

September 20, 2024

SYLLOGE ON CHINA

Focus: Nuclear, Space, Missiles and other Security Issues

**An Initiative by Nuclear and Arms Control Centre,
(MP - IDSA)**



China and the Philippines hold the meeting between heads of the China-Philippines Bilateral Consultation Mechanism on the South China Sea

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China, September 11, 2024

On September 11, 2024, Vice Foreign Minister Chen Xiaodong and Undersecretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines Maria Theresa P. Lazaro jointly held the meeting between heads of the China-Philippines Bilateral Consultation Mechanism on the South China Sea (BCM) in Beijing. The two sides had a candid and in-depth exchange of views on the maritime issues between China and the Philippines, in particular the issue of Xianbin Jiao. The Chinese side reiterated its principled position on the issue of Xianbin Jiao and urged the Philippine side to immediately withdraw relevant vessels. China will firmly safeguard its sovereignty and the seriousness and effectiveness of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC). Both sides agreed to continue to maintain communication through diplomatic channels including the BCM.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/xw/wjbxw/202409/t20240912_11489446.html#:~:text=Lazaro%20jointly%20held%20the%20meeting,the%20issue%20of%20Xianbin%20Jiao.

Asia's largest high-altitude test platform for space engines passes testing phase

Leng Shumei

Global Times, September 11, 2024

China has successfully completed the testing of Asia's largest high-altitude test platform of space engines, representing a major leap in the country's testing capability, the Global Times learned from the China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation (CASC) 6th Academy. This achievement marks a significant breakthrough in the key technologies for high-altitude simulation testing of the main deceleration engine for China's manned lunar landing missions. It fills a gap in China's testing capability of space engines and will provide strong support for the country's manned lunar exploration program, according to a statement the CASC 6th Academy.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202409/1319670.shtml>

Chinese Foreign Ministry on the US House of Representatives' deliberation and passage of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office Certification Act

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China, September 11, 2024

China strongly deplores and firmly opposes the US's egregious move of manipulating Hong Kong-related issues in an attempt to contain Hong Kong's development. We have lodged strong protests to the US side. The Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices (HKETOs) are economic and trade organizations set up by the Hong Kong SAR government overseas. Their smooth operation is beneficial for Hong Kong and the host countries and regions as they serve to expand practical

economic and trade cooperation. The act you mentioned politicizes normal economic and trade cooperation and uses the cooperation as a tool to deliberately vilify overseas institutions of Hong Kong, which is truly egregious. Hong Kong is the second largest source of trade surplus for the US and over 1,200 US companies make investment and do business in Hong Kong. Thus, the move by the US will eventually hurt its own interest.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202409/t20240911_11489020.html

China's commercial rocket company completes 10-km VTVL 'jump test'

Zhao Chenchen

CGTN, September 11, 2024

China's commercial rocket company, LandSpace, successfully conducted a 10-kilometer vertical takeoff and vertical landing (VTVL) "jump test", paving the way forward for developing its ZQ-3 reusable rocket. The test took place at the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China. The flight lasted 200.7 seconds and achieved the country's first in-flight ignition during the descent stage. "The test involves multiple engine starts and propellant management – which are the key technologies for us," Yuan Yu, the company's strategy director, told CGTN.

<https://news.cgtn.com/news/2024-09-11/China-s-commercial-rocket-company-completes-10-km-VTVL-jump-test--1wOeQWHipQA/p.html>

Chinese Foreign Ministry on Premier Li Qiang's visit to Saudi Arabia

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China, September 12, 2024

At the invitation of Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman, Premier Li Qiang of the State Council paid an official visit to Saudi Arabia from September 10 to 11. During the visit, Premier Li Qiang and Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman held talks and co-chaired the Fourth Meeting of the High-Level Chinese-Saudi Joint Committee. Premier Li Qiang also had a conversation with representatives from the Saudi business community. Premier Li Qiang noted that growing relations with Saudi Arabia is a priority in China's overall diplomacy, especially in our diplomacy towards the Middle East.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202409/t20240912_11489809.html

