

FACAMP MODEL UNITED NATIONS

GLOBALIZATION AND REGIONALISM

SHANGRI-LA DIALOGUE

The International Institute for Strategic Studies Asia Security Summit

Topic A: Aero-maritime Sovereignty in the Asia-Pacific

Topic B: The Question of the Diaoyu/Senkaku Islands



STUDY GUIDE B

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PRESENTATION LETTER

Fellow delegates,

As students of International Relations, the directors of this committee are honored by your presence at the second edition of FACAMP Model United Nations (FAMUN) and very excited about the theme and committee that will be simulated on the days of the event.

In this sense, this committee is one of the ways in which the theme about the China Seas' contentious could be discussed more freely and in a less bureaucratic manner than in other international organizations. This summit will stimulate delegates to pursue the discussion of the theme, but also to pursue new contracts and projects of bilateral cooperation.

This different dynamic, as you will see on the special rules of procedure, will ensure that the committee is always flowing, either in the plenary sessions with the General Speakers' List or in the bilateral agreements that can be done at any time during a Consultation or during the coffee break. All of this was thought to provide a great experience to all delegates, one that would be academically enriching, but also, unbelievably fun.

Sincerely,

Renato Henrique de Gaspi - Director
Gabriela Fontanari - Assistant Director
Renato Peixeiro - Assistant Director

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE PARTICIPATION IN SLD

As we stated above, this committee is very different from the regular “UN style” committees. The Shangri-La Dialogue is not only a place of debate, but also a place for business and commercial relations and where the media participation is immense.

We believe that it is important that delegates are warned about some of the new features and resources that they can make use of during the days of the discussion.

a) On Contracts and Cooperation Projects

These two possibilities are given to delegates so they can work bilaterally, trilaterally, or with as many partners as they wish. These documents are projects of cooperation that should be used mainly regarding defense matters (remembering that delegates are Ministers of Defense).

Projects of cooperation are documents that state possibilities of defense cooperation that would happen without the buying and selling of military equipment (such as the creation of a University of Defense, cooperation in the joint construction of a new Main Battle Tank, a joint military exercise, among endless possibilities).

On the other hand, contracts are completely material. There should be the buying and selling of a military equipment, the value of the transaction, if there will be technological transference or not, and if so, of what kind.

The only interference of the chair in these documents is to check whether the defense budget of a Minister’s country is enough in order to complete such an agreement. If so, the document will enter the archives of the Dialogue, if not, it will be rejected. Documents can be public (that means it would trigger an automatic newflash) or confidential.

b) On the Role of the Media

More than just a diplomatic fixture, the IISS Asia-Pacific Security Summit in the luxurious halls of the Shangri-La Hotel is also a social happening, which attracts a lot of media attention. That means that the power of the media in our committee is huge. That document that you thought was confidential may be leaked by one of the reporters and ruin the plan of secrecy of one or more ministries.

However, the reporters may also be allies. Exclusive and anonymous interviews may be called unilaterally by any minister at any time to reveal, declare and denounce as he/she pleases. This could be used to put pressure on other ministers.

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Further, on a more open use of the media, press conferences will be called at the end of some meetings in which ministers will be called upon to speak.

c) On Representatives from Military Industries

During the course of FAMUN, ministers may be approached by representatives of military conglomerates such as Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, Boeing, SAAB, among others. Agreements may also be sealed between those representatives and Ministers.

POSITIONING OF COUNTRIES

Canada

Despite the fact that the State of Canada has a history of condemning acts that may disturb international peace and stability, which may be considered the case with the continuing conflict in the South China Sea and the problematic involving China and Japan over maritime sovereignty, the Canadian government has yet to make a diplomatic statement choosing sides. The last speeches proffered have taken on an economical aspect, reinforcing the importance of worldwide cooperation towards development in the Asia-pacific and establishing a stable relationship between all countries (MACKAY, 2013).

Furthermore, Canada has been the target of diplomatic pressure from allies, such as the United States, so that it engages more in the discussion and in appeasing the claimants (MANICOM, 2013). The ever growing tension in the region has elapsed into a chain of strained events, such as the political conflict amidst Vietnam and China, and have forced Canada into pronouncing itself against the present situation in Asia-pacific and in favor of transparency and dialogue (MACKAY, 2013).

Canada's current Minister of National Defense is Robert Nicholson. Representative of Niagara Falls and riding for the Conservative Party, Robert is a practicing lawyer and also has a Bachelor's degree in Arts. The Minister was previously the Minister of Justice for Canada (CANADA, 2014).

Commonwealth of Australia

The government of the Commonwealth of Australia, regarding the conflicts on the South China Sea and the Diaoyu/Senkaku islands, positions itself as a neutral actor, taking no sides to the ones who claim sovereignty over the territories. Despite Australia's encouragement of Japan to raise their defense and military budget and rearm itself, Minister David Johnston states that the Australian government is supportive of any action that is guaranteed in the international law and, furthermore, encourages all parts involved in this matter to respect it, so peace and stability can be maintained (JOHNSTON, 2014).

