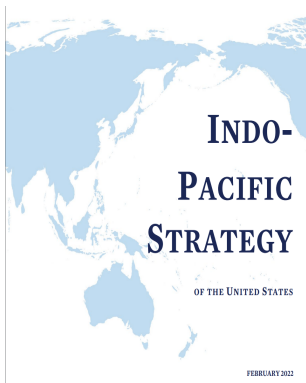


America's New Engagement with Asian Partners: the Proposal of the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework

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March 14, 2022



Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) is initiated by Joe Biden on October 27, 2021 and further elaborated on February 11, 2022.

The IPEF is a U.S.-led economic framework committing to an Indo-Pacific that is free and open, connected, prosperous, secure, and resilient.

“Partially due to the PRC’s coercion and aggression”

Working with allies, ASEAN countries, and Taiwan.

What's in the IPEF...?

- ▶ Advance a free and open Indo-Pacific
 - open societies, skies, and SEA
 - free from coercion, free press and information
- ▶ Build Connections within and beyond the Region
 - With allies, Quad, leading partners (Taiwan here)
 - Tied each other and with the EU and NATO
- ▶ Drive Indo-Pacific Prosperity
 - Benefit by supply chain, infrastructure, information techniques
- ▶ Bolster Indo-Pacific Security
 - “opposing efforts to alter territorial boundaries or undermine the rights of sovereign nations at sea.”
 - connecting by defensive supply chain and industry
 - civilian security challenges: environmental and natural disasters, terrorism, trafficking
- ▶ Build Regional Resilience to 21st-Century Transnational Threats
 - Global warming, pandemic

How to Achieve...?

- ▶ Further economic cooperation
 - Drive new resources to the Indo-Pacific
- ▶ Working with countries in the region
 - Partner to build resilience in the Pacific Islands
 - Strengthen an empowered and unified ASEAN
 - Support India's continued rise and regional leadership
 - Deliver on the Quad
 - Expand US-Japan-ROK cooperation
- ▶ US's Leaderships
 - Reinforce deterrence (Taiwan Strait here)
 - Lead an Indo-Pacific economic framework
 - Support good governance and accountability
 - Support open, resilient, secure, and trustworthy technologies

Comparing the IPEF with other treaties

The IPEF to some degree sounds more like a partnership, which is a new and flexible form of bilateral relations between alignment and alliance since the end of the Cold War.

- ▶ Traditional multinational/ bilateral security alliance
 - NATO, US-Japan alliance
- ▶ Traditional multinational/ bilateral Trade treaty
 - WTO, APEC, TPP/CPTPP

Expectations from the Inside

- ▶ More congressional participation
 - congressional consultation vs. “traditional trade agreement”
- ▶ Strengthen ties with Digital Economic Partnership Agreement (DEPA)
 - lower barriers to digitally-enabled trade, establish nondiscriminatory trade rules, and expand U.S. access to international products that rely on digital technologies
- ▶ Credible commitments and binding rules
 - Advance binding rules and hard commitments that go beyond broad principles and goals
- ▶ Effective management and transparency
 - Who to in-charge negotiation?
 - Should consult with all stakeholders: labor, businesses, consumers, civil society groups, and the U.S. Congress.

Expectations from the Outsides

▶ Japan

- Welcome but also wish the US to join the TPP (Sankei News, 2022 Feb)

▶ Australia, New Zealand, Singapore

- The need for a continued focus on economic resilience, competitiveness, inclusion and sustainability to support prosperity in the region for all our people and businesses.
- Strengthen efforts to help address shared priorities for countries in the Indo-Pacific region, including enhancing supply chain resilience, promoting infrastructure investment, growing the digital and green economies, towards broadly shared economic prosperity for the region.

▶ Taiwan

- Welcome to be the official member

Theoretical and Policy Implications

- ▶ Winners and losers in the free trade deals
 - Comparative advantage of industries in the U.S. and Asian countries
- ▶ Would partnerships becomes a new form of diplomatic action in the future? or just a diplomatic rhetoric
 - Chang-Liao, “Why Do States Choose Partnerships over Alliances? The Case of China.”
 - Chang Liao and Fu, “China and Strategic Partnerships: Introducing the Global Partnership Dataset”
- ▶ A counter-strategy to China’s partnerships network in Asia?
 - Build upon existing security ties