

# The Indo-Pacific Bulletin

*The latest weekly developments in and around the region*

Published by the Indo-Pacific Centre, Tillotoma Foundation

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**PARTNERS IN BLUE PACIFIC MINISTERIAL MEETING**

**INDIA AND FRANCE TO SET UP NEW INDO-PACIFIC FRAMEWORKS**

**LAOS, VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA MILITARIES COMPLETE RESCUE EXERCISES**

**US AND SOUTH KOREA DEVELOP A FIVE-YEAR MILITARY PLAN**



## Partners in the Blue Pacific Ministerial Meeting

On 22nd September 2022, Foreign Ministers and representatives from the members and observers of the Partners in Blue Pacific Initiative met with the members of the Pacific Islands Forum in New York City. Germany and Canada reportedly plan on formally joining the initiative, coordinating assistance with the rest of the countries in the region. In addition to this, the member-nations of the PBP also aim to support the Pacific region and its priorities more effectively by enhancing existing efforts, while also driving greater resources to the region and working on mapping out future projects in the region in accordance with the PIF's 2050 Strategy for the Blue Continent, including in the areas of climate change, connectivity and economic development. Along with this, prospective initiatives were discussed in the field of disaster risk and management. The meeting concluded with plans of expanding the PBP initiative in the maritime domain and education. India and France also participated in the meeting as observers.





# India and France to set up New Indo-Pacific Frameworks

External Affairs Minister of India Dr S. Jaishankar recently announced that France and India will work towards an Indo-Pacific Trilateral Development Cooperation Fund, to help facilitate sustainable and innovative projects in the region. In addition to this, they have also agreed to renew cooperation under the India-France-Australia trilateral, as well as begin the India-UAE Trilateral. The Foreign Ministers from India, UAE and France in fact met on the side-lines of the 77th UNGA on 20th September, wherein they discussed new ways of conducting diplomacy while focusing on active exchange of ideas between UNSC partners and strategic allies.

## Laos, Vietnam, and Cambodia militaries complete joint rescue exercises

During 10-15 September 2022, the Lao, Vietnamese, and Cambodian armies completed a five-day disaster rescue exercise at Laos. The goal of the exercises was “aimed to build capacity and expertise in responding to natural disasters in any circumstance, but also provides an opportunity for the three sides to step up experience and cultural exchanges, contributing to strengthening solidarity and trust among them.







## US and South Korea develop a Five-Year Military Plan

The U.S. Marine Corps Forces Korea (MARFOR-K) in South Korea announced a five-year military training plan between the armies of the United States of America and the Republic of Korea, amidst serious security threats from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea or North Korea. The focus is on combined amphibious landing exercises. According to a spokesperson from MARFOR-K, “USMC and ROKMC have developed a combined five-year exercise training plan. This five-year plan seeks to continue building upon our current limited scale exercises and works towards multiple large scale combined amphibious exercises”. In addition to this, they are also planning to conduct large scale military exercises starting from October 2022. The Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company of the US Marines has also been jointly training with the South Korean forces recently.

