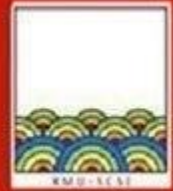




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<http://scsi.xmu.edu.cn>

Pixel by pixel, Taiwan maps out claims to contested South China Sea

Taipei, Taiwan — Wang Cheng-gi laughs nervously as he discusses the detailed new maps of the disputed South China Sea being drawn in his corner office at Taiwan’s Department of Land Administration.

He’s skittish because results of the \$2.98 million project to map out the minutia of every islet in the resource-rich ocean south of Taiwan are still classified. But when completed in about a year, the maps could reshape Taiwan’s often-overlooked maritime claim against more powerful Asian governments.

Seven countries lay claim to parts of the South China Sea, the strategic waters through which 50 percent of the world’s shipping tonnage passes, and under which vast deposits of oil and gas may lie. Taiwan is pushing its first-ever mapping project to back up its own claims – which are as large as mainland China’s – and to be one step ahead in the knowledge game of who is doing what in the contested waters.

Mr. Wang’s desktop computer receives high-resolution images taken by two American-made satellites and beamed back to a private contractor. Five people on his staff use them to compile maps that they hope rival governments, including China, don’t yet have.

“ The satellite images will let our government departments see the latest situations and understand

which country is doing what,” says Wang, a senior specialist overseeing the five-year project. “We might find things we’ve not seen before.”

One surprise to Wang so far is the activity of Vietnam, which is developing reefs and artificial islands in the Spratly Island, the largest South China Sea archipelago that Taiwan also claims. Hanoi has landfilled shallow reefs and built homes on some islets, according to images that can be blown up to about a square meter per islet.

“It’s really clear,” Wang says. One Vietnamese landfill project spans 11 football fields, he says. “Everyone is talking about mainland China, but Vietnam is going all out.

“This year they’ve landfilled to here, but maybe next year they will fill out to there,” he says, pointing to spots on a handbill-sized map of the full ocean that he’s allowed to print out for discussion purposes.

Taiwan has extra reason to be sensitive toward Vietnam. In May, Vietnamese and Chinese vessels stood-off at sea after Beijing moved an oil rig into waters claimed by both countries. When 20,000 Vietnamese protested over the face-off, Taiwan was also drawn in – several of its factories were looted and burned, perhaps because they were mistaken for Chinese factories.

For more details, please see:

<http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Asia-Pacific/2014/0923/Pixel-by-pixel-Taiwan-maps-out-claims-to-contested-South-China-Sea-video>

EVENTS

APEC Marine Ministerial Meeting adopted **Xiamen Declaration** on 28 August 2014 in Xiamen, China.
http://www.xmnn.cn/dzbnk/xmrb/20140829/201408/t20140829_4028642.htm

The 5th Maritime Salvage and Casualty Response Conference was held on 3 September 2014 in London, the United Kingdom.
<http://www.wplgroup.com/aci/conferences/eu-mss5.asp>

The 2nd Deep Water Circulation Congress was held from September 10 to 12 2014 in Ghent, Belgium.
<http://www.2dwc.ugent.be/>

The 41st IAH Congress “Groundwater: Challenges and Strategies” was held from 15 to 19 September 2014 in Marrakech, Morocco.
<http://www.iah2014.org/>

Sea Lines of Communication Colloquium was held on 18 September 2014 in Southampton, the United Kingdom.
<http://www.conferencealerts.com/show-event?id=135275>

The 8th China International Salvage Forum was held from September 18 to 19 in Shanghai, China.
<http://www.cinnet.cn/Item/2268.aspx>

Seminar on the work of the CLCS was held on 23 September 2014 in Xiamen, China.

<http://scsi.xmu.edu.cn/show.asp?id=2013>

The lecture on the International Law Rules for Arctic Maritime Boundaries was held on September 23 2014 in National University of Singapore, Singapore.

<http://cil.nus.edu.sg/programmes-and-activities/upcoming-events/arctic-maritime-boundaries/>

Blue Green Sustainability Symposium 2014 was held from 1 to 2 October 2014 in Bremerton, USA.

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

Upcoming Events

The International Workshop “Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage: Building up the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road” will be held on 9 November 2014 in Xiamen, China

<http://scsi.xmu.edu.cn/en/show.asp?id=2079>

Conference on Tropical Resources and Sustainable Sciences 2014 will be held from 17 to 19 October 2014 in Kelantan, Malaysia.

<http://ctress2014.jtrss.org/>

The 11th International Shipbuilding, Marine Equipment and Offshore Engineering Exhibition for China will be held from 21 to 24 October 2014 in Dalian, China.

http://www.shiptec.com.cn/cn/2014/0722/article_406.html

Fourth JCOMM Marine Instrument Workshop for the Asia-Pacific Region will be held from 21 to 23 October 2014 in Shandong, China.

http://ioc-unesco.org/index.php?option=com_oe&task=viewEventRecord&eventID=1506

The SEG International Exposition and 84th Annual Meeting will be held from 26 to 31 October 2014 in Colorado, USA.

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The 15th IAMU Annual General Assembly will be held from 27 to 31 October 2014 in Tasmania, Australia.

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30th Symposium of Naval Hydrodynamics will be held from 2 to 7 November 2014 in Hobart, Australia.

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International Training Course On “Ocean Colour Remote Sensing – Data, Processing and Applications” will be held from 10 to 14 November 2014 in Hyderabad, India.

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Port Planning & Development: Indonesia 2014 will be held from 1 to 4 December 2014 in Jakarta, Indonesia.

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The international symposium “Marine Ecosystems: Challenges and Opportunities” will be held from 2 to 5 December 2014 in Kerala, India.

<http://mbai.org.in/mecos2/>

The 10th Deepwater Asia Pacific Convention 2014 will be held from 11 to 12 December 2014 in Jakarta, Indonesia.

<http://www.cdmc.org.cn/2014/dap/cn/index.asp>

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Wang Yi: Sticking to "Four Respect" on the South China Sea Issue

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China opens new route for cruises to islands disputed with Vietnam

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4 Coast Guard boats of China cruise in 12 nm territorial sea around the Diaoyu Islands

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Fox News, 16 September 2014

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China's sixth arctic expedition is a triumph

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US Naval chief: Air incident should not define US-China relations

Chinadaily, 9 September 2014

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China, US to hold defense talks

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Philippines arrests three over 'anti-China' firebomb plan

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Fox News, 27 August 2014

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The CPC attaches importance to its relations with UMNO

Zhang Xu, the deputy director of The Foreign Affairs Leading Small Group, said the Communist Party of China (CPC) believes that under the leadership of the United Malays National Organization (UMNO), Malaysia can seize the opportunities of development, and resolve regional disputes.

Utusan, 13 September 2014

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Why the U.S. needs to lift the ban on lethal arms sales to Vietnam?

American defense expert Paul J. Leaf points out in the an article, published in The Diplomat, that in order to enhance the defense capabilities of Vietnam, the U.S. needs to lift the ban on lethal arms sales to this country.

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