



XIAMEN UNIVERSITY SOUTH CHINA SEA INSTITUTE
SOUTH CHINA SEA BULLETIN

A South China Sea Community News Feeder

No. 11 , 1 November 2013



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

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Manila Withdraws Its Accusation that China Is Building New Structures on Huangyan Island: Foreign Media

The Philippines, in an embarrassing twist, backtracked on its accusation that China was building new concrete structures on disputed Huangyan Island, reported British media.

According to a 24 October report of the British Broadcasting Company (BBC), the Philippines in early September alleged its discovery of new concrete structures on Huangyan Island “occupied” by Chinese ships in April 2012, accusing China of building structures on the shoal for the purpose of expanding its maritime boundary, at the expense of undermining peace and stability in Southeast Asia.

On the 24th, however, the Philippines retracted its accusation against China. Its President Benigno Aquino said that the blocks found within the shoal “are not a new phenomenon” and that “some of them have barnacles attached to them”, thus negating Manila’s earlier imputation that Chinese ships took concrete blocks to the shoal to build new structures.

“Such practice is just like lifting a stone to drop on one’s own foot. It only serves to damage the Philippines’ credibility”. Beijing angrily denied the Philippines’ September claim, and accused the country of deliberately stirring up troubles. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei told a daily press briefing that what the Philippine side said was not true. Hong reiterated, “Huangyan Island is China’s intrinsic territory. The public service vessels of the Chinese government are conducting their regular patrols on the waters of the island, to safeguard China’s sovereignty over Huangyan Island and the order in this area. This is China’s justified right, and it is beyond reproach.”

The South China Sea, reportedly rich in resources such as seabed oil and gas, is a region troubled by overlapping territory, territorial sea and exclusive economic zone disputes among the Philippines, China, Vietnam, Brunei and Malaysia. These disputes have been intensified in recent years.

The Financial Times website of the United Kingdom quoted Ian Storey, a South China Sea expert at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies in Singapore, who said that Aquino’s remarks were the latest in a series of U-turns by Manila in its dispute with China.

The report pointed out that China has disputes with many southeast Asian countries, including Vietnam and the Philippines, over the resource-rich South China Sea. But tensions with Manila have been the most serious as the Philippines has been aggressive about challenging Beijing in public.

Rommel Banlaoi, a former professor at the Philippines National Defence College, was quoted as saying that Manila should learn a lesson from this episode to “exercise more due diligence in making declarations or comments that can stir more conflicts and misunderstanding on South China Sea”.

Events

Professor Zhang Kening from South China Sea Institute, Xiamen University was elected to the UN Committee against Torture on 1 October 2013.

<http://scsi.xmu.edu.cn/en/ReferShow.asp?id=725>

International Conference on the South China Sea: UNCLOS and State Practice held on 24-25 October 2013 in Hainan, China. Prof. Zhang Kening from South China Sea Institute, Xiamen University, attended the conference.

http://www.nanhai.org.cn/en/newspic_show.asp?lm=news&newsid=7477

<http://www.piraeus2013imlc.gr/>

The 16th ASEAN-China Summit held on 9 October 2013 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam.

<http://www.asean.org/images/archive/23rdASEANSummit/7.%20joint%20statement%20of%20the%2016th%20asean-china%20summit%20final.pdf>

ODINAFRICA (Ocean Data and Information Network for Africa) Marine Information Management and Website Development Workshop held on 7-11 October 2013 at the United Nation's Office in Nairobi, Kenya.

<http://www.nodc-seychelles.org/en/events/110-odinafrica-marine-information-management-and-website-development-workshops>

The 8th International Conference of Maritime Law held on 10-12 October 2013 in Piraeus, Greek.

<http://www.piraeus2013imlc.gr/>

The North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES) 2013 Annual Meeting held on 11-20 October 2013 in Nanaimo, Canada.

<http://www.pices.int/meetings/annual/PICES-2013/2013-background.aspx>

The First Water and Sea Workshop held on 16 October 2013 in Barcelona, Spain, which focused on the water and marine ecosystem management.

<http://climate-liisd.org/news/first-water-and-sea-workshop-discusses-water-and-marine-ecosystem-management/>

2013 International Conference on Earth Science and Environmental Protection (ICESEP 2013) held on 18-20 October 2013 in Kunming, China.

http://www.icesep.org/news_1.aspx

1945 Makran Tsunami ESCAP (Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific) Project Meeting held on 20-24 October 2013 in Muscat, Oman.