Due to the interest in straightening their relationship with the American government, seeking further cooperation, the presence of the United States in Asia-Pacific is welcomed by the Australian State, in this point, going against the belief of specific countries in that region (JOHNSTON, 2014). Besides that, Australia has been aiming for a better and closer economic and political relationship with both China and Japan, stating that the

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solution to the present conflict can be solved through diplomatic dialogues, transparency and multilateral cooperation.

The current Minister of Defense of the Commonwealth of Australia is David Johnston. Owner of a law degree, Johnston is the former Minister for Justice and Customs and is a representative of the Australian Liberal Party (AUSTRALIA, 2014).

Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste (TMP)

Timor-Leste has increased its relations with China greatly since its independence in 2002, mostly because of the capable hands of Prime Minister Xanana Gusmão, who negotiated the terms of this cooperation.

Considered as 'The Dragon's New Friend', by Loro Horta (2009), the son of the former Minister of Foreign Affairs and Defense Ramos Horta, the country has had great relations with China, and intends to maintain it during this meeting. China, as a major partner, has been providing Timorese armed forces with non-lethal equipment such as tents, uniforms and others.

However, at the moment, Timor-Leste faces an uphill battle to become a full member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) ("TIMOR...", 2013) and will not take any harsh positions. The position of Timor-Leste is to support Chinese claims within the boundaries of the ASEAN position.

Dr. Julio Tomas Pinto is Timor-Leste's current Secretary of State for Defense. The representative of the country in the Shangri - La Dialogues has a Master's degree, as well as a PH.D. in Political Science (PINTO, 2010).

Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka fosters a good relationship with China, which is getting closer each year, since the first signing of the Rice-Rubber Pact in 1952 (GOODMAN, 2014). China is the Republic of Sri Lanka's biggest commercial partner of, which will be institutionalized by an impending Free Trade Agreement to be signed. Further, the Foreign Direct Investment made by China to Sri Lanka is one of the main sources of income for the country (GOODMAN, 2014).

In view of these facts, Sri Lanka backs China on most of its core interests, including the building of the Maritime Silk Road (MSR), a project that will unite the Southeast Asian region ("SRI...", 2014).

On the matter of sovereignty, Sri Lanka applies the principle of reciprocity with China. Since Beijing backed Colombo in its efforts to protect its sovereignty, mainly from

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accusations of human rights violations at the United Nations, Sri Lanka also backs China on its strive for territorial integrity and sovereignty (“CHINA...”, 2013).

The current representative of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka in the Shangri - La Dialogues is Gotabaya Rajapaksa. The Secretary to the Ministry of Defense and Urban Development has a military career, and, as such, has guided his country against the terrorist separatist group LTTE (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam). Mr. Rajapaksa also has a military education and a Master’s Degree in Defense Studies (MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, 2009).

Federal Republic of Germany

Germany has expressed great concern over Chinese claims in the South and East China Seas. As the Asian superpower shows its strength by pressing its claims, Germany is concerned about the implications for freedom of navigation in the area if the will of China is to be fulfilled, given its recent plan to stop and board foreign ships passing at the disputed waters (“EU...”, 2012). Germany will attend the SLD with the objective of defending the traditional Law of the Sea represented by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and to ensure freedom of navigation in such important waters.

Further, Germany will also attend the SLD to defend its national industry. Home to a powerful military complex, Germany will seek to defend the interests of industries such as Rheinmetall and Heckler & Koch (“NO...”, 2014).

Current German representative Ursula von der Leyen is Germany's first female Federal Minister of Defense, riding for the Christian Democratic Union. Coming from a family of traditional politics, Leyen transitioned from being a practicing doctor to a politician, using her degree in Economics (FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, 2014).

French Republic

The territories in the Asia-Pacific, mainly islands, that belong to the French Republic guarantee the European country’s active enrollment in ensuring the region's stability and security. Since the 1990's the French government has been promoting defense and security relations with the Asian nations based on pillars that include political dialogue and military and armaments cooperation (FRANCE, 2014 b). These actions seek to straighten partnerships with local countries and the engagement of France in the region (FRANCE, 2014 b).

Furthermore, the French government reinforces that Asia has been showing consistent progress in modernizing defense and security equipment and along with the

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growth of the economies, conflicts have transcended the Asia-pacific borders and became worldwide problems (FRANCE, 2014 a). Therefore, France is interested in promoting stability, peace, the respect of international law and freedom of navigation in the region, which is being harmed by the ongoing territorial conflicts (FRANCE, 2014 a).

France is a powerful country with various interests and partners in Asia-Pacific. Its main partners in the Asia-pacific region are India, Malaysia and Singapore (FRANCE, 2014 a). The recent partnership between the French Republic and Vietnam, another claimant of territories in the South China Sea, may also be noticed (“VIET NAM...”, 2014).

It is stated that military equipment is never exported only on a commercial basis, but is always related to political and strategic considerations, and on the principles of human rights and transparency, France will make sure to pursue those goals at the SLD (FRANCE, 2014 b).

