

**SOUTH CHINA SEA NEWS No.105**  
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**ACTS OF CLAIMANTS**

**29 April 2022: Vietnam slams China's East Sea fishing ban as sovereignty violation**

Vietnam has slammed the unilateral fishing ban imposed by China in the East Sea as a violation of its sovereignty and jurisdiction over Vietnamese territory. "Part of the fishing ban violates Vietnam's sovereignty over the Hoang Sa (Paracel) Islands, and Vietnam's sovereign rights and jurisdiction under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea in 1982, as well as the Agreement on the Delimitation of the Gulf of Tonkin between Vietnam and China that was signed in 2000," Le Thi Thu Hang, spokeswoman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said Friday.

<https://e.vnexpress.net/news/news/vietnam-slams-china-s-east-sea-fishing-ban-as-sovereignty-violation-4457914.html>

**29 April 2022: MP calls for 'stronger' govt action over South China Sea intrusions**

A Warisan MP has called for "stronger action" from Putrajaya and the defence ministry over China's encroachment in the South China Sea, particularly in Sabah waters. Papar MP Ahmad Hassan pointed out that since early April, China's latest J-20 fighter jets had been found conducting regular patrols and drills over the South China Sea.

<https://www.freemalaysiatoday.com/category/nation/2022/04/29/mp-calls-for-stronger-govt-action-over-south-china-sea-intrusions/>

**27 April 2022: Philippines pulls Hollywood action flick from cinemas over South China Sea map**

The Philippines has pulled the plug on all domestic screenings of a Hollywood film called "Uncharted", over a scene showing a disputed map of the South China Sea, the foreign ministry said on Wednesday. The move comes shortly after Vietnam, another claimant in the South China Sea, also banned the Sony Pictures action movie, which stars Tom Holland and Mark Wahlberg. It was released in the Philippines on Feb. 23.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/philippines-pulls-hollywood-action-flick-cinemas-over-south-china-sea-map-2022-04-27/>

**25 April 2022: International cooperation sought on archaeology**

Underwater archaeology, a relatively new but fast-growing field in China, is one such mission. More projects will be conducted along the country's coastlines and in the South China Sea, and a list of protection zones for underwater relics will be released.

<http://global.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202204/25/WS6265f856a310fd2b29e590dd.html>

**23 April 2022: 'External forces' meddling in South China Sea disputes, Chinese official says**

Interference by external powers is compounding challenges in the South China Sea, a senior Chinese foreign ministry official told an international forum on Thursday. Without naming those powers, Tan Qingsheng, from the ministry's boundary and ocean affairs department, said some external forces were provoking division among claimants of the waters for their own geopolitical motives. "Achieving sustainable development in the South China Sea still faces many difficulties and challenges. The most prominent of these is that some foreign powers, out of their own geopolitical interests, have stepped up manipulation and involvement in disputes in the South China Sea," Tan said in a panel discussion on the sidelines of the Boao Forum for Asia on the southern island province of Hainan.

<https://news.abs-cbn.com/overseas/04/23/22/external-forces-meddling-in-south-china-sea-disputes-chinese-official>

## **22 April 2022: American firm buys Philippine shipyard on ex-US base by South China Sea**

A private American firm has purchased a strategic shipyard on a former U.S. navy base in the Philippines by the South China Sea, U.S. and Filipino officials said, ending speculation about possible Chinese investment in the project. This week the Filipino envoy to the United States thanked American officials for their efforts towards the agreement with New York-based private equity firm Cerberus Capital Management, saying that U.S. involvement in the shipyard at Subic Bay would enhance the security of the Philippines and Southeast Asia.

<https://www.benarnews.org/english/news/philippine/us-firm-buys-subic-bay-shipyard-near-south-china-sea-in-philippines-04222022154407.html>

## **20 April 2022: Philippines halts oil and gas exploration in disputed South China Sea**

Manila has suspended oil and gas exploration in the South China Sea, Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte's spokesman said Wednesday, as it tries to strike a deal with Beijing on a joint energy project. Drilling off the Philippines was allowed to resume in October 2020 when Duterte – who has taken a softer approach than his predecessor to Beijing's claims over most of the waterway – lifted a 2014 moratorium.

<https://www.freemalaysiatoday.com/category/business/2022/04/20/philippines-halts-oil-and-gas-exploration-in-disputed-south-china-sea/>

## **20 April 2022: South China Sea: Taiwan seeks membership to Indo-Pacific Economic Framework**

This week, Taiwan has expressed its desire to join the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework in a senior minister's exchange with US Trade Representative Katherine Tai. The island nation reiterated its aspiration to be part of the framework as it continues to face possible threats from China.