<http://www.unisdr.org/we/inform/events/34685>

Underwater Technology Workshop 2013 held on 21 October 2013 in Chennai, India.

<http://www.niot.res.in/utw2013/>

The 4th Cross-Strait Blue Ocean Strategy Maritime University Presidents Forum held on 21-22 October 2013 at National Sun Yat-sen University in Kaohsiung, Taiwan, China.

<http://www.newshome.us/news-5664658-Cross-the-ocean-Marine-Forum-brings-together-14-universities-in-Kaohsiung.html>

2013 China Pacific Forum (CPF) held on 24 October 2013 in Beijing, China.

http://ocean.china.com.cn/2013-10/24/content_30392075.htm

2013 International Conference on the Marine Environmental Governance held on 26-27 October 2013 at the School of law, Shandong University, China.

<http://www.law.sdu.edu.cn/getNewsDetail.site?newsId=abec8476-9af7-41c1-8e4d-934b2a0757e8>

Upcoming Events

2013 World Ocean Week in Xiamen to be held on 8-14 November 2013 in Xiamen, China.

<http://www.oceanweek.org/cn/bbs.asp?MenuID=159>

Seminar on International Fishery Cooperation to be held on 9 November 2013 at Xiamen University in Xiamen, China.

<http://scsi.xmu.edu.cn/en/ReferShow.asp?id=724>

10th Military Maritime Strategy and Development Forum to be held on 13 November 2013 in Guiyang, China.

<http://211.64.142.67/kjc/detail.asp?cat=A001200060001&id=3237>

2013 Annual Conference of China Institute of Navigation to be held on 15 November 2013 in Shanghai, China.

<http://www.cinnet.cn/Item/2117.aspx>

2013 Seminar on Marine Leisure Management to be held on 6 December 2013 in Kaohsiung, Taiwan, China.

<http://cham.ntunhs.edu.tw/files/14-1012-16339,r320-1.php>

Seminar on Marine Economy Development in the East China Sea to be held on 9 November 2013 in Xiamen, China.

http://mgg.tongji.edu.cn/school/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=764%3A2013-0

[9-22-08-03-05&catid=35%3Anotification&Itemid=72&lang=zh](http://www.cafs.ac.cn/show.asp?ResName=Bulletin*order=1139)

2013 Experts Forum on Chinese Fisheries Economics to be held on 8 November 2013 in Zhanjiang, China.

http://www.cafs.ac.cn/show.asp?ResName=Bulletin*order=1139

11th Water Forum of China to be held on 15 November 2013 in Guangzhou, China. The theme of the forum is "Hydrologic Cycle and Water Security in the Drainage Basin".

<http://www.cwtic.org.cn/show.php?contentid=2378>

10th Annual Global MDA: Coastal Surveillance 2013 to be held on 12 November 2013 in Sentosa, Singapore.

<http://www.CoastalSurveillanceMDA.com/Default.aspx?&MAC=CAC>

World Ocean Summit 2014 to be held on 24 February 2014 in San Francisco, U.S.A.

<http://www.economistconferences.asia/event/world-ocean-summit-2014>

GST 2014 The Green Ship Technology Conference to be held on 18 March 2014 in Oslo, Norway.

<http://atnd.it/1i109aQ>

Marine and Offshore Engineering Technology Conference (MOETC 2014) to be held on 4 March 2014 in CTS, El-Shuwaikh, Kuwait.

<http://www.amet-conferences.org/>

RESA 2014 (International workshop on resource enhancement and sustainable aquaculture practices in Southeast Asia: Challenges in responsible production of aquatic species) to be held on 5 March 2014 in Iloilo City, Philippines.

<http://www.seafdec.org.ph/2013/international-workshop-on-resource-enhancement-and-sustainable-aquaculture-practices-in-southeast-asia/>

WESTPAC 9th International Scientific Symposium to be held on 22 April 2014 in Nha Trang, Vietnam.

<http://www.vnio.org.vn/Default.aspx?alias=www.vnio.org.vn/9thwestpacsymp>

Maritime Women: Global Leadership Conference to be held between 31 March and 1 April, 2014 at World Maritime University in Malmo, Sweden.

