said, adding that the U.S. doesn't recognize the defense area across a swathe of the East China Sea. "The zone should not be implemented and China should refrain from taking similar unilateral actions elsewhere, particularly in the South China Sea."

<http://www.sfgate.com/business/bloomberg/article/Kerry-Rejects-China-Air-Zone-And-Urges-South-5068053.php>

### **17 December 2013: US Takes Aim at China, Ups Naval Aid to SE Asia**

On his first visit to Vietnam as America's top diplomat, Kerry pledged an additional \$32.5 million for members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to protect their territorial waters and navigational freedom in the South China Sea, where four states have competing claims with China. Included in the new aid is up to \$18 million for Vietnam alone that will include five fast patrol-boats for its Coast Guard. With the new contribution, U.S. maritime security assistance to the region will exceed \$156 million over the next two years, he said.

<http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/wireStory/kerry-pushes-reform-maritime-security-vietnam-21229481>

### **16 December 2013: Asian nations weigh in after US, China ships almost collide**

Japan and Southeast Asian countries called for freedom of the air and sea on Saturday, as China's military assertiveness raises regional tensions and after U.S. and Chinese warships narrowly avoided collision in the disputed South China Sea.

<http://www.cnn.com/id/101273368>

### **13 December 2013: US, Chinese warships narrowly avoid collision in South China Sea**

A US navy warship was involved in a confrontation with a Chinese naval vessel in the South China Sea, the Pentagon said on Friday.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/12/14/usa-china-ships>

### **9 December 2013: Japan wants international community to oppose China's new air defence zone'**

"If any country would establish a similar air zone in the South China Sea, that would bring up tension in the region and I mentioned that should be stopped," Japan defense minister told reporters in Tacloban, where he visited a school serving as a shelter for villagers who lost their homes in the Nov. 8 typhoon.

<http://www.theprovince.com/news/Japan+Philippines+alarmed+Chinas+zone+oppose+similar+zone+South/9260090/story.html>

### **5 December 2013: New US envoy backs Code of Conduct to ease tensions in South China Sea**

NEWLY installed United States Ambassador to the Philippines Philip Goldberg on Monday backed the Philippine government's effort to forge a Code of Conduct binding countries with conflicting claims involving overlapping boundaries in the South China Sea to ease tension in the region.

<http://www.businessmirror.com.ph/index.php/en/news/nation/23786-new-us-envoy-backs-code-of-conduct-to-ease-tensions-in-south-china-sea>

#### **4 December 2013: Washington asked China not to set up an air defense zone in the South China Sea**

Washington is also asking China not to set up an air defense zone in the South China Sea, where Beijing is locked in territorial rows with Southeast Asian nations, without first consulting countries concerned, a senior official travelling with Biden told reporters, according to Kyodo news agency.

<http://wtaq.com/news/articles/2013/dec/02/biden-us-deeply-concerned-about-china-air-defense-zone-media/>