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Contents

Having ignored DOC for years,
Philippines now blames China for
violation.

Page 1

EVENTS

The Third Meeting of the Joint Council of
China-Thailand Marine Cooperation held
on 1 August in Beijing, China.

Page 2

UPCOMING EVENTS

The 22nd International Maritime Lecturers
Association Conference to be held from 10
to 13 October 2014 in Xiamen, China.

Page 3

SELECTED NEWS

The ASEAN Regional Forum State
ment on Strengthening Coordinatio
n and Cooperation on Maritime an
d Aeronautical Search and Rescue

Page 4

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Page 7

Having ignored DOC for years, Philippines now blames China for violation

Recently the Philippines has been making a hue and cry over China's reclamation of land on the Johnson Reef, accusing China of posing a military threat to the Philippines. Blaming China for violation of the DoC. The Philippine government has been trying hard to persuade other claimants to unite against China and pushing constantly for the so-called triple-action plan in order to stop China's construction.

At the first glance, the Philippine government seems to be a firm proponent of the 2002 DoC and all that it has done is to ensure the enforcement of the declaration. However, if we take account of the Philippine government's deeds in the past decade, we would be surprised by the sudden change in its position.

More than 10 years have passed since the ratification of the DoC. During this period, it is not China, that has constantly been engaged in the so-called "provocative acts", but the Philippines itself. The latter has never really stopped construction work on islands under its control and has often rejected other claimants' protests on the basis that the DoC has no binding force.

After having reviewed the history of the adoption of the DoC, we can find that the declaration is the result of the good will of all States Parties to settle their disputes by peaceful means. The declaration did not take the form of treaty. Nevertheless, it will be too hasty to arrive at the

conclusion that the declaration has no legal effect. The declaration represented the common will of all States Parties and it stands for the traditional wisdom of Asian people to solve thorny problems between them. The Asian traditional understanding and practice of dispute settlement are often considered by some western scholars to be incompatible with the modern international law and thus often neglected and misunderstood.

As mentioned above, the Philippines has constantly defied the declaration since its adoption. However, when China decides to defend its sovereignty by infrastructure construction on the island, the Philippines immediately jumps out to protest, accusing China of violation of the DoC.

Some western media also tend to apply a double-standard: they attack violently any act by Chinese government while turning a blind eye to Philippines' deeds.

In this context, any confidence building measure will be difficult to realize. States Parties of the DoC are currently negotiating for the CoC, a real agreement with binding force. Nevertheless, if States like the Philippines could not adopt a single standard for itself and other claimants with regard to the enforcement of the CoC, the CoC will not function properly as expected. It is time to stop depicting China as the evil.

For more details, please see:

<http://scsi.xmu.edu.cn/show.asp?id=2010>

EVENTS

SIPRI Maritime Security Forum held from 9 to 11 July 2014 in Stockholm, Switzerland.

<http://www.cima.gov.cn/d276636202.htm>

The Third Meeting of the Joint Council of China-Thailand Marine Cooperation held on 1 August in Beijing, China.

http://www.soa.gov.cn/xw/hyyw_90/201408/t20140801_33310.html

The 3rd Maximising African Port Capacity Conference held on 6 August in Cape Town, South Africa.

<http://www.wplgroup.com/aci/conferences/eu-map3.asp>

“Interdependence of Human and Ocean: A Ocean World of China” International Symposium held on 15 August in Shanghai, China.

<http://www.world10k.com/blog/?p=2570>

The Sixth Qingdao International Marine Festival held from 16 to 23 August in Qingdao, China.

http://ocean.china.com.cn/2014-08/26/content_33342426.htm

The Second Maritime Safety Services Enhancement Workshop held from 18 to 22 August 2014 in Wellington, New Zealand.

http://www.jcomm.info/index.php?option=com_oe&task=viewEventRecord&eventID=1465

The Third Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Blue Economy Forum held on 25 August 2014 in Xiamen, China.

http://www.soa.gov.cn/xw/hyyw_90/201408/t20140826_33478.html

IMO's South Pacific Maritime Security Workshop to be convened from 25 to 27 August 2014 in Suva, Fiji.

<http://www.imo.org/MediaCentre/WhatsNew/Pages/default.aspx>

The 6th China International Offshore Oil and Gas Exhibition held from 26 to 28 August in Shanghai, China.

<http://www.cippe.net/exhibit/html/201408/exhibit-386.html>

The Fourth Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Ocean-related Ministers Meeting held from 27 to 28 August in Xiamen, China.

<http://www.apec.org/Groups/SOM-Steering-Committee-on-Economic-and-Technical-Cooperation/Working-Groups/Ocean-and-Fisheries.aspx>

The 5th Maritime Salvage and Casualty Response Conference held on 3 September 2014 in London, the United Kingdom.