Jean-Yves Le Drian is a French politician representative of the Socialist Party and current Minister of Defense and Veteran Affairs for France. A former teacher of Economics, Drian has been in the Defense Ministry since 2012 (FRANCE, 2014 a).

Islamic Republic of Pakistan

On the fifth China-Pakistan Strategic Dialogue, Pakistan showed its support for the cause of China on the matter of the Diaoyu/Senkaku islands. In return, China showed its support for Pakistani’s sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity.

At the meeting, Pakistani Foreign Secretary Jalil Abbas Jilani reinforced the country’s support for China’s core interests and the posture taken by the Chinese government when dealing with its territorial issues. Both sides cooperate on matters related to trade, investment, energy, education and culture, being solid partners (“PAKISTAN...”, 2012).

Khawaja Muhammad Asif is the Pakistanis representative at the Shangri-La Dialogues, as Pakistan's Federal Minister for Water and Power. Parliamentarian from Pakistan's Muslim Party, the Minister is well known in the country for his achievements in the business and banking areas, with knowledge acquired through Business Management and Law degrees (PAKISTAN, 2014).

Japan

Japan stated clearly that the “Senkaku Islands are indisputably an inherent part of the territory of Japan in light of historical facts and based upon international law” (MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF JAPAN, 2014 c). The ideal of Japan is to seek

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maritime sovereignty and peace based on the rule of law and not force or coercion, as put in a leaflet issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (2014 a).

The control over the islands by the Japanese government has been put into effect since 1895. According to the Japanese government:

(...) after having carefully ascertained that there had been no trace of control over the Senkaku Islands by another state prior to that period, the Government of Japan incorporated the islands into the Japanese territory by lawful means under the international legal framework which existed at that time (MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF JAPAN, 2014 b).

The government of Japan sees the interest of China in the islands as opportunistic. Having not pronounced itself for 75 years, Beijing decided to claim the islands in 1970, right after the confirmation that the East China Sea was rich in oil reserves (MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF JAPAN, 2014 b).

According to the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan:

There is no doubt that the Senkaku Islands are clearly an inherent part of the territory of Japan, in light of historical facts and based upon international law. Indeed, the Senkaku Islands are under the valid control of Japan. There exists no issue of territorial sovereignty to be resolved concerning the Senkaku Islands (MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF JAPAN, 2014 c).

That being so, Japan continues to cherish its relationship with China, as one of the most important bilateral relations maintained by the country. Japan wishes to see a quick resolution of the fact, as soon as China drops its invalid claims, for the benefit of the relations between the countries and the well-being of the peoples of both nations (MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF JAPAN, 2014 b).

Japan's current Minister of Defense is Itsunori Onodera. The Minister, graduated from Law School, entered politics in 1997 and has been the Japanese Defense Ministry since 2012 (JAPAN, 2014).

Kingdom of Cambodia

In the past years, the Kingdom of Cambodia has been straightening their diplomatic and economic relationship with various Asian countries, especially with those involved in conflicts over territory in the South China Sea and the Diaoyu/Senkaku Islands. Vietnam has become Cambodia's fifth source of investments, maintaining their relationship steady ("CAMBODIA...", 2014). In 2013, Cambodia's Prime Minister, Hun Sen, visited Japan where economical agreements were established, where Japan would invest even more in the Cambodian infrastructure (PHORN; ZSOMBOR, 2013).

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Nonetheless, Cambodia is still considered a close ally to the Chinese. Recently, Hun Sen again straightened relations with China, sustaining that the Cambodian government be a neutral actor in the matter and reaffirming that the negotiations towards settlements should be made between claimants and not transforming it into an international scenario ("CAMBODIA...", 2014).

General Tea Banh is the Kingdom of Cambodia's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defense. Coming from a military background, Banh had a military education and acquired a degree in Political Science and Military Science. The Minister initiated his career as politician in 1961 in the vicinity of the army (BANH, 2014).

Kingdom of Sweden

The Kingdom of Sweden nurtures good relations with both Japan and China ("CHINA...", 2013; MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF JAPAN, 2014 a), and wants to keep its tradition of mediator for the Asian countries. As an actor away from the region, Sweden has already hosted talks among regional actors in times of need, such as the Japan-North Korea talks held in Stockholm ("SWEDEN...", 2014). Sweden's main goal in the discussion is to make both parties reason and abide by the UNCLOS, as it is a convention that is insurmountably approved by Sweden, for it supplies identical rules for several countries, with a deep respect for customary law and will shed some light into the matter ("STATEMENT...", 2012). The job of the Summit is to provide new legal assessments to the issue.

Further, Sweden will aim at reaching commercial agreements at Air and Naval military trades, as it has a great military industry which includes SAAB and Kockums ("SWEDEN...", 2014).

Karin Enström currently serves as Sweden's Minister of Defense. As a politician from the Moderate Party and a military officer, graduated from the Swedish Royal Naval Academy, at present she holds the rank of captain in the Swedish Amphibious Corps and is a member of the War Delegation. Enström entered politics in 1998 (SWEDEN, 2012).