China is beating America in the nuclear-energy race

The Economist, September 12, 2024

When it comes to fourth-generation reactors, there are half a dozen possible designs. Chinese engineers are trying to build plants based on all of them, but they did not invent any of them. Shidaowan, for example, is based on an experimental German model. China is adept at bringing

such designs to life. Its “special sauce” is the ability “to prototype and test and modify until they’ve squeezed out every drop of efficiency”, says David Fishman of Lantau Group, a consultancy. Generous state financing and good supply chains help, too.

<https://www.economist.com/china/2024/09/12/china-is-beating-america-in-the-nuclear-energy-race>

China takes over P5 process, repeats no-first-use call with African states

Arms Control Association, September 12, 2024

At the Sep. 4 plenary session of the UN General Assembly, China announced it has taken over the role of coordinating the P5 process from Russia in line with the group’s rotating schedule. China “looks forward to continuing dialogue and cooperation among the P5 on the basis of their 2022 joint statement on the prevention of nuclear war and exploring feasible initiatives to reduce nuclear risks,” said the Chinese delegation. The P5 process is a multilateral discussion forum involving the five nuclear powers recognized by the nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

<https://www.armscontrol.org/blog/2024-09/nuclear-disarmament-monitor>

Russia is helping China build 'stealth' Type 096 missile submarines

Peter Suci

The National Interest, September 12, 2024

Russia and China are conducting joint naval drills in the Sea of Japan as part of the Ocean-2024 exercises, signaling closer military cooperation. Of particular concern is the technology-sharing partnership between the two nations, with Moscow increasingly relying on China for dual-use goods in exchange for advanced military technology. Russia is aiding China's development of its Type 096 nuclear ballistic missile submarines, providing expertise to enhance propulsion systems for greater stealth. This growing collaboration could significantly boost China’s military capabilities, particularly in the Indo-Pacific, where the stealthier Type 096 submarines could challenge U.S. naval dominance.

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/russia-helping-china-build-stealth-type-096-missile-submarines-212720>

Chinese Foreign Ministry on 14th Meeting of BRICS High-Ranking Officials responsible for security matters/National Security Advisors in St. Petersburg

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People’s Republic of China, September 13, 2024

On September 11, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Director of the Office of the Central Commission for Foreign Affairs Wang Yi attended the 14th Meeting of

BRICS High-Ranking Officials responsible for security matters/National Security Advisors in St. Petersburg. Director Wang Yi spoke highly of the role of BRICS as a positive and stable force for good in international affairs. He said that BRICS countries have increasingly become a constructive force in maintaining world peace, promoting common development, improving global governance, and advancing democracy in international relations. BRICS took a historic step of expansion last year, fully demonstrating the strong vitality and appeal of the BRICS mechanism.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202409/t20240913_11490441.html

Highlights of 11th Beijing Xiangshan Forum

Guo Mingzhi and Wei Yin

China Military Online, September 13, 2024

More than 500 representatives of official delegations from more than 100 countries and international organizations, in addition to over 200 Chinese and foreign experts and scholars, attended the event. The participants include more than 30 defence ministers and military chiefs in official delegations, the Vice President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the Secretary-General of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), the Deputy Secretary-General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), and representatives from international and regional organizations like the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the European Union (EU).

http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/CHINA_209163/TopStories_209189/16338262.html

Xiangshan Forum: Dialogue for continuing world peace

Herman Tiu Laurel

China Daily, September 13, 2024

The Beijing Xiangshan Forum will highlight China's peacemaking role in global politics today, demonstrated in many breakthrough negotiations brokered by China between contending nations such as restoring the amicable relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia, keeping the lines of communication open between Ukraine and Russia, paving the way to the unity of Palestinian parties prepping for a two-state solution, and innumerable other peace initiatives. With the 11th Beijing Xiangshan Forum, China provides a platform for the world to talk inclusively about the ways to achieve world peace amid the myriad challenges placed in the path of common understanding, common and indivisible security among all nations.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202409/13/WS66e3919fa3103711928a7c61.html>

