



South China Sea Institute, Xiamen University Center for Oceans Law and the China Seas

# SOUTH CHINA SEA BULLETIN

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## The 14th Senior Officials' Meeting Adopted the COC Framework

May 18, 2017

The 14th Senior Officials' Meeting and 21st Joint Working Group Meeting on the implementation of the DOC was held from May 17 to 18 in Guiyang, Guizhou province. Senior officials from China and ten ASEAN Member States attended these meetings.

Parties had a candid and thorough discussion on the implementation of the DOC, maritime practical cooperation and COC consultation, and made positive progress. Parties reaffirmed the importance of full and effective implementation of the DOC and expressed their commitment to settling disputes in the South China Sea through negotiation and consultation in a peaceful way, to managing differences through regional rules and mechanisms, promoting maritime practical cooperation and COC consultation, and to maintaining peace and stability in the South China Sea. The meeting adopted the COC framework. All parties positively commented on the significance of achieving a COC framework, and stressed that this is a milestone achievement in the entire COC consultation, which will lay a solid foundation for the next stage of consultation. All parties will continue to advance the COC consultation in a constructive manner and try to conclude it on the basis of consensus at an early date.

The meeting adopted the "Non-paper on the steps towards the establishment of the technical committees" and the testing result of MFA to MFA Hotline communication and updated the working plan from 2016 to 2018.

This year marks the 15th anniversary of the signing of the DOC. In the past 15 years, China and ASEAN Member States jointly maintained peace, stability and economic growth in the South China Sea region through the DOC mechanism. Looking into the future, all parties should stick to the full and effective implementation of DOC, work together to maintain peace and stability in the South China Sea, and stay committed to building the South China Sea into a sea of peace, friendship and cooperation.

Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs [http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa\\_eng/wjbxw/t1463214.shtml](http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/wjbxw/t1463214.shtml)

## EVENTS

**Prize-Issuing Ceremony and Seminar of *China Oceans Law Review* Essay Competition on Criticizing the South China Sea Arbitrate Award** was held on April 24 in Xiamen, China.

<http://scsi.xmu.edu.cn/31/4f/c7404a274767/page.htm>

**Collaborative Innovation Center of South China Sea Studies Annual Working Meeting** was held on April 7 in Nanjing, China.

<https://nanhai.nju.edu.cn/e0/80/c5327a188544/page.htm>

**China 1<sup>st</sup> Law of the Sea Moot Court Competition** was held on April 8, 2017 in Wuhan, China.

<http://www.cibos.whu.edu.cn/index.php?id=562>

**10<sup>th</sup> International Science Conference of the UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission West Pacific Branch** was held on April 17 in Qingdao, China.

[http://www.soa.gov.cn/xw/hyyw\\_90/201704/t20170417\\_55596.html](http://www.soa.gov.cn/xw/hyyw_90/201704/t20170417_55596.html)

**CIL-MPA Ocean Governance & International Shipping Workshop** was held on April 27, 2017 in Singapore.

<https://cil.nus.edu.sg/programmes-and-activities/past-events/ocean-governance-and-international-shipping-workshop/>

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**2nd Sino-European Symposium on the Law of the Sea** will be held on June 27 in Xiamen, China.

<http://scsi.xmu.edu.cn/00/3e/c7405a262206/page.htm>

**2017 Marco Polo-ZHENG He Academy of International Oceans Law and Policy** will be held on July 2 in Xiamen and Dalian, China.

<http://scsi.xmu.edu.cn/22/ee/c7407a271086/page.htm>

**The Asia-Pacific Underwater Cultural Heritage Conference** will be held on October 27 in HongKong.

<http://www.meeting.edu.cn/meeting/meeting/notice/meetingAction-81346!detail.action>

**MIMA 6th South China Sea Conference and Malaysia International Marine Expo** will be held on October 4-7, 2017 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

<http://www.mima.gov.my/index.php/events/2-mimex-2017>

**ANCORS Maritime Boundaries Workshop** will be held on June 6-8, 2017 in Singapore.

<https://cil.nus.edu.sg/highlight2/>

**2017 Singapore International Arbitration Academy** will be held on October 25, 2017 in Singapore.  
<https://cil.nus.edu.sg/programmes-and-activities/upcoming-events/siaa-2017/>  
**Sustainable Ocean Summit 2017** will be held on November 29, 2017 in Halifax, Canada.  
<http://oceancouncil.org/event/sustainable-ocean-summit-2017/>

## SELECTED NEWS

### **Hong Kong Media Said Abe's Attempt to Mess Up South China Sea Issues by Collaborations with French Navy in a Military Drill**