<http://wmu.se/events/maritime-women-global-leadership>

Selected News

Li Keqiang attends the eighth East Asia Summit, offering three proposals on cooperation in East Asia
Chinanews, 11 October 2013
<http://www.chinanews.com/gn/2013/10-11/5362399.shtml>

China will cooperate with Brunei for hydrocarbon exploitation in South China Sea
Beijing Daily, 12 October 2013
http://www.bjd.com.cn/jryw/gjxw/201310/12/t20131012_4931124.html

The Foreign Ministry: China and Vietnam will make a breakthrough to conduct joint exploration in South China Sea
Chinanews, 15 October 2013
<http://milnews.sina.com.cn/2013-10-15/0745744432.html>

China and Vietnam issue a joint statement: agree to discuss transitional solution for maritime issues
Huanqiu.com, 15 October 2013
<http://finance.huanqiu.com/data/2013-10/4451708.html>

China: we will resolutely respond to escalating external provocation
Chinanews, 22 October 2013
<http://www.chinanews.com/gn/2013/10-22/5411128.shtml>

Li rebukes unilateral moves
China Daily, 11 October 2013
http://europe.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2013-10/11/content_17022192.htm

R/V Dayang Yihao undergoes sea trial in South China Sea
ScienceNet.cn, 22 October 2013
<http://news.sciencenet.cn/htmlnews/2013/10/284091.shtm>

CNOOC issues exploration tender, includes South China Sea blocks
Reuters, 8 October 2013
<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/10/08/us-china-cnooc-tender-idUSBRE99704Q20131008>

Japanese and Vietnam leaders held talks, confirming maritime security cooperation
Huanqiu.com, 8 October 2013
<http://world.huanqiu.com/exclusive/2013-10/4419882.html>

U.S. Navy Carrier Strike Group East stages joint military exercises in South China Sea
CCTV.com, 28 October 2013
<http://english.cntv.cn/20131028/101026.shtml>

Malaysia to Establish Marine Corps and South China Sea Naval Base
The Diplomat, 19 October 2013
<http://thediplomat.com/flashpoints-blog/2013/10/19/malaysia-to-establish-marine-corps-and-south-china-sea-naval-base/>

The Philippines is Building a New Naval Base in South China Sea
The Diplomat, 8 October 2013
<http://thediplomat.com/flashpoints-blog/2013/10/08/the-philippines-is-building-a-new-naval-base-in-south-china-sea/>

EU has ‘vital interest’ in open, secure West Philippine Sea, says official

Inquirer.net, 16 October 2013

<http://globalnation.inquirer.net/88009/eu-has-vital-interest-in-open-secure-west-philippine-sea-says-official#ixzz2j0JbyCtA>

America’s “Pivot to Asia” Threatens China: US Stages Show of Naval Force in South China Sea War Games

Global Research, 27 October 2013

<http://www.globalresearch.ca/americas-pivot-to-asia-threatens-china-us-stages-show-of-naval-force-in-south-china-sea-war-games/5355709>

US, Japan press China on S. China Sea dispute

Reuters, 9 October 2013

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/10/10/us-asia-summit-idUSBRE9980A320131010>

US may interfere in South China Sea and Diaoyu Islands disputes, says a commander of US aircraft carrier

Xinhua News Agency, 28 October 2013

<http://news.qq.com/a/20131028/002763.htm>

Three Chinese coastguard vessels are sailing on waters near Diaoyu Islands: Japanese media

Chinanews, 19 October 2013

<http://www.chinanews.com/gj/2013/10-19/5400027.shtml>

Tensions increase in East China Sea

SBS, 28 October 2013

<http://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/2013/10/28/tensions-increase-east-china-sea>

We won't interfere in China's sea disputes, says Indian minister

South China Morning Post, 23 October 2013

<http://www.scmp.com/news/china/article/1337624/we-wont-interfere-chinas-sea-disputes-say-s-indian-minister>

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Wayne K. Talley, *The Blackwell Companion to Maritime Economics*, John Wiley & Sons, 2012.

Theo Notteboom ed., *Current Issues in Shipping, Ports and Logistics*, Asp/ Vubpress/ Upa, 2011.

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Michael G. Faure, HAN Lixin, SHAN Hongjun eds., *Maritime Pollution Liability and Policy: China, Europe, and the US*, Kluwer Law International, 2010.

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XMU – SCSi South China Sea Bulletin

Vol.1 No.11, 10-1-2013

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