Starlink radiation makes stealth target glow on Chinese radar

Stephen Chen

South China Morning Post, September 13, 2024

An unprecedented radar experiment conducted by Chinese scientists in the South China Sea could change the game of future warfare. Taking a DJI Phantom 4 Pro drone – about the size of a bird and with a radar cross-section comparable to that of a stealth fighter – the team launched it off the coast of Guangdong. The ground-based radar did not send out any radio waves to produce an echo, but the target appeared on screen. This was because the drone was illuminated by electromagnetic radiations emitted by a Starlink satellite flying over the Philippines, according to the scientists.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3278209/starlink-radiation-makes-stealth-target-glow-chinese-radar>

China condemns German navy's transit of Taiwan Strait

Nikkei Asia, September 14, 2024

China's military condemned the transit of two German navy ships through the Taiwan Strait saying it increased security risks and sent the "wrong" signal, adding that Chinese forces monitored and warned the vessels. China, which claims democratically governed Taiwan as its own, says it alone exercises sovereignty and jurisdiction over the strait. Both the United States and Taiwan say the strait - a major trade route through which about half of global container ships pass - is an international waterway. The People's Liberation Army's Eastern Theatre Command said the passage of the two ships - a frigate and a supply vessel - was "public hyping", and that its navy and air forces monitored and warned them throughout.

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/International-relations/Taiwan-tensions/China-condemns-German-navy-s-transit-of-Taiwan-Strait>

China's risky power play in the South China Sea

Agnes Chang, Camille Elemia and Muiyi Xiao

The New York Times, September 15, 2024

China's coast guard ships have swarmed and collided with Philippine boats. They have doused Philippine vessels with powerful water cannons. Chinese crew members have slashed inflatable crafts, blared sirens and flashed high-powered lasers at Filipino troops. As China pushes to dominate the South China Sea, it is increasingly willing to use force to drive out the Philippines, a treaty ally of the United States. In recent months, China's tactics have damaged Philippine boats and injured personnel, and raised fears of a superpower showdown in the strategic waterway.

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2024/09/15/world/asia/south-china-sea-philippines.html>

China achieves key milestone in satellite-ground laser communication

Yan Dongjie

China Daily, September 15, 2024

The 500mm aperture laser communication ground system independently developed by the Aerospace Information Research Institute of the Chinese Academy of Sciences entered regular operation on the Pamir Plateau. This marked China's first operational satellite-ground laser communication ground station to be put into use. Data transmitted from satellites to ground needs to be received, processed, archived, and distributed by ground stations. Therefore, ground stations are pivotal in the transmission of space information, said Wang Jianping, director of the Kashgar Ground Station of the institute.

<https://global.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202409/15/WS66e6ca88a3103711928a8241.html>

US-China military leaders hold routine talks to discuss South China Sea tensions and other issues

Huizhong Wu

The Washington Post, September 15, 2024

Military leaders from the U.S. and China met in Beijing for routine talks that only resumed in January after being suspended for two years as ties between the two countries soured. Michael Chase, deputy assistant secretary of defence for China, Taiwan and Mongolia led a delegation to engage in the bilateral Defence Policy Coordination Talks, which were last held in January. . While the talks weren't expected to resolve long-standing differences in stances over issues ranging from South China Sea claims to Taiwan, the U.S. has continued to push for the discussions as a way to avoid conflict.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2024/09/15/china-us-philippines-south-china-sea-talks/902881d2-7366-11ef-9537-628fa451f775_story.html