*CAN KAO XIAO XI, March 25, 2017*

<http://www.cankaoxiaoxi.com/world/20170325/1808513.shtml>

### **Philippine President Criticized the US Military Cruise Enhanced the Risk of the South China Sea**

*CAN KAO XIAO XI, March 25, 2017*

<http://www.cankaoxiaoxi.com/world/20170325/1809691.shtml>

### **Li Keqiang Said During Visit to Australia that China's South China Sea Military Facilities Aims to Maintain Navigation Freedom**

*zaobao, March 25, 2017*

<http://www.zaobao.com/special/report/politic/southchinasea/story20170325-739892>

### **Taiwan Media: US Military Repeatedly Asked to Cruise South China Sea But Trump Did Not Approve**

*CAN KAO XIAO XI, March 26, 2017*

<http://www.cankaoxiaoxi.com/world/20170326/1811579.shtml>

### **South China Sea Sub-Forum of 2017 Boao Forum for Asia Annual Meeting Opened**

*Vietnamese Youth Daily, March 26, 2017*

[http://epaper.gmw.cn/gmrb/html/2017-03/26/nw.D110000gmrb\\_20170326\\_3-04.htm](http://epaper.gmw.cn/gmrb/html/2017-03/26/nw.D110000gmrb_20170326_3-04.htm)

### **The Philippines and China will discuss the South China Sea Bilateral Mechanism**

*Chinese Commercial News, March 28, 2017*

<http://www.shangbao.com.ph/fgyw/2017/03-28/61350.shtml>

### **Foreign Media: China Proposed to Set Up Cooperation Mechanism for the South China Sea Coastal Countries to Strengthen Mutual Trust**

*CAN KAO XIAO XI, March 28, 2017*

<http://www.cankaoxiaoxi.com/china/20170328/1819244.shtml>

### **Philippine Ministry of Foreign Affairs: China Invited Philippines for Direct Dialogue on the South China Sea Dispute in May**

*zaobao, March 30, 2017*

<http://www.zaobao.com/news/sea/story20170330-742330>

### **Russian Experts Refute US Government Officials' interference in the South China Sea Issue: Will Be Counterproductive**

*CAN KAO XIAO XI, March 30, 2017*

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**China Is Willing to Strengthen Military Exchanges with the Philippines**

*Chinese Commercial News, March 30, 2017*

<http://www.shangbao.com.ph/fgyw/2017/03-31/61439.shtml>

**British Media: the United States Should Acknowledge China's Military Advantages of the South China Sea to avoid War**

*CAN KAO XIAO XI, April 2, 2017*

<http://news.163.com/17/0402/09/CH0NIN7E000181KT.html>

**Lessons from the Arctic for the South China Sea**

*CIMSEC, April 4, 2017*

<http://cimsec.org/lessons-arctic-south-china-sea/31092>

**China, ASEAN Make Progress on Framework for Code of Conduct in South China Sea: Philippine Official**

*The Straits Times, April 4, 2017*

<http://www.straitstimes.com/asia/se-asia/china-asean-make-progress-on-framework-for-code-of-conduct-in-south-china-sea>

**"Measures for the Protection and Utilization of Coastline" Is Introduced**

*China Ocean News, April 5, 2017*

<http://epaper.oceanol.com/shtml/zghyb/20170405/66053.shtml>

**Australian Media: Vietnamese Fishing Boats Quietly Appeared in Huangyan Island to Test China's Reaction**

*CAN KAO XIAO XI, April 6, 2017*

<http://column.cankaoxiaoxi.com/2017/0406/1852918.shtml>

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*Philstar Global, April 11, 2017*

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**Foreign Media Visited Huangyan Island: The Number of Chinese Sea Police Ships Increased**

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<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/apr/13/duterte-cancels-visit-to-disputed-south-china-sea-island-after-warning-from-beijing>

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<http://www.cankaoxiaoxi.com/tw/20170418/1897382.shtml>

**Wang Yi Meets with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Pham Binh Minh of Viet Nam**

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Chief Editor: Kuen-chen FU

Deputy Chief Editor: Kening ZHANG

Editor: Limin DONG, Wenping ZHAO, Jingchang LI, Lin YE

South China Sea Institute, Xiamen University

Area Studies Library, Xiamen University Libraries

Room 220, Nan An Building, Xiamen University, Fujian, China

Post code: 361005

<http://scsi.xmu.edu.cn>

E-mail: [scsi@xmu.edu.cn](mailto:scsi@xmu.edu.cn)

Tel: +86 592 2187715