Kingdom of Thailand

Since the establishment of formal Chinese-Thai relations, the two countries have had an era of friendly, cooperative relations in the areas of politics, economics, trade, military affairs, education, science and technology, culture and other matters. Non-governmental relations have been rising as well ("NEW...", 2013).

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The respect and support between Thailand and China is tangible. The government of Bangkok and Beijing are supportive of each other's core interests and main strategic claims, as shown by the recent high-power from all branches of the top brass of Thai military to China, which proved that the ties among China and Thailand are solid and will not be cut off by speculations (CHONGKITTAVORN, 2012).

That being said, Thailand does have reservations about the stand-off at the South and East China seas. As a member of ASEAN, Thailand remains faithful to its main institution, as it released a statement, accorded by Bangkok that read:

They urged all parties concerned, in accordance with the universally recognized principles of international law, including ... to exercise self-restraint and avoid actions which could undermine peace and stability in the area; and to resolve disputes by peaceful means without resorting to threat or use of force (HEIJMANS, 2014).

In this matter, Thailand hopes to see a quick and peaceful resolution to the conflict, and wishes to bring to the discussion the Regional Code of Conduct (COC) and the principles of ASEAN, while hedging its relations with China (CHONGKITTAVORN, 2012).

The Kingdom of Thailand's current Minister of Defense is Air Chief Marshal Sukampol Suwannathat, who previously worked in the Thailand Air Force (THAILAND, 2014).

Lao People's Democratic Republic

Even though Laos does not have an exit to the sea, the country is extremely concerned with actions on the East China Sea that could destabilize the entire continent. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Laos have claimed that the East China Sea is crucial to maintain and promote peace, stability and cooperation in the area. Further, Laos have made a calling for all parties to respect the 1982 UNCLOS and the 2002 ASEAN-China Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the East Sea (DOC) ("LAOS CONCERNED...", 2014).

Laos does not wish to interfere in the situation, but it fosters good relations with one of the parties involved; China is an important partner to Laos at this crucial moment in which the nation wants to establish itself as a Hydropower exporter to Asia. The Chinese government already voiced its support to the Laotian aspirations ("LAOS DRAWS...", 2014). Major General Douangchay Phichit is Laos People's Democratic Republic current Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defense. Phichit is part of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party (LAOS, 2010).

Malaysia

As a claimant of islands at the South China Sea, maritime sovereignty is a great concern of Malaysia, for there are islands in the area which falls under the Exclusive Economic Zone of the country, including some of the disputed islands of the Spratlys Archipelago ("Q&A..", 2014).

Therefore, Malaysia is shocked by the military exercises perpetrated by China off the coast of the James Shoal and by the assertiveness of Chinese claims. For that reason, Malaysia has joined forces with fellow ASEAN countries such as Vietnam and the Philippines in order to tie China to binding rules of conduct for the South China Sea (GRUDGINGS, 2014).

It appears to Malaysia that China could claim and hold military exercises on a land that is closer to virtually all southeast Asian nations than itself, that is why, at the SLD, Malaysia will look to hold China accountable for its actions and to discuss new rules of conduct on the sea (GRUDGINGS, 2014).

The Malaysian Prime Minister's nephew, Hishammuddin Tun Hussein, is the current Minister of Defense for Malaysia. As a former lawyer, with a degree and Masters in Law, Hussein chose to pursue a political career, as it was common in his family (MALAYSIA, 2014). The Minister is also a member of the United Malays National Organisation (UMNO), a nationalist group.

Mongolia

Mongolia condemns the unilateral actions of the Chinese government on its insistence of not abiding to the rule of the UNCLOS and the ASEAN Declaration of Conduct of 2002, denouncing its actions as "blatant acts of escalation" ("MONGOLIA...", 2014).

At the moment, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe reached for Mongolian support for its cause against the Chinese claims of righteous Japanese land and Mongolia is prepared to support the Japanese position ("JAPAN'S...", 2013).

The current Mongolian Minister of Defense is Dashdembereliin Bat-Erdene.

Nation of Brunei Darussalam

The Nation of Brunei is one of the countries that are involved in the territorial conflict in the South China Sea. The maritime sovereignty that the Nation of Brunei stakes ownership of is of utmost importance, seeing as the country has an interest in projecting an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

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Signatory of the UNCLOS and the Declaration on the Conduct of the Parties in the South China Sea (DOC), the Nation is guiding its actions based on the international law (BRUNEI DARUSSALAM, 2004). The government of His Majesty Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah is the only claimant that is not disputing land pieces, solely the maritime territory of 200 miles that is predicted in the UNCLOS ("Q&A...", 2014).

Even though the government of Brunei Darussalam has established stricter plans of action through its Defense Ministry, in order to defend the Nation's land and aero - maritime sovereignty (BRUNEI DARUSSALAM, 2004), the claiming for the rights over these territories is peaceful. Dialogues with China, seeking a more diplomatic relationship, already began in October of 2013, when both countries signed a joint statement, in which one of the clauses reaffirmed the importance of a solution based on peace and the international constitution (BRUNEI DARUSSALAM, 2013). The Nation of Brunei Darussalam together with fellow countries of ASEAN, has recently released an official statement that mentioned their concern with the present tension in the Asia-pacific region and called to all parties to seek settlements through peaceful manners that obeyed the international law ("ASEAN...", 2014).