Threat from China increasing, Air Force official says

Matthew Olay

US Department of Defence, September 16, 2024

Secretary of the Air Force Frank Kendall spoke about the growing threat that China poses to the Indo-Pacific region during a keynote address today at an Air & Space Forces Association convention just outside of Washington. "I've been closely watching the evolution of [China's] military for 15 years. China is not a future threat; China is a threat today," Kendall told a large in-person and remote audience composed predominantly of Air and Space Force personnel. The secretary went on to explain that the Chinese Communist Party continues to heavily invest in

capabilities, operational concepts and organizations that are specifically designed to defeat the United States and its allies' ability to project power in the Western Pacific region, including weapons targeting U.S. land and sea assets like air bases and aircraft carriers.

<https://www.defence.gov/News/News-Stories/Article/Article/3907669/>

China, America and a global struggle for power and influence

Gideon Rachman

Financial Times, September 16, 2024

American and Chinese foreign policy sometimes feel like mirror images. The Americans are obsessed by containing Chinese power. The Chinese are obsessed by containing American power. But the mirroring stops when it comes to how these policies are executed. Washington and Beijing bring different strengths to their battle for power and influence. As a result, they are pursuing different strategies.

<https://www.ft.com/content/78f303a9-15dd-497b-a2b5-f6926492f71e>

Chinese researchers reveal Chang'e-6 lunar samples composition

Global Times, September 17, 2024

A joint research team consisting of several Chinese institutions published the very first research paper on the nature of lunar samples returned by the Chang'e-6 mission in the journal National Science Review. The paper not only filled a historical gap in the study of the Moon's far side, but also provided direct evidence for researching its early evolution. The paper, led by China's leading research institutions, including the National Astronomical Observatories of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the National Space Administration Lunar Exploration and Aerospace Engineering Center, discussed the physical, mineralogical and geochemical characteristics of the returned samples.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202409/1319930.shtml>

China's Yutu-2 lunar rover beams back images from moon's far side

CGTN, September 17, 2024

China's Yutu-2 lunar rover sent back the latest images of the lunar surface from the far side of the moon, according to China Media Group (CMG). The rover has traveled 1,613 meters so far, becoming the longest working rover on the moon. Yutu-2, or Jade Rabbit-2, is part of the Chang'e-4 probe that landed on the Von Karman Crater in the South Pole-Aitken Basin on the far side of the moon on January 3, 2019. The rover has completed its work for the 71st lunar day, marking

nearly five years and nine months of operation – far beyond its original three-month design lifespan.

<https://news.cgtn.com/news/2024-09-17/China-s-Yutu-2-lunar-rover-beams-back-images-from-moon-s-far-side-1wYxUaNEewU/p.html>

US and Japan near deal to curb chip technology exports to China

Demetri Sevastopulo and Leo Lewis

Financial Times, September 17, 2024

The US and Japan are close to a deal to curb tech exports to China’s chip industry despite alarm in Tokyo about Beijing’s threat to retaliate against Japanese companies. The White House wants to unveil new export controls before November’s presidential election, including a measure forcing non-US companies to get licences to sell products to China that would help its tech sector. Biden administration officials have spent months in intense talks with their counterparts in Japan — and the Netherlands — to establish complementary export control regimes that would mean Japanese and Dutch companies are not targeted by the US “foreign direct product rule”.

<https://www.ft.com/content/3fa44901-33e4-4ab4-9f7b-efe1575a6553>

Chinese Foreign Ministry on the possibility of the US deploying medium and short-range missiles in Japan

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People’s Republic of China, September 18, 2024

In recent years, the US has been hellbent on advancing military deployment, including Mid-Range Capability missile system, in the Asia-Pacific to pursue absolute military advantages. This move will heighten arms race, exacerbate regional tensions, threaten peace and security in this region, and disrupt global strategic balance and stability. China has made clear its opposition more than once. We urge the US to give up its deployment plan, and call on relevant country to have a clear understanding of the real intention of the US, act prudently in fields related to military and security and take concrete actions to uphold regional and international peace and stability. China will keep a close eye on relevant developments, and firmly safeguard its security, rights and interests.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202409/t20240918_11492497.html