<https://www.econotimes.com/South-China-Sea-Taiwan-seeks-membership-to-Indo-Pacific-Economic-Framework-1631765>

## **20 April 2022: Garuda Shield: Indonesia tilting to US against China**

While Indonesian foreign policy remains on a neutral track, the country's military is tilting ever more towards the United States and the West with preparations underway for its biggest-ever combined arms exercise next August that for the first time will skirt the South China Sea. The Indonesia-US Garuda Shield maneuvers, which began in 2009, are being expanded this year to accommodate eight other countries, including Australia, Canada, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, Britain, Papua New Guinea and Timor Leste.

<https://asiatimes.com/2022/04/garuda-shield-indonesia-tilting-to-us-against-china/>

## **18 April 2022: Report: Taiwan plans upgrade of runway on disputed island**

The Taiwanese military plans to extend a runway on a contested island in the South China Sea to accommodate fighter jets, local media reported on Monday, in a move that would likely trigger protests from other claimants.

<https://www.rfa.org/english/news/china/southchinasea-taiwan-04182022125630.html>

## **15 April 2022: China's advanced fighter aircraft J-20 patrols East and South China Seas**

In a move that can escalate tensions in disputed seas, China has begun sending its most advanced fighter aircraft, the J-20, to patrol the East and South China Seas. Experts say the

deployment of the J-20s shows two things: China's increased confidence in its military abilities, and its warning to other countries with a stake in the territorial dispute, reported CNN. <https://theprint.in/world/chinas-advanced-fighter-aircraft-j-20-patrols-east-and-south-china-seas/917570/>

### **13 April 2022: J-20 fighter jet starts routine training patrols in East, South China Seas**

The J-20, China's most powerful, domestically developed stealth fighter jet, has started to patrol the East China Sea and the South China Sea in routine training sessions, and experts said on Wednesday that the move will enable the advanced warplane to better safeguard China's airspace security and maritime interests.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202204/1259239.shtml>

### **9 April 2022: Philippines' Duterte, China's Xi call for restraint in South China Sea**

Philippines' Rodrigo Duterte and Chinese President Xi Jinping stressed the need to exercise restraint to maintain peace in the South China Sea, Manila's presidential office said on Saturday. The two leaders held an hour-long telephone summit on Friday, discussing a broad range of topics including concerns over the Ukraine crisis and COVID-19 pandemic responses. "The leaders stressed the need to exert all efforts to maintain peace, security and stability in the South China Sea by exercising restraint, dissipating tensions and working on a mutually agreeable framework for functional cooperation," the presidential office said in a statement.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/china/philippines-duterte-chinas-xi-call-restraint-south-china-sea-2022-04-09/>

### **8 April 2022: Viet Nam asks China to cease militarisation in South China Sea, reasserts sovereignty over islands**

Viet Nam on Thursday asked China to end its militarisation in the South China Sea in violation of Viet Nam's territories and to refrain from escalating tensions. Phạm Thu Hằng, deputy spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Viet Nam, made the remarks during a regular press briefing, in response to a question over US reports of China having fully militarised at least three of several islands it built on Spratly Islands in the South China Sea.

<https://asianews.network/vietnam-asks-china-to-cess-militarisation-in-south-china-sea-reasserts-sovereignty-over-islands/>

### **8 April 2022: China's CNOOC starts production at Weizhou 12-8E in South China Sea**

CNOOC Ltd 0883.HK, a listed branch of China National Offshore Oil Corp SASACY.UL, on Friday said it had started production at the eastern section of Weizhou 12-8 oilfield, known as Weizhou 12-8E. The project is expected to achieve its average production of approximately 4,700 barrels per day (bpd) of crude oil in 2022, with its peak production at 10,000 bpd. Located in Beibu Gulf in the South China Sea with average water depth of about 30 metres, the project will use the existing processing facilities of Weixinan oilfields and has planned seven development wells.

<https://www.nasdaq.com/articles/chinas-cnooc-starts-production-at-weizhou-12-8e-in-south-china-sea>

### **7 April 2022: China ship shadows research vessel, Filipino scientists wary**

A Chinese coast guard ship last month maneuvered for days near a research vessel deployed by Philippine and Taiwanese scientists to undertake a crucial survey of undersea fault lines west of the northern Philippines, sparking concerns among the scientists on board, officials said Thursday.

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/china-ship-shadows-research-vessel-filipino-scientists-wary/2022/04/07/192a7ba8-b63f-11ec-8358-20aa16355fb4\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/china-ship-shadows-research-vessel-filipino-scientists-wary/2022/04/07/192a7ba8-b63f-11ec-8358-20aa16355fb4_story.html)

#### **5 April 2022: China urges Philippines to ‘eliminate interference’ in ties**

China has called on the Philippines to “eliminate interference” in its ties, as it expressed optimism that cooperation between the two countries would keep its momentum under a new Philippine administration.