Dato Paduka Haji Mustappa is the current Deputy Minister for Brunei Darussalam. He began his career as an Education teacher and his political career in 1982, in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (BRUNEI DARUSSALAM, 2014).

New Zealand

Having just reached trade agreements with China, New Zealand has in its best interests the peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region (NEW ZEALAND, 2012). The country believes that China both benefits and contributes for peace in the region; however, the reaction of its neighbours to its quick and powerful military modernization may be a grave test for the relationships in the area (NEW ZEALAND, 2010).

New Zealand will be attending the meetings of the Shangri-La Dialogue hoping to achieve a greater understanding between the great actors in the region in order to foster an environment of peace and concord among them, which will be beneficial for New Zealand, Japan, China and all of the countries directly or indirectly involved in the recent contentious. The current Minister of Defense, as well as the Minister of State Services and Associate Minister of Finance for New Zealand, is Minister Jonathan Coleman. The Minister has a degree in medicine and a Masters in Business Administration. Coleman initiated his political career in 2005 for the National Party (COLEMAN, 2014).

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People's Republic of China

Being one of the actors involved, China reiterates its unwavering effort to claim its rights on the entirety of the South and East China seas (COUNCIL OF FOREIGN RELATIONS, 2013). As one of the most prominent countries in the Asia-Pacific region, China will make an effort to reason with the other ministers in the Summit in order to attain its interests in a peaceful manner.

China has made numerous efforts to reassure its neighbours of its peaceful intentions. The 2012 Defense White Paper stated that China would use its Armed Forces for diversified purposes, peaceful purposes (CHINA, 2012 a).

However, China stated that will use the means necessary to make its claims heard and to protect its sovereignty, currently in jeopardy because of the carelessness of some of its neighbours (CHINA, 2012 a). It is important for China that the SLD is used as a channel of communication among defense ministers, in order to avert harsh measures.

Alas, according to the Chinese government, the constant illegal "backroom deals" between the United States and Japan were enough, in a difficult time, to "grab" the Diaoyu Dao islands away from Chinese hands, its rightful owner (CHINA, 2012 b). At present, Japan has presented completely false and unfounded claims of sovereignty over the Diaoyu islands, with the purpose of undermining and subtracting Chinese inherent territory (CHINA, 2012 b).

China will also be looking to close deals for its mighty military industry. At present, China has a potent Aircraft Corporation as Chengdu Military Corporation, which includes the production of the 5th generation aircraft, the J-20, among other industries like it's up and coming naval industry (WRITER, 2014).

People's Republic of China's current Minister of Defense is General Chang Wanquan. The representative has a military background, since he entered the People Liberation Army and grew in rank within the organization. In the same year, the General joined the Communist Party of China and initiated his political career (CHINA, 2014).

Republic of India

India has clearly stated that freedom of navigation in the South and East China seas should not be restrained because of territorial claims and by unilateral actions of one nation or another. India preaches restraint to all the parts involved in the conflict and hopes to avoid any kinds of aggression, even the smallest of kinds (JAYASEKERA, 2013).

The Indian government reckons that China has been engaging in unilateral measures for the past years, such as making incursions of troops deep into Indian territory without

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authorization, however, India practiced its restraint by signing an agreement of border cooperation with China (GUPTA, 2013).

The official position of India is that both China and Japan should attend the Dialogue with no preconditions and to leave their quarrels behind so peace and stability can flourish in the Asia-Pacific region.

The Republic of India's Minister of Defense is A. K. Anthony. The representative comes from a traditional Catholic family, has a degree in Arts and Business Law. Anthony began his career, and has been part, since then, of the Indian National Congress Party (ANTHONY, 2014).

Republic of Indonesia

As a country affected by China's unilateral measures, Indonesia hopes to see a clear resolution for the South and East China Seas disputes, in order to foster an environment of peace and stability, before Jakarta is forced to take harsher measures (KECK, 2014).

The official position of Indonesia is that there is no territorial dispute with China, because the Natuna Islands are, by international law, clearly Indonesian. There is no legal basis for the claims of China whatsoever according to the government of Indonesia (GREIG, 2014).

Indonesia is a country which has the means to challenge China on its claims and it intends to do so to protect its sovereignty, the priority of Jakarta. That is why Indonesia will attend the Dialogue looking for a greater dialogue with China to dissuade them from their latest acts and also looking to strengthen its military with the acquisition of new equipment ("INDONESIA'S...", 2014).

Purnomo Yudiantoro is the current Minister of Defense of Indonesia. The Minister has an Engineering degree and a Ph. D. in Natural Resources Economics (INDONESIA, 2014).

Republic of Korea

The Republic of Korea believes that the actions of the Chinese government, when it declared an Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ) over disputed territories, are illegitimate and absolutely disruptive for the region, because it claims territories that were either previously owned by Korea (such as leodo), or disputed territories not yet judged upon by international law ("SOUTH...", 2013).