Chinese aircraft carrier comes closer than ever to Japan

Mari Yamaguchi

The Washington Post, September 18, 2024

A Chinese aircraft carrier entered an area near Japan’s shores for the first time, leading Tokyo to convey its “serious concerns” to Beijing over China’s increasingly assertive military actions

around Japan , officials said. The Chinese carrier Liaoning, accompanied by two destroyers, sailed between Japan's westernmost island of Yonaguni and nearby Iriomote, entering the country's co-called "contiguous zone," the Defence Ministry said. That's an area of sea beyond a country's territorial waters in which it can still exercise some control over maritime traffic, reaching up to 24 nautical miles offshore.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2024/09/18/japan-china-warship-disputed-islands/d6b7564a-75b0-11ef-9537-628fa451f775_story.html

Mutual respect the foundation for DRC and China to conduct cooperation: Foreign Minister Wagner

Liu Caiyu and Li Meng

Global Times, September 18, 2024

"Mutual respect is the foundation for the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and China to conduct cooperation." Therese Kayikwamba Wagner, DRC state minister for Foreign Affairs, told the Global Times in a recent interview that the tangible impacts of the bilateral cooperation has driven development of infrastructure and other key sectors of DRC. On the morning of September 2, President Xi Jinping met with President of the DRC Felix Tshisekedi, who is in China for the Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) in Beijing. This was the second time that President Tshisekedi visited China.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202409/1319953.shtml>

Chinese Foreign Ministry on the sale of military equipment to Taiwan by the US

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China, September 18, 2024

The US's arms sale to China's Taiwan region seriously violates the one-China principle and the three China-US joint communiqués, especially the August 17 Communiqué of 1982. The sale severely undermines China's sovereignty and security interests, harms China-US relations and peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait, and sends a wrong message to "Taiwan independence" separatist forces. China strongly condemns and firmly opposes this, and has lodged strong protests to the US side. As a firm countermeasure, China has announced sanctions against nine US military companies.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202409/t20240918_11492497.html

U.S. and allies seize control of massive Chinese tech spying network

Joseph Menn and Ellen Nakashima

The Washington Post, September 18, 2024

The United States and allied countries said they had taken control of a network of 260,000 internet-connected cameras, routers and other devices that the Chinese government had been using to spy on sensitive organizations. The operation, which occurred last week, took aim at a botnet known as Flax Typhoon, which U.S. officials said was run by a government contractor in Beijing, a publicly traded company called Integrity Technology Group. The FBI won a court order to send the infected devices commands that detached them from the network.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/technology/2024/09/18/china-tech-spy-network/>

China slaps countermeasures to US firms over Taiwan arms sale

Wang Qi and Li Yawei

Global Times, September 19, 2024

The Chinese Foreign Ministry announced to impose countermeasures against nine US companies for arms sale to China's Taiwan region, as the arms sales "seriously undermined the one-China principle and China's sovereignty and territorial integrity." According to a release from the Chinese Foreign Ministry, the nine companies include Sierra Nevada Corporation, Stick Rudder Enterprises LLC, Cubic Corporation, S3 AeroDefence, TCOM, Limited Partnership, TextOre, Planate Management Group, ACT1 Federal and Exovera. Analysts said the countermeasures showcased that the US should not be under illusion that China will sit idle after Washington provoked over Beijing's core interests.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202409/1319982.shtml>

Chinese Foreign Ministry on the US Deputy Secretary of State Kurt Campbell describing China as a top challenge

