

"A NEW REGIONAL ORDER: EFFECTIVE ALIGNMENT THROUGH STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS"

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"Now that the Permanent Court of Arbitration has released its decision on the case lodged by the Philippines against China, the Philippines should immediately set the tone of what is to follow. In the days ahead, the country should continue to advocate that all states, including China, must abide by the terms of the ruling and that all claimants should avoid any activity that could worsen tensions in the region. It's good that many countries have already indicated their support for the arbitration process and for the peaceful resolution of the disputes.

The Philippines should persist in this message, which is **key to maintaining our current level of support and to gaining the open support of more states.** Our strong commitment to upholding international law helped us achieve the support we have today; an abrupt about-face would weaken our message and lead to our friends questioning our resolve. Ultimately, working with others makes us best placed to shape the decisions that all claimants make in the near future.

Having succeeded in its case, the Philippines is now in a position of strength. Above all, the government should not rush to capitulate, but instead remain firm in its commitment to defend Philippine territory and maritime rights in accordance with the Constitution."

PH must set tone for peaceful resolution of dispute
Philippine Daily Inquirer, 14 July 2016



"The Philippines should continue to actively present its case as a legal precedent for ASEAN claimant-states to further clarify their respective maritime entitlements and boundaries, as well as align their respective domestic policies with UNCLOS provisions. The award should not be seen as merely beneficial to the interest of the Philippines, but to all claimants in the South China Sea with common interests in freedom of navigation for trade and other legitimate activities.

By reaffirming the arbitral tribunal's award and working toward its full and effective implementation, we pave the way for the peaceful resolution of the disputes using a mutually agreeable standard. Moreover, having led the charge, the Philippines must continue to be a bright spot in the promotion of international law in our region."

Uphold international law in Code of Conduct

Philippine Daily Inquirer, 18 July 2017



"At all times, countries must work to ensure the integrity of the rules-based international system, and oppose any action that raise tensions such as militarization. This is critical to ensuring regional peace and stability. All disputes in the region should be resolved not through force or coercion, but in accordance with international law.

The Philippines has the moral and legal obligation to uphold the 2016 Ruling of the Permanent Court of Arbitration. But we cannot do this if the administration will continue to adopt a policy of appearement toward China. We need to regain the respect of responsible nations by clearly standing up for the rule of law."

Uphold rules-based int'l system

Philippine Daily Inquirer, 2 September 2018



The arbitral award should have been the country's leverage to rally the cooperation of other states and other multilateral organizations to uphold international law. But the Duterte administration chose not to fight for the Hague victory, the President subscribing instead to China's approach to the South China Sea dispute.

Unfortunately, this defeatist policy has affected the Philippines' territorial and long-term strategic economic interests. Worse, it has encouraged Beijing's pervasive influence and assertiveness in the region. With an expansionist agenda, China has created an imbalance, leading to the demise of Southeast Asian maritime order.

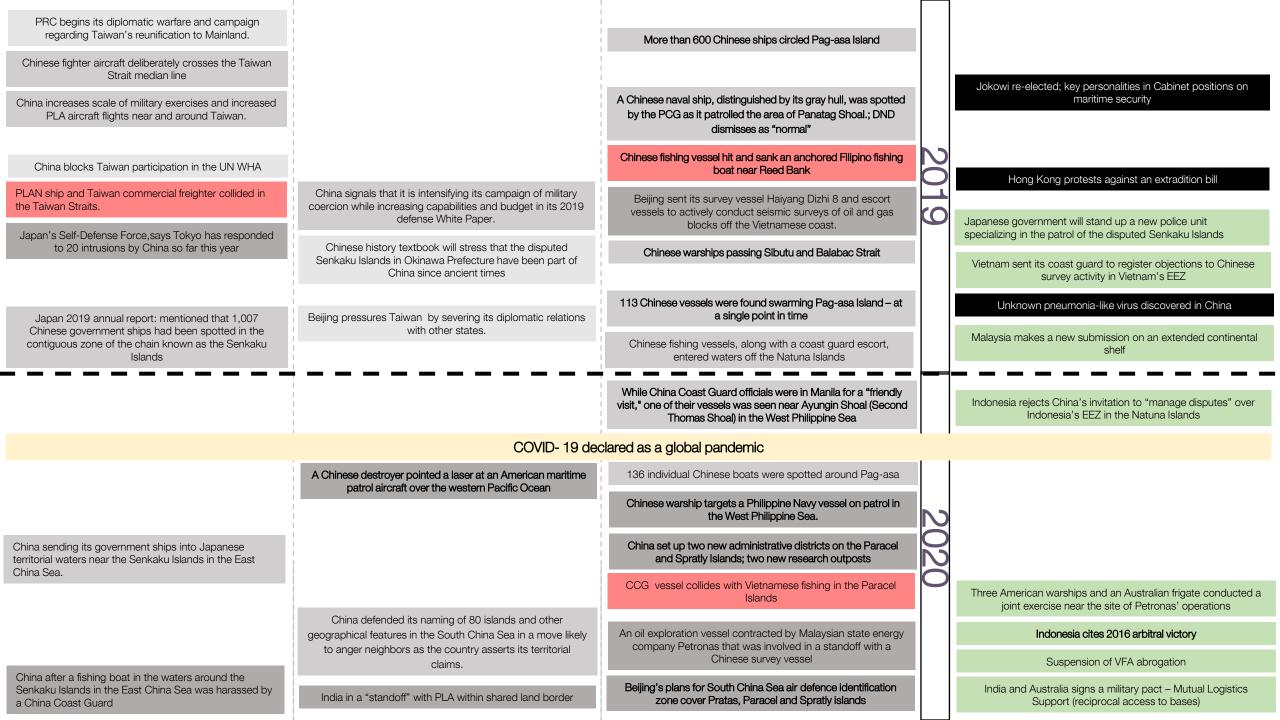
Collective sovereign assertion should be the main regional concern, to be further supported by the arbitral ruling. In a world where "might is right," the revitalization of the four major powers—the United States, Japan, India and Australia—should also help show strength in numbers, in order to survive in a rapidly changing Indo-Pacific region.