<http://www.wplgroup.com/aci/conferences/eu-mss5.asp>

The 6th China International Offshore Oil and Gas Exhibition held from August 26 to 28, 2014 in Shanghai, China.

<http://www.cippe.net/exhibit/html/201408/exhibit-386.html>

The 41st IAH Congress "Groundwater: Challenges and Strategies" held from 15 to 19 September 2014 in Marrakech, Morocco.

<http://www.iah2014.org/>

Sea Lines of Communication Colloquium to be held on 18 September 2014 in Southampton, the United Kingdom.

<http://www.conferencealerts.com/show-event?id=135275>

Upcoming Events

Maritime Reconnaissance and Surveillance Forum to be held from 29 September to 1 October 2014 in Rome, Italy.

<http://atnd.it/13271-0>

Blue Green Sustainability Symposium 2014 to be held from 1 to 2 October 2014 in Bremerton, the United States.

<https://www.navalengineers.org/events/opencallsforpapers/Pages/BlueGreen2014.aspx>

The 22nd International Maritime Lecturers Association Conference to be held from 10 to 13 October 2014 in Xiamen, China.

<http://www.imla2014.com/>

The Ship Recycling Summit 2014 to be held from 5 to 6 November 2014 in Singapore.
<http://www.wplgroup.com/aci/conferences/eu-msr2.asp>

International Conference on the Marine Environment of the Red Sea to be held from 10 to 13 November in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.
http://icmers.kau.edu.sa/Default.aspx?Site_ID=150102&lng=EN

The Second International Ocean Research Conference to be held from 17 to 21 November 2014 in Barcelona, Spain.
<http://www.iocunesco-oneplanetoneocean.fnob.org/>

The 11th Annual Coastal Surveillance conference to be held from 12 to 13 November 2014 in Marina Bay Sands, Singapore.
<http://www.coastalsurveillancemda.com/Default.aspx>

Selected News

The ASEAN Regional Forum Statement on Strengthening Coordination and Cooperation on Maritime and Aeronautical Search and Rescue
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of PRC, 11 August 2014
http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/zxxx_662805/t1181700.shtml

Philippines sentences 12 Chinese fishermen to jail
Reuters, 5 August 2014
<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/08/05/philippines-china-idUSL4N0QB10C20140805>

China, ASEAN can safeguard S China Sea's peace, stability: FM
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http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/world/2014-08/11/content_18282898.htm

FM clarifies position over South China Sea issue
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http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2014-08/10/content_18280341.htm

China puts forward specific initiatives to deepen cooperation with ASEAN
People, 10 August 2014
http://paper.people.com.cn/rmrb/html/2014-08/10/nw.D110000renmrb_20140810_2-03.htm

Wang Yi: Handle the South China Sea issue through the "dual-track" approach
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of PRC, 9 August 2014
http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/zxxx_662805/t1181523.shtml

Foreign Minister Wang Yi: Build An Even Closer China-ASEAN Community of Common Destiny
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of PRC, 9 August 2014
http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/zxxx_662805/t1181521.shtml

China conducts mine-clearance drill in South China Sea
China Daily, 28 July 2014

http://usa.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2014-07/28/content_17944755.htm

China rejects US claim of midair intercept

China Daily, 25 August 2014

http://usa.chinadaily.com.cn/epaper/2014-08/25/content_18481874.htm

Beijing rejects Philippine protest over survey ships

China Daily, 21 August 2014

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/world/2014-08/21/content_18457671.htm

New book clarifies nine-dash line

Global Times, 12 August 2014

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/875609.shtml>

Lighthouse construction on Xisha, Nansha "irreproachable": FM

Global Times, 9 August 2014

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/875188.shtml>

Sansha to help fishermen shift to new industries

China Daily, 8 August 2014

http://europe.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2014-08/08/content_18276785.htm

ASEAN welcomes China's new Maritime Silk Road initiatives

China Daily, 15 August 2014

http://europe.chinadaily.com.cn/business/2014-08/15/content_18322920.htm

Hanoi sends envoy to help mend China ties

China Daily, 26 August 2014

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2014-08/26/content_18485281.htm

China welcomes Vietnam's move to compensate riot victims

China Daily, 25 August 2014

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China, Vietnam pioneer joint crackdown amid drug-trafficking quandary

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Avert escalation of South China Sea disputes, says Thai official

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The United States plans to sell 2 C130T transport aircrafts to Philippines to improve its tactical transport capabilities

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Philippines to participate in Australia-led multinational maritime exercise

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Indonesia upgraded military base near the South China Sea , China did not oppose

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<http://www.philstar.com/headlines/2014/08/11/1356356/china-objects-koreas-warship-donation-philippines>

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