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China, September 19, 2024

The US official made these remarks to peddle the "China threat" narrative and advocate bloc confrontation in disregard of facts. They are steeped in Cold-War and zero-sum mentality and ideological bias. China strongly deplores this. The US has viewed the international landscape and identified China-US relations from the perspective of strategic competition, and wrongfully seen China as the "top challenge." The US is actually projecting its own hegemonic mentality onto other countries, and making a serious misjudgment on China and the China-US relations. This does not serve the fundamental interests of the two peoples, or meet the extensive aspiration of the international community.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202409/t20240919_11493204.html

Scientists again link covid pandemic origin to Wuhan market animals

Joel Achenbach

The Washington Post, September 19, 2024

An international team of scientists published a peer-reviewed paper saying genetic evidence indicates the coronavirus pandemic most likely originated with a natural spillover from an animal or animals sold in a market in Wuhan, China, where many of the first human cases of covid-19 were identified. The Chinese researchers had submitted a report to the journal Nature, and, after peer review, it was published in April 2023. The Nature paper from the Chinese scientists describes the genetic data as inconclusive about the origin of the pandemic, including that there is no proof any animals were infected with the virus.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/science/2024/09/19/covid-origin-wuhan-market/>

US missile system to remain in Philippines to give China ‘sleepless nights’

South China Morning Post, September 19, 2024

The United States has no immediate plans to withdraw a mid-range missile system deployed in the Philippines, despite Chinese demands, and is testing the feasibility of its use in a regional conflict, sources with knowledge of the matter said. The Typhon system, which can be equipped with cruise missiles capable of striking Chinese targets, was brought in for joint exercises earlier this year, both countries said at the time, but has remained there. The Southeast Asian archipelago, Taiwan’s neighbour to the south, is an important part of US strategy in Asia and would be an indispensable staging point for the military to aid Taipei in the event of a Chinese attack.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/asia/southeast-asia/article/3279123/us-missile-system-remain-philippines-give-china-sleepless-nights>

China launches two BeiDou navigation satellites

Xinhua, September 19, 2024

China launched two new satellites for the BeiDou-3 Navigation Satellite System (BDS-3) from the Xichang Satellite Launch Center in southwest China's Sichuan Province. They are the second group of medium Earth orbit (MEO) satellites launched since BDS-3 was formally commissioned to provide satellite navigation services worldwide. After entering orbit and completing in-orbit tests, they will be connected to the BDS system. Compared with the previous group of MEO satellites, these new satellites feature upgraded onboard atomic clocks and new inter-satellite link terminals. They will further improve the reliability of the BDS-3 system and the performance of its positioning, navigation and timing (PNT), global short message communications and other services.

[https://english.news.cn/20240919/408aa11f51134c3297a38bdd7dc66301/c.html#:~:text=XICHANG%20Sept.%2019%20\(Xinhua,launched%20at%209%3A14%20a.m](https://english.news.cn/20240919/408aa11f51134c3297a38bdd7dc66301/c.html#:~:text=XICHANG%20Sept.%2019%20(Xinhua,launched%20at%209%3A14%20a.m)

FBI's new attempt to hype so-called Chinese hacking group slammed by FM

Zhang Han and Shen Sheng

Global Times, September 19, 2024

Chinese Foreign Ministry slammed a new US attempt to hype so-called Chinese hacking group, including a claim that one such group nicknamed "Flax Typhoon" is run by a Chinese company, collects intelligence and carries out reconnaissance for Chinese security agencies. The group hijacked more than 200,000 consumer devices with half of them located in the US, the Associated Press. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian responded by saying that China firmly opposes various forms of cyberattacks, and at the same time opposes groundless accusation and smear against China. "We urge the US to stop making waves in the cyber space, act as a responsible major country, step up dialogue and cooperation with the international community, and jointly respond to cybersecurity risks," Lin said.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202409/1320045.shtml>

The dramatic decline of China's innovative start-ups

Financial Times, September 19, 2024

The economic vision of Xi Jinping, China's strongman leader, rests heavily on tech ambitions. Beijing's official "work report" in March this year exhorted the country to build an industrial and scientific system capable of pushing the world towards new technological frontiers. Unleashing what Xi calls "new quality productive forces" is now China's top economic priority. So-called future industries, such as biotech, new energy, new materials, advanced equipment, next generation IT, aerospace and others, are central to realising Beijing's goals.