This unacceptable behaviour is much different than actions taken by the Korean government; when Korea extended its ADIZ, it consulted its neighbours and negotiated with

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them and with the United States of America (“SOUTH...”, 2013). Further, the territorial claims of the Korean government happen under international law, abiding by regulations of the United Nations and on consultation of the Commission of the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS) (“SOUTH...”, 2011).

Also, Korea scheduled working-level meetings with both Japan and China in order to make its claims understood, much differently than China’s unilateral measures. Korea will not oppose Chinese claims, rather, it will press for them to be filed under international law, and to be taken to an international forum such as the United Nations or the Asian Defense Ministers Meeting Plus (ADMM+), as the country seeks to balance its relations between its partnership with the United States and its important commercial relationship with China (SUK-HEE, 2012).

The Republic of Korea's current Minister of Defense is Han Minkoo. The representative has a military background as well as a Political Science degree. He has had an avid participation in various army divisions as commander (KOREA, 2014).

Republic of Philippines

A protagonist of many territorial (specially maritime) disputes, the Philippines are particularly interested in discussing guidelines for the efficient settlement of these kinds of disputes, as well as to keep China at bay with its overeager and aggressive measures. Last year, the Philippines denounced “the massive presence of Chinese military and paramilitary ships” circling a claimed territory in the South China Sea. With this concern, the Philippine government asked the United Nations to rule on this dispute, condemning the actions of the Chinese government (REYNOLDS, 2013).

In this way, the Philippines’ government supports international law, and claims that the main framework of analysis to be used is the UNCLOS, which clearly determined that China was trespassing Philippine territory with its claims over the Scarborough Shoal (MARKWITH, 2013). Because of these matters, Philippines' arguments always respect claims made under the UNCLOS and its predicaments.

The current Secretary of National Defense for the Republic of Philippines is Voltaire Tuvera Gazmin. The representative, graduated in Chemistry, has had a long and successful military career, which has allowed Gazmin to command battalions and be a member of the Presidential Security Group, helping to thwart attempts of security by rebel groups. His previous acts in diplomacy and servicing the Philippines have led the Secretary to be recognized and nominated to national posts of great importance (PHILIPPINES, 2013).

Republic of Singapore

As stated by Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong

Countries in the region benefitted from China's development; China itself saw it necessary to develop peacefully in a way which was non-threatening to its neighbours; and China will calculate that any gains from a non-peaceful approach to territorial disputes will have to be weighed against broader implications for its reputation and standing in the world. Thus, it would not be 'constructive' to say 'let us make a friendship amongst all the countries which are frightened of China' ("PM...", 2013).

Singapore has been in consults with China for the betterment of a mutual understanding of each country's positions. Despite being a member of ASEAN, Singapore does not take sides on the disputes between China and the four other ASEAN countries, claiming that "the claims are for the claimants to settle" ("STRAITS...", 2012). Singapore emphasizes that ASEAN should be designing the framework for settlements and that the role of the institution is to be neutral, mediating the debate, as well as the SLD, that should be used for the design of guidelines for the settlement of disputes.

Dr. Ng Eng Hen is the current Minister for Defense for the Republic of Singapore. The representative has a Master degree in Medicine and is a renowned doctor in the country. He initiated his political career in 2001 and has since occupied various positions, among them, Minister of State, Education and Manpower (SINGAPORE, 2014).

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Among the members of ASEAN that are not asserting sovereignty in the South China Sea, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, known colloquially as Burma, is working towards the goal of maintaining a peaceful environment in the Asia-pacific region and a non-aggressive settlement between the claimants and China (KYAW, 2014). The conclusion of the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC) among the maintenance of the flow of the sea traffic is of utmost importance for the country (KYAW, 2014).

The current Defense Minister for the Republic of the Union of Myanmar is Lt. General Wai Lwin. The representative is a former military and now works for the Rangoon Division Parliament. Wai Lwin was on the blacklist of the European Union until 2012 ("LT GEN...", 2013).

Russian Federation

The Russian Federation is and will continue to be an integral part of the Asia-Pacific region. It is important for the country that the region is stable and free from threats such as terrorism, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, among others. That being said,

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Russia believes that the territorial disputes among the main nations of the region worsens the situation for it is impossible to cope with the recent challenges as just one nation. As a unity, the region would be stronger and more hedged against these menaces (“MAJOR...”, 2014).

In 2010, Russia and China signed an agreement that made clear their mutual support for each other’s sovereignty and core interests, however, the situation of the Diaoyu/Senkaku islands are quite complicated. The minister of Foreign Affairs Nikolai Patrushev stated:

along with common threats, such as terrorism, extremism, illegal migration and drug trafficking, a major threat in the Asia-Pacific region is territorial claims of states to each other. Russia stands for solving such problems through dialogue and political and diplomatic means (JAMESTOWN FOUNDATION, 2012).

Therefore, it is clear that the official discourse of Russia on the matter is to defend peaceful negotiations and diplomatic talks, which will prevent aggressive measures, unite the region and, by consequence, protect the region from the most present threats.

Further, Russia is a country that possesses several military industries, and will be looking to divulge its interests by reaching commercial agreements and technological partnerships with the countries present.