Bring Asean to the table Philippine Daily Inquirer, 12July 2019



People's Liberation Army Air Force (PLAAF) aircrafts	Beijing begins People's Liberation Army (PLA) reform and	China lands a civilian aircrafts on Fiery Cross Reef.		Tsai Ing Wen wins the Taiwanese presidential elections.	
pass through airspace of the Tsushima Strait for the first time.	reorganization; targeted to finish by 2020	Orinia ianas a divinan andraits offi lety 01055 neet.		roaring werr wins the raiwallese presidential elections.	
ui iic.		China finishes construction of 10,000-ton cutter for SCS			
Beijing has vocally opposed the deployment since the	i I	Expansion in Paracel Islands. Newly constructed structures in			
announcement of formal U.SSouth Korea talks on Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD)	China sets up the International Maritime Judicial Center	Fiery Cross Reef: helicopter base support for anti-submarine helicopters.			
Terminar light Autoue Area Delense (111AAD)	similar to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)	Deployment of 10 military aircrafts on Woody Island – not a military exercise; 2 HQ-9 surface-to-air missile batteries			
China suspended consultations between its Taiwan Affairs Office and Taiwan's Mainland Affairs Council)				
	PLA Navy (PLAN) conducts annual war drills with one of its most advanced warships.	Indonesia maritime official clash with a Chinese Coast Guard (CCG) over a Chinese trawler illegally fishing off the Natuna			
China sends Jiangkai I-class frigate into the contiguous zone of the Senkaku islands.		Islands.		Rodrigo Duterte wins the Philippine presidential elections	
		China deploys its fighter jets and warships in Fiery Cross Reef			
		due to the FONOPs of USS William P. Lawrence			
		Two Shenyang J-11 fighter jets intercepted a US Navy E-P3			
	Indian ships taking part of the Malabar exercises (held with	military reconnaissance aircraft flying in international airspace over the South China Sea			
	US and Japan) in the South China Sea heavily objected by China.		1		
	Chinese government bureau to build a base station in the Spratly Islands		N		
			0	Indonesian President Joko Widodo sailed on a warship off	
PLAAF aircrafts pass through airspace of the Tsushima Strait again.	Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs has explicitly contested Indonesia's claimed EEZ			Natuna islands to establish clearer message of its sovereignty.	
,	China goes on a diplomatic warfare by pledging support for	PLAN conducts large-scale military exercises with live fire drills.	(C)		
China deployed roughly 230 fishing boats and 15 CCG vessels within 24 nm of the Senkakus, 100 unidentified	China's position in the SCS.	PLAAF also carried out combat air patrol.			
	DCA rules against China Lunan	impurely awards in favor of the Philippines			
PCA rules against China, unanimously awards in favor of the Philippines.					
	Vice Foreign Minister Liu Zhenmin refers to the arbitral victory as "nothing more than a piece of waste paper," and "will not	China and Russia conducts an 8-day long naval exercise in			
	be enforced by anyone."	the South China Sea			
PLA fighter jets were identified passing through and Okinawa and Miyako Islands multiple times.					
China equated the "1992 Consensus" to "one China,"					
reaffirmed by Xi in the 19th Party Congress work report.				Trump flouted four decades of diplomatic self-constraint by speaking directly with the president of Taiwan, Tsai Ing-wen	
2 countries severed diplomatic relations with Taiwan and				ASEAN issued a joint statement regarding South China Sea	
established official ties with China, and Beijing has blocked Taiwan's participation in multiple international				dispute	
for a.				Beijing allowed Philippine and Vietnamese boats to resume	
		CCG ship still blocks the entrance to the lagoon		fishing at Scarborough Shoal	

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The narrative that the Duterte administration continues to put forward for not having a stronger stance against China runs along the lines of, "a small power could never compete against a global power." However, to understand China's grand strategy solely as a quest for global dominance through military might and within the limited scope of the South China Sea would be a short-sighted view of a much larger strategic situation.

As the Duterte administration continues to downplay these aggressions, other states have consistently referred to our arbitral victory to denounce China's expansive claims and demand its compliance to the rule of law. The defeatist narrative of overly underplaying the physical capacity of small states ushers a myopic view. The real and often overlooked danger is China's strategy of creating advantages along ambiguous lines and within gray areas to avoid retaliation.

Leveraging asymmetric warfare Philippine Daily Inquirer, 10 July 2020



Besides its clear circumvention of law and massive deployment of military and paramilitary forces in the South China Sea, China has also infiltrated domestic politics, civil society and cyber space through economic coercion, aggressive diplomatic concessions, information warfare, and propaganda.

Our biggest advantage and strength as a small, democratic nation relies in the building of strategic alliances with like-minded states based on shared values and the vision of a rules-based international and regional order.

Leveraging asymmetric warfare Philippine Daily Inquirer, 10 July 2020



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