<https://www.ft.com/content/00ba7924-4b51-4138-acc4-9667efd5e898>

China and Japan reach agreement on ocean discharge of Fukushima nuclear-contaminated water

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China, September 20, 2024

On August 24, 2023, the Japanese government unilaterally started the discharge of nuclear-contaminated water from the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station into the ocean. As one of the most important stakeholders, China is firmly opposed to this irresponsible move. At the same time, China has urged Japan to seriously address concerns in and outside Japan, to earnestly fulfill its obligations, to give full cooperation in the establishment of an independent and effective long-term international monitoring arrangement in which stakeholders can participate substantively, and to accept independent sampling and monitoring by China. The competent departments of China and Japan have recently conducted multiple rounds of consultations on the discharge of

nuclear-contaminated water from the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station into the ocean, and reached the following agreement.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/xw/wjbxw/202409/t20240920_11493511.html

China opens 12 nuclear research facilities to global scientists

Global Times, September 20, 2024

China will open 12 nuclear research facilities and testing platforms to international scientists and institutions to enhance global cooperation, a senior Chinese official said. These include the China Advanced Research Reactor, the new-generation tokamak device Huanliu-3, and the Beishan Underground Research Laboratory, Liu Jing, vice chairman of the China Atomic Energy Authority (CAEA), said at a meeting on the sidelines of the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) annual general conference. The facilities span areas such as basic nuclear research, isotope production, nuclear environment simulation, equipment testing, and radioactive waste treatment and disposal.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202409/1320080.shtml>

How serious a military threat is China?

The Washington Post, September 20, 2024

In terms of the respective sizes of their military forces, China has 3 million active-duty, paramilitary and reserve personnel and the United States has 2.1 million. But they are both dwarfed by North Korea: Though estimates vary widely, the country could have as many as 8.3 million active-duty, paramilitary and reserve personnel. India has between 4 million and 5 million. The numbers are smaller if counting only active-duty personnel — but in the event of a real conflict, reservists and paramilitary troops would no doubt be called up.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/interactive/2024/china-military-threat-united-states/>

New submarine detector shows ‘tremendous potential’ in South China Sea tests

Stephen Chen

South China Morning Post, September 20, 2024

A new submarine detection technology that can track even the quietest of subs has shown potential during testing in the South China Sea, its developers say. Scientists from Shanghai Jiao Tong University said their detector – about the size of a pickup truck – was tested on a deep ocean seabed. It was able to capture faint electromagnetic waves generated by a rotating propeller nearly 20km (12 miles) away. By analysing these low-frequency signals, the scientists said they could

potentially position and track military targets. They published their findings in the Chinese peer-reviewed Journal of Vibration and Shock last month.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3279095/new-submarine-detector-shows-tremendous-potential-south-china-sea-tests>

US and Taiwan seek to strengthen drone supply chain to keep out China

Kathrin Hille

Financial Times, September 20, 2024

Taiwan and the US are looking to kick-start co-operation between their drone companies as part of efforts to build supply chains that do not rely on China. Executives from 26 US makers of uncrewed systems or anti-drone systems will arrive in Taipei on September 22 for three days of meetings with Taiwanese industry counterparts, military officials in charge of weapons procurement and development, and other researchers and engineers. The US group also includes officials from the commerce department, the Pentagon's Defence Innovation Unit and Dev Shenoy, who leads the defence department's microelectronics research and engineering.

<https://www.ft.com/content/ce851c48-6aa5-48d2-b28a-6c806cc10518>

Sylloge on China is compiled by Mr. Niranjana C. Oak

Nuclear and Arms Control Centre, MP-IDSA