General Sergei Shoigu is the current Minister of Defense for the Russian Federation and General of the Russian Army. The representative has a degree in Construction Engineering and has worked in his province with the rescuers and in the emergencies sector before entering politics. After being Minister of the Russian Federation for Civil Defense, Emergencies and Elimination of Consequences of Natural Disasters, Shoigu was nominated Minister of Defense in 2012 (RUSSIA, 2014).

Socialist Republic of Vietnam

Vietnam has stated that the recent row between Japan and China for the Diaoyu/Senkaku islands are “complicated developments”, and, as proffered by a Vietnamese official:

We share the common belief that the parties concerned must, now more than ever, act with restraint and settle their disputes by peaceful means and fully respect international law, especially the 1982 U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea,” Vietnam told the forum. “The same goes for the South China Sea (“VIETNAM...”, 2012).

Vietnam also condemns China for its unilateral actions on the Sea, which violates Vietnamese sovereignty and it is a grave transgression against diplomacy and concord and

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goes against “Vietnamese fishermen and affects the maritime activities of Petrovietnam” (“VIETNAM...”, 2012).

As this blatant violation of sovereignty was perpetrated by China, it is in the best interest of Vietnam that the claims of China come to a close and that a condemnation of its actions is agreed by all countries present.

Vietnam's current Minister of National Defense is Phung Quang Thanh who has the rank of General of the Army.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

As a nation not directly involved in the matter, the United Kingdom is gravely concerned with the rising of tension in the East and South China seas and wishes to see a prompt and peaceful resolution to the matter, in accordance to what the Spokesperson of the European Union stated: “In particular, the EU is concerned that unilateral actions could affect the security environment in the region, as evidenced by reports about the recent collision of Vietnamese and Chinese vessels.” (“STATEMENT...”, 2014).

This is also the fear of the United Kingdom, which does not wish to see an escalation of violence happen because of unilateral measures that are mainly taken by China in the matter. As Foreign Office Minister Hugo Swire emphasized:

The installation of a Chinese oil rig in disputed waters this week has led to increased tensions in the South China Sea. The UK supports the EU statement issued on 8 May, and has raised the issue with the Chinese government at Ministerial level. We urge all parties to exercise restraint and seek to de-escalate the situation (“UK...”, 2014).

As the United Kingdom is a powerful country, with vital interests in the region, it would be best to seek a peaceful and prompt resolution to the matter that would protect the interests of Great Britain and minimize the potential damage that a greater escalation could cause.

Philip Hammond is the current Secretary of State for Defense for the United Kingdom. The Secretary has degrees in politics, philosophy and economics and a previous career in small business management. He was elected to the Parliament in 1997 and is former Secretary of State for Transport (UNITED KINGDOM, 2014).

United States of America

The United States of America will abide by its defense treaty with Japan and will defend the Asian nation against any threats to its sovereignty. As was stated by President Obama: “Our commitment to Japan’s security is absolute and article five [of the security

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treaty] covers all territories under Japan's administration, including the Senkaku islands" (MCCURRY, 2014).

Despite the United States' condemnation of the Air Defense Identification Zone unilaterally imposed by China, Washington did not formally demand that the perimeter is withdrawn; fearing that too harsh of a measure could escalate the issue even further (SOBLE; DYER; SEVASTOPULO, 2013).

The United States will not shy away from defending its commitments with Japan, aware that it has a powerful ally in the region which is prepared to push forward and to become stronger. On this issue, President Obama affirmed: "I commend Prime Minister Abe for his efforts to strengthen Japan's defense forces and to deepen the coordination between our militaries, including by reviewing existing limits on the exercise of collective self-defense" (PANDA, 2014).

Also, the SLD is a forum which, not only, will host talks about the most pressing issues on the Asia-Pacific, but will also, defend the interests of the military-industrial complex of the United States, which, with its vast array of products, is sure to make an impact at the Dialogue.

The Secretary of Defense of the United States of America is Chuck Hagel. As a veteran from the Vietnam War, the representative was chosen to various positions with regard to security matters. Hagel has also been President as well as CEO of a number of companies in the United States. In 1997, the Secretary entered the United States Senate. Nowadays, he serves his country in areas that revolve around national security (UNITED STATES, 2014).

ANNEXES

Annex 1 - Map of the Diaoyu/Senkaku Dispute



Source: DRIFTE, 2009.

