

# Leveraging the Indo-Pacific Strategies For a Stable Region



**Chester B. Cabalza, Ph.D.**

**International Development and Security Cooperation**

# Indo-Pacific Region

*Geographically speaking, the waters of the Indo-Pacific is the amalgamation of the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean – represent an important area for **maritime power projection, security, trade, and environmental policies**. Moreover, the vast Indian Ocean and Western Pacific Ocean are pulled together by natural resource flows and global supply chains.*

# Indo-Pacific Region

The region is made up of 14 countries: Australia, Bangladesh, Burma, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, and Vietnam.

The Indo-Pacific region is one of the greatest current and future engines of the global economy.

# Indo-Pacific Region

The world's largest economies are located in the Indo-Pacific region namely, China, India, Japan, Indonesia, South Korea, Thailand, Australia, Taiwan, Malaysia and Philippines.

# Indo-Pacific Region

Currently, **India and 13 countries located in the Pacific Ocean** are its members in the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (**IPEF**) - **Australia, Brunei, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, United States, and Vietnam**

# Indo-Pacific Region

Economically, the Indo-Pacific is **a centre of global trade and commerce, and therefore a potential area of economic prosperity for the countries in the region.** It accounts for 65 percent of the world's population, 63 percent of the world's GDP, and 46 percent of the world's merchandise trade.

# Indo-Pacific Region

## Conceptual Framework

*Indo-Pacific is not only the region's 'new name' but it is the name of these states' 'new region'*

*- Rory Medcalf (2013), Australian Analyst*

# Indo-Pacific Region

## Conceptual Framework

*Indo-Pacific is an 'Asian maritime super-region'*

*- Rory Medcalf (2013), Australian Analyst*

*Indo-Pacific idea is emphatically 'naval rather than continental'*



# Indo-Pacific Region

## Conceptual Framework

*It is not a new strategic region 'except for the period stretching from the 1960s until the end of the Cold War, the Indo-Pacific has been Asia's strategic reality for the past 200 years.*

*The region emerged as a single strategic system around the time of the consolidation of the British imperial power in India.*

*- Manjeet Pardesi (2019).*

# Indo-Pacific Region

## Conceptual Framework

*In post-1800 era, all major powers in the region – British India, Qing China, Imperial Japan, and the US (until the 2<sup>nd</sup> WWII); and later Britain, India, China and the US (until the 1960s) – envisioned this geographic space to be one singular strategic region.*

*- Manjeet Pardesi (2019).*

# Indo-Pacific Region/Strategy

## Conceptual Framework

### *Debates:*

1. *Indo-Pacific represents a recent **terminological shift** for the region.*
2. *The geographic space continues to gain its relevance based on the **power play of major states** that call it home.*
3. *The **US renewed importance** to the Indo-Pacific region by renaming the US Pacific command to the Indo-Pacific region.*

# *'Free and Open Indo-Pacific'*



*Japan was one of the first states to project the notion of an 'open and free' Indo-Pacific.*

*PM Shinzo Abe called the zone as the 'sea of prosperity' governed by 'freedom, rule of law, and the market economy, that is 'free from force or coercion'*

# *'Free and Open Indo-Pacific'*



*India's vision of the Indo-Pacific is an extension of its Look East (now Act East) Policy.*

*New Delhi believes that a multipolar Indo-Pacific will serve as the best platform to enhance its global standing and global strategic ambitions.*

# 'Free and Open Indo-Pacific'



*ASEAN embrace the Indo-Pacific through the **ASEAN Outlook at the Indo-Pacific**.*

***Four strategy:** maritime cooperation, connectivity, sustainable development, and economy.*

# *‘Role of Multilateralism’*



*Germany emphasizes multilateralism and commitments to the expansion of regional and sustainable infrastructure initiatives.*

*To delimit dependencies on raw materials and technologies abroad. To diversify business ventures for stability and security.*

# 'Inclusive Indo-Pacific'

FRENCH  
STRATEGY  
IN THE INDO-PACIFIC  
“FOR AN INCLUSIVE  
INDO-PACIFIC”



*The French Indo-Pacific Strategy addresses issues on **sovereignty**.*

*France is an Indo-Pacific nation, with **7 of its 13 overseas** departments, regions, and communities, are situated in either the Indian Ocean or the South Pacific.*

*Concerned on security, freedom of navigation, connectivity, economics and the environment*



# PHILIPPINES IN THE INDO-PACIFIC

- International network of like-minded countries
- Power shift has been unfolding, globally
- Power transition may be approaching faster than expected, in East Asia (Indo-Pacific) if not globally
- Signs of confrontation are growing due to challenge from rising power
- Dominant power remains distracted both internally and externally
- Institutions and norms must play constraining role, but alliances and defense readiness continue to be very relevant
- Domestic politics and local culture matter
- Philippines is at the center of the Indo-Pacific Region