<https://www.rappler.com/nation/china-urges-philippines-eliminate-interference-ties/>

#### **5 April 2022: Philippines confirms inaugural 2+2 talks with Japanese foreign, defense ministers**

The Philippines and Japan will hold an inaugural four-way meeting of their foreign and defense ministers later this week to deepen bilateral security cooperation, Manila confirmed on Tuesday. The two-plus-two talks, which will consist of two ministers from each side sitting together in the same room, could include discussions on maritime security and the countries’ respective territorial disputes with Beijing in the East China Sea and South China Sea. The meeting, agreed to by Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida in November, is scheduled for Saturday in Tokyo, the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said in a statement.

<https://www.rfa.org/english/news/china/talks-04052022141412.html>

#### **4 April 2022: South China Sea: Philippine presidential candidates call for tougher stance on Beijing**

Presidential candidates in the Philippines want the country to take a tougher stance against Beijing over territorial disputes in the South China Sea. The Philippines must rally the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) in establishing a code of conduct with China, leveraging on its 2016 victory at The Hague arbitration which rejected Beijing’s nine-dash line claim, Vice-President Leni Robredo said at the Commission on Election’s debate on Sunday.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/asia/southeast-asia/article/3172994/south-china-sea-philippine-presidential-candidates-call>

#### **4 April 2022: Wang Yi discusses South China Sea dispute with Philippine counterpart**

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi held talks on Sunday with visiting Philippine Foreign Secretary Teodoro Locsin in Tunxi, China. During the meeting between Wang Yi and Locsin on Sunday, the two sides exchanged views on the SCS issue and held that maritime issues should be placed in an appropriate position in bilateral relations. Wang said China always takes the Philippines as a priority in its neighbourhood diplomacy, and China’s good-neighbourly and friendly policy toward the Philippines has maintained continuity and stability, Xinhua News Agency reported. The two sides should remove disturbances, calmly and properly manage differences and not let them affect the overall situation of China-Philippines relations, Wang said.

<https://theprint.in/world/wang-yi-discusses-south-china-sea-dispute-with-philippine-counterpart/901173/>

#### **31 March 2022: Carpio proposes arbitration, joint patrols after Scarborough incident**

Retired Supreme Court Justice Antonio Carpio on Thursday advised taking China to an arbitration court and conducting joint patrols with some countries, including the United States, following an incident involving a Chinese vessel at the Scarborough Shoal in the West Philippine Sea.

<https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/topstories/nation/826953/carpio-proposes-arbitration-joint-patrols-after-scarborough-incident/story/>

**31 March 2022: U.S. is to blame for South China Sea militarization, not China: spokesperson**

A Chinese military spokesperson on Thursday said that militarization of the South China Sea should not be blamed on China, but on the United States. Wu Qian, spokesperson for China's Ministry of National Defense, made the remarks when commenting on relevant military activities by the U.S. side on the South China Sea.

<http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/northamerica/20220331/1164dc0b43444018b8a17b15170284ad/c.html>

**OTHER STATES AND SOUTH CHINA SEA**

**28 April 2022: South China Sea conflict: US naval destroyer passes through Taiwan Strait, draws ire of China**

China blasted the US again for the transit of its naval destroyer through the Taiwan Strait this week, accusing Washington of compromising stability and undermining peace in the region. The destroyer passed through the Strait as part of its routine freedom of navigation exercise.

<https://www.econotimes.com/South-China-Sea-conflict-US-naval-destroyer-passes-through-Taiwan-Strait-draws-ire-of-China-1632306>

**15 April 2022: PM Modi, Vietnam's Communist Party gen secy discuss Ukraine, South China Sea situation**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday spoke with general secretary of the Communist party of Vietnam Nguyen Phu Trong and exchanged views on regional and global issues, including the ongoing crisis in Ukraine and the situation in the South China Sea.

[https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/pm-modi-vietnams-communist-party-gen-secy-discuss-ukraine-south-china-sea-situation/articleshow/90863391.cms?utm\\_source=contentofinterest&utm\\_medium=text&utm\\_campaign=cppst](https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/pm-modi-vietnams-communist-party-gen-secy-discuss-ukraine-south-china-sea-situation/articleshow/90863391.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst)

**10 April 2022: Japan, Philippines hold first '2+2' security talks on S.China Sea**

In their first "two-plus-two" security talks, Japan and the Philippines on Saturday agreed to forge closer defense ties while expressing "serious concern" about the situation in the East and South China Seas, citing China's "unilateral attempts to change the status quo" in the regions.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202204/1258947.shtml>

**1 April 2022: With an eye on China, Japan plans 2 + 2 talks with Philippines, India**

Japan plans to hold so-called "two-plus-two" meetings with the Philippines and India to discuss maritime security including in the South China Sea, a move analysts say could send a message to Beijing about Tokyo's determination to foster ties with like-minded partners. "Two-plus-two" are ministerial-level meetings that involve both foreign and defense ministers of participating countries.

<https://www.rfa.org/english/news/china/japan-india-04012022094623.html>