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Annex 2 - The 9-Dash Line

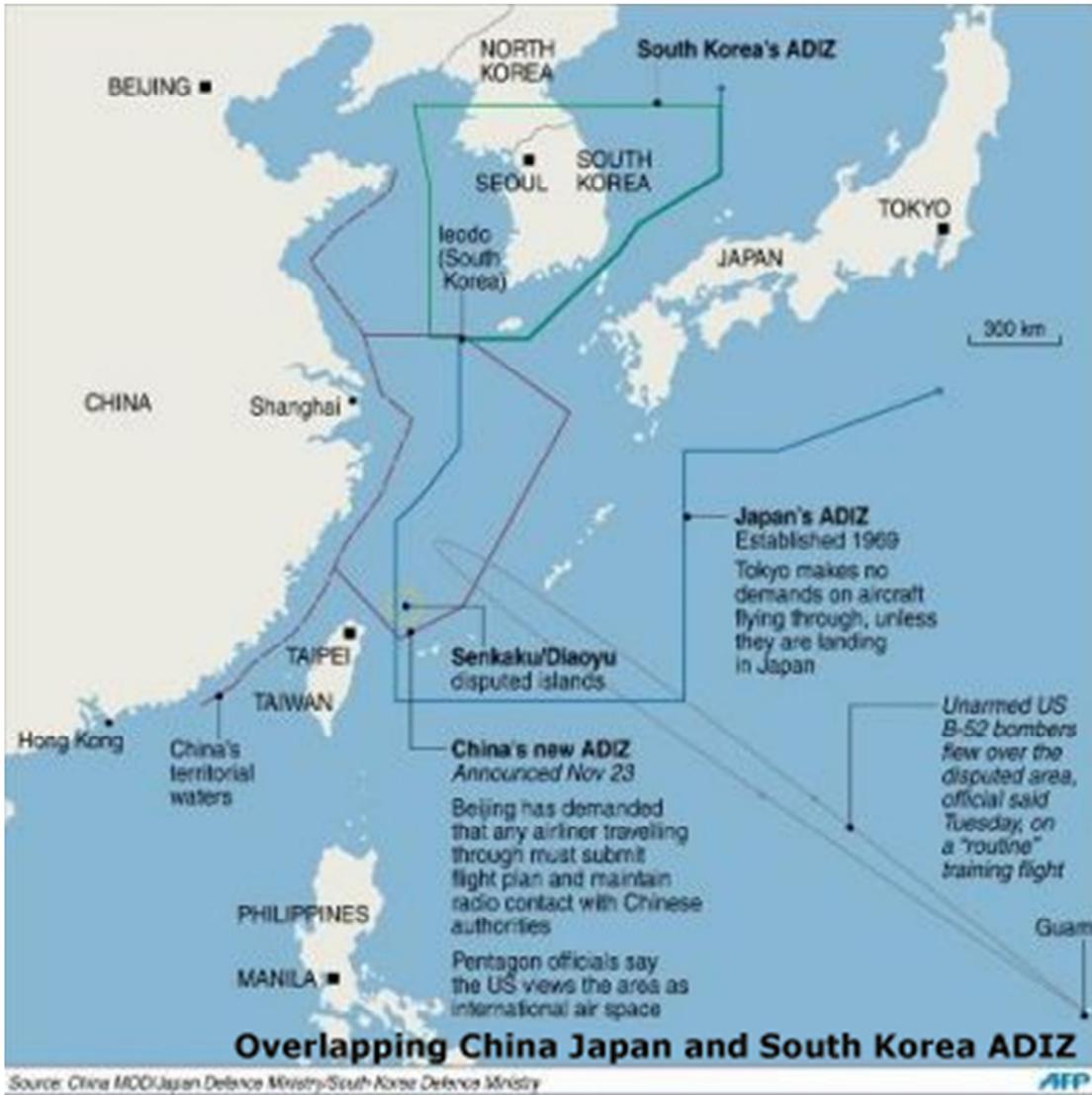


Source: BANYAN, 2012.

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Annex 3 - Overlapping ADIZ



Source: JAGOTA, 2013.

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Annex 4 - Useful Links

- 1) BBC - "South China Sea Q&A": <<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-pacific-13748349>>
- 2) CAPIE, D.; TAYLOR, B. "The Shangri-La Dialogue and the Institutionalization of Defense Diplomacy in Asia". *In: Social Science Research Network*: <http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1632862>.
- 3) Council on Foreign Relations - "China's Maritime Disputes": <<http://www.cfr.org/asia-and-pacific/chinas-maritime-disputes/p31345#!/>>
- 4) The Atlantic - "More on This Strange Chinese ADIZ: 'Sovereign Is as Sovereign Does'": <<http://www.theatlantic.com/china/archive/2013/11/more-on-this-strange-chinese-adiz-sovereign-is-as-sovereign-does/281890/>>
- 5) The Diplomat Magazine (Various articles about the theme): <<http://thediplomat.com/>>
 - a. The Diplomat Magazine - "Anti-China rhetoric impedes China peaceful rise": <<http://thediplomat.com/2014/07/anti-china-rhetoric-impedes-chinas-peaceful-rise/>>.
 - b. The Diplomat Magazine - "Sri Lanka growing links with China": <<http://thediplomat.com/2014/03/sri-lankas-growing-links-with-china>>
 - c. The Diplomat Magazine - "China, Russia military ties deepen with naval drill in East China Sea": <<http://thediplomat.com/2014/05/china-russia-military-ties-deepen-with-naval-drill-in-east-china-sea/>>
 - d. The Diplomat Magazine - "South China Sea dispute overshadows ASEAN Summit": <<http://thediplomat.com/2014/05/south-china-sea-dispute-overshadows-asean